Statement by Dr Jaymie Henry, MD, MPH, United Nations Rep on behalf of the International Federation of Surgical Colleges to The seventy-first session of the World Health Organization Regional Committee for the Western Pacific will be held virtually from 6 to 9 October 2020.

As the UN Rep for the International Federation of Surgical Colleges (IFSC) I am delighted to submit a statement at this important Regional meeting and note that IFSC is pleased to endorse the draft Action Framework for Safe and Affordable Surgery in the West Pacific Region 2021 – 2030, item 13. on the provisional agenda.

I was pleased to attend the Side Event on “Safe and Affordable Surgery” at the 70th meeting of the WHO WPRO, (Western Pacific Regional Office) which was met with great engagement and response from the participants of the meeting as well as from the Regional Director of the Western Pacific Regional Office who announced at that side event the formal inclusion of Surgery as an agenda item in the 71st meeting of the WHO WPRO.

The decision to consider this Draft Action Framework continues to shine a light on surgical care and it potential macroeconomic benefits. This represents an important milestone for the Global Surgery Community as countries are now taking up the mantle of improving surgical access within their respective countries and regions.

We consider that the draft document contributes to a valuable roadmap. It covers the background and the global unmet need for surgical care, contextualizing safe and affordable surgery in the Western Pacific Region combined with a vision for the future. This will greatly benefit all populations within the Region and we thoroughly approve this draft document and hope that it will be officially endorsed.

IFSC and other non-state actors such as the G4 Alliance are committed to support Governments through the GIEESC program by providing appropriate surgical training to increase surgical capacity and competence especially at District Level where need is greatest.