



**ESMO Statement  
for the  
WHO Executive Board Meeting  
22 January – 27 January 2024**

**Agenda item 14: WHO's work in health emergencies**

Honorable Chair, Esteemed Delegates,

The European Society for Medical Oncology representing more than 35,000 cancer professionals from 172 countries, welcomes the Director-General's report on 'WHO's work in health emergencies: Strengthening the global architecture for health emergency preparedness, prevention and response and resilience'.

In order to ensure alignment between the UN Political Declaration on Pandemics, the International Health Regulations and the Pandemic Agreement, further consideration should be given to **strengthening secondary and tertiary care levels by integrating sustainable cancer care services into preparedness and response planning**. This will require:

- the continued, and timely access to cancer and palliative care services and medicines,
- the continuance of existing clinical trials, avoiding competition with resources required for health emergencies,
- the development of ethical and methodological decision-making guidelines, especially for situations where resources must be re-allocated or are in shortage, and
- support for healthcare workforce wellbeing.

We remain available to assist your invaluable efforts to prepare for, and respond to, health emergencies.

Thank you.