

美方就臺灣參與 WHA 之聲明

美國對世界衛生組織(WHO)持續排除臺灣參與世界衛生大會(WHA)之決定極為失望，臺美於公共衛生及生醫研究合作已逾 20 年，議題廣泛涵蓋 SARS 應變、茲卡病毒檢驗區域訓練、燒燙傷醫學、癌症防治及登革熱疫苗研發等。此一合作並延伸至 COVID-19，臺美雙方持續交換透明、正確與及時之疫情資訊。因為，全球資訊如未能被分享，將造成控制及防治此致命疫病擴散之全球缺口。

世界正共同面對前所未見之 COVID-19 挑戰。全球衛生之所有利益攸關社群應能貢獻且受益於 WHO 之努力。臺灣成功抗疫的模式，包括檢驗、追蹤接觸、社交距離、醫療對策發展、邊境管制等各項措施，已向世界展現臺灣在全球衛生係有能力、負責任且有意願之夥伴。美國已向包括臺灣在內之國際社會學習抗疫經驗以協助美國精進因應作法並與全球回饋分享美國之專業。此時此刻，全球衛生夥伴合作關係至關重要且重要性更勝以往，我們必須肯定臺灣對 COVID-19 之成功防治，及其持續致力於捐助個人防護裝備及提供技術協助予其他國家，臺灣抗疫之貢獻應被讚賞、推崇及學習。

美國極為關切 WHO 破壞曾經連續 8 年之慣例-未邀請臺灣以觀察員身分參與 2017 年至 2020 年之 WHA。此系統化排除臺灣

之作法不應該發生，尤其在全球面臨 COVID-19 大流行之際。世界現正共同面對前所未有之 COVID-19 挑戰，全球衛生之所有利益攸關社群應能貢獻且受益於 WHO 之努力。

臺灣應能參與及貢獻 WHO 會議，而非被排除，尤其值此因疫情資訊不透明及未納入全球所有利益攸關社群而爆發大流行時，WHO 排除臺灣參與本年 WHA 之決定已重大背離 WHO 以包容性作法促進全球衛生合作之承諾。臺灣被排除於 WHA 此一重要決策機制之外，非僅對臺灣 2,300 萬人民造成危害，更是對全世界造成嚴重之公共衛生安全問題；WHO 必須置公共衛生安全於政治之上。

美國強烈籲請 WHO 恢復邀請臺灣以觀察員身分參與 WHA，不應繼續排除臺灣參與 WHA。美國亦敦促 WHO 與臺灣衛生專家就 COVID-19 及更多議題採取制度性互動，國際社會須學習臺灣對抗 COVID-19 之經驗及採取更多行動接納臺灣。

為了全人類健康，美國期盼世界應要求 WHO 落實其包容性作為(inclusive approach)之承諾，並認真考慮美國之關切與要求。

U.S. Statement on Taiwan's Participation at the World Health Assembly

The United States is deeply disappointed by the World Health Organization (WHO) decision to exclude Taiwan from the World Health Assembly (WHA).

The United States and Taiwan have more than 20 years of robust public health and biomedical research cooperation, addressing topics as wide-ranging as the SARS outbreak response and regional trainings for Zika diagnostic tools, burn medicine, cancer research, and dengue vaccine research. This cooperation has extended to the COVID-19 pandemic, during which we have exchanged transparent, accurate and timely information. Failures of global information sharing mean global gaps in controlling and preventing the spread of this deadly disease.

The world is facing the unprecedented challenge of COVID-19 together. All communities with a stake in global health should be able to contribute to and benefit from the WHO's efforts. Taiwan has shown the world it is a capable, responsible and willing stakeholder in global health with extensive testing and contact tracing, social distancing measures, medical countermeasure development, and border control and quarantine policy. The United States has adapted lessons learned from the global community, including Taiwan, to improve our response and in return, shared our expertise globally.

Now, more than ever, global health partnerships are crucial. We must recognize Taiwan's successful COVID-19 response and their continued efforts to assist other countries with personal protective equipment donations and technical assistance. The world should admire and learn from Taiwan's contributions to combating this pandemic.

The United States is deeply concerned that the WHO—in a break with eight years of precedent—did not invite Taiwan to observe the 70th WHA in May 2017, the 71st WHA in May 2018, the 72nd WHA in May 2019, and now, the 73rd WHA in May 2020. This systematic exclusion should not occur, especially now with COVID-19. The world is facing the unprecedented challenge of a pandemic together. All communities with a stake in global health should be able to contribute and benefit from the WHO's efforts.

Taiwan must be welcomed to contribute to, not be excluded from, WHO meetings. This is extremely concerning especially when this pandemic is partly aggravated by a lack of transparent information sharing and inclusion of all necessary stakeholders in global health. The WHO's decision to exclude Taiwan from this year's WHA is a significant departure from WHO's commitment to fostering an inclusive approach to international health cooperation. Taiwan's isolation from the critical governing body of the WHA is a serious public health and safety concern not only to the island's 23 million people but to the world. The WHO must put public health above politics.

The United States strongly urges the WHO to return to the practice of inviting Taiwan to participate as an Observer to the WHA. The exclusion of Taiwan from the WHA must not continue. The United States also urges the WHO to systematically engage with Taiwan health experts on COVID-19 and beyond. The global community must learn from Taiwan's experience from COVID-19 and do more to include them.

For the sake of global health, the United States expects, and the world should demand, that the WHO commit to an inclusive approach and seriously consider our concerns and requests.

Source: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/19/us-statement-on-taiwan-participation-at-the-world-health-assembly.html>