



**ESMO Statement
for the
Seventh meeting of Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005)
5 February 2024**

Honourable Chairs, Esteemed Delegates,

The European Society for Medical Oncology welcomes this opportunity to reiterate [our call](#) to Member States to support [the proposed amendments to the International Health Regulations \(IHR\)](#) which would build, develop, and maintain health systems capacities at **secondary and tertiary care levels**.

The political commitment, the rationale, and the technical guidance for implementation are all siding with this.

With [the 2023 UN Political Declaration on Pandemics](#) countries committed to take measures to enhance the resilience of national health systems for pandemics and other health emergencies at primary, **secondary and tertiary health care levels**, referring to [the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction \(2015-2030\)](#).

The Sendai Framework, adopted by 187 UN Member States in 2015, notes that disaster risk management should be integrated in the implementation of the IHR, and that people with life-threatening or chronic disease should have access to life-saving services during and after disasters. And the [WHO technical guidance notes on the Sendai framework](#) highlight the importance of integrating disaster risk management into primary, **secondary and tertiary health care**.

It is thereby logical, that the amended IHR should reference both **secondary and tertiary levels of care** so that the millions of patients with cancer, who are predominately treated at these levels, are not left behind during health emergencies.

Thank you.