



TRANSCRIPCIÓN

COMPARECENCIA ANTE LOS MEDIOS DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DE LA SALUD (OMS), TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS DURANTE LA VISITA AL PUESTO DE MANDO AVANZADO EN EL PUERTO DE GRANADILLA

Puerto de Granadilla (Tenerife), 9 de mayo de 2026

INTERVENCIÓN DEL DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DE LA SALUD (OMS), TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS

Maybe, very much close to what you asked, I wrote a message today to the people of Tenerife to address exactly what you said.

This disease is not Covid, and we have said it many times as WHO. And when we say this, we don't take it lightly.

And then, of course, the other issue I would like to say, which I also indicated in my message to the people of Tenerife, is the risk to the population, to the local population is low.

One is because of the very nature of the disease itself.

But second, the risk is low because the Spanish government has made all the preparations to prevent any problem.

So I want the local people, the Tenerife people to really listen to us clearly and trust what we say.

But as you rightly said, the concern is legitimate because we have all experienced because of Covid, especially in 2020, and that trauma is still in our minds.

So people will have questions, people will have concerns. And that's what I try to address in my message to the people of Tenerife. We hear you. We understand. But the situation is much better now. And the other advantage is the nature of the disease as well.

So that's why also I came here, to be on the side of the the people, because saying things from far could be easy. But I had to change my plan to come here because this is very, very important for the whole world and for the people of Tenerife as well.

And then the other issue is I thank the Prime Minister because based on the request WHO made, he accepted, and the request I made was based on international health regulations.

And countries are expected to cooperate based on that international health regulation, but not only the IHR. I think we should also be strong believers of solidarity.

Solidarity because that's our best immunity. It's only when we support each other that we can respond more effectively to virus or to outbreaks like this.



And it's also a moral duty. And that's what the Prime Minister has shown and what Spain is showing. And, I know, what the people of Tenerife are also showing. Because what we need, especially during this difficult times in our world – you know how the world is changing in a negative way –, It's kindness and solidarity which is important.

So that's why I'm here to witness that. And I know we will do this together and WHO will support in any way possible.

We just landed now. We came straight here to check the preparations in the port. Of course, we will do everything tomorrow to make the operation a success. And I know there will be many operations flights. We estimate that there could be around six for EU related and also around four for non-EU.

And I know Tenerife is ready, prepared. And I know Spain is ready and prepared. And I would like to assure our support as well. And that's why I'm here.

And thank you also to Minister Monica, Minister Fernando and Minister Víctor.

This shows also – the presence of three senior officials, ministers from Spain – the strong commitment. I think this should give confidence to the people of Tenerife.

So thank you so much.

*(Transcripción editada por la Secretaría de Estado de Comunicación)
(Intervención original en inglés)*