



# HOW U.S. LEADERSHIP IS REFORMING THE WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a learning organization that operates at the direction of its 194 Member States and **works continuously to improve efficiency, accountability and transparency.** The United States plays a critical governance role in the WHO - serving on the 34-member Executive Board and taking an active part in the larger World Health Assembly.

Under the leadership of the United States and other member nations, the **WHO has made significant improvements since 2020.** For example, the WHO's "Transforming for Impact" program launched in 2018 is delivering on 40 bold initiatives designed to strengthen financial management and operational performance and more efficiently procure and distribute goods and services.

While reforms continue, a 2024 external assessment conducted by the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network - an independent network established by the United States and 21 other countries - found that the WHO has "made **progress and improvements by undertaking a range of organizational reforms** with potentially wide-ranging impact."

The **WHO is proving that it can listen to feedback from Member States,** learn lessons and take smart and decisive steps to transform its structures and processes to deliver better results for the many who rely on them around the world. The last four years have seen particular progress in the following key areas:



## ENSURING EVERYONE PAYS THEIR FAIR SHARE

The WHO is broadening its donor base to reduce reliance on large donors. Based on reforms recommended by a working group the WHO Executive Board set up in 2020, the WHO's 2024 investment round secured 70 pledges from governments, philanthropic organizations, and the private sector, including 28 from low- and middle-income countries. Well over half the donors made voluntary contributions for the very first time.



## IMPROVING OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND IMPACT

Since 2021, the WHO has completely overhauled its \$1.6 billion annual procurement functions and optimized its global supply chain to strengthen performance and operational impact. At the direction of Member States, the WHO centralized its worldwide administrative functions in 2021 and set up a dedicated Transportation and Logistics Hub in 2022 to more efficiently deliver to the 194 countries where it works.



## STRENGTHENING PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

China is sometimes restrictive for businesses and civil society groups to participate in WHO processes. The U.S. works with other countries to counter that. As a result of America's sustained engagement, the WHO recently established a Civil Society Commission and Youth Council that are creating partnerships and pathways for businesses and nonprofits in the United States and around the world to contribute valuable guidance and expertise.