

ZERO DRAFT

Political Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response

We, Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments, assembled at the United Nations on 20 September 2023, with a dedicated focus for the first time on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, affirm that pandemics call for timely, urgent and continued leadership, global solidarity, multilateral commitment and cooperation among Member States and with relevant United Nations entities and other relevant international organizations, to implement robust global, regional, national and local actions, driven by equity and the respect for human rights, to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and fully address the direct

countries continued to report disruption to at least one essential health service (23% of services disrupted on average); ([WHA A76/6, OP12](#))

- PP6. Express concern further that the COVID-19 pandemic has reversed years of progress made in many areas, with the latest available data suggesting that continued disruptions have affected health systems and health outcomes worldwide and evidence of its full impact will emerge in years to come; ([Based on WHA A76/37](#))

- PP19. Recognize further the critical role of and efforts made by health workers, 70 per cent of whom are women, yet face a 24 percentage point pay gap compared to men across the health and care sector, and other front-line and essential workers, including humanitarian personnel, around the world aimed at addressing pandemics through measures to protect the health, safety and well-being of people, and emphasizing the importance of providing health and other essential workers with the necessary protection and support; ([A/RES/75/157](#), [PP16](#))
- PP20. Recognize further the need to take necessary steps at the country level to protect health and care workers from all forms of harm, violence, attacks, harassment and discriminatory practices, and to promote their decent and safe working environment and conditions at all times; ([A/RES/74/2](#), [Verbatim OP64](#))
- PP21. Recognize further the need to invest in training, developing, recruiting and retaining a skilled health workforce, including doctors, nurses, midwives and community health workers, as fundamental to strong and resilient health systems to prevent, prepare and respond to pandemics and health emergencies, and improve working conditions and

recognizing also the value of an integrated One Health approach that fosters cooperation

CALL TO ACTION

We therefore commit to scale up our efforts to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and further implement the following actions:

EQUITY

- OP1. Strengthen international collaboration and coordination at the highest political levels with the determination to reduce inequities and increase the fair, equitable and timely access to, and strengthening of capacities for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response; (New language)
- OP2. Ensure the timely, sustainable and equitable access to pandemic -related products, including vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics and call on the World Health Organization to coordinate this with relevant partners, ensuring coherence with the ongoing discussions of the

and equipment, and to support, facilitate and enable transportation and logistical supply lines, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently and safely perform their task of assisting affected populations; ([Based on A/RES/77/31, OP6](#))

OP8. In accordance with international humanitarian law, respect and protect, in situations of armed conflict, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, and hospitals and other medical facilities, which must not be unlawfully attacked, and ensure that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required; ([A/RES/74/2, verbatim OP75](#))

OP9. -making processes, to mainstream a gender perspective into all policies and programmes, including in budgetary responses; ([Based on A/RES/75/157, OP2](#))

OP10. Call upon Member States to take all measures necessary to ensure the right of women and girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, and to develop sustainable health systems and social services, with a view to ensuring universal access to such systems and services without discrimination; ([A/RES/75/157, Verbatim OP8](#))

OP11. Promote equitable distribution of and increased access to quality, safe, effective, affordable and essential medicines, including generics, vaccines, diagnostics and health technologies, to ensure affordable quality health services and their timely delivery; ([A/RES/74/2, Verbatim OP49](#))

OP12. Promote increased access to affordable, safe, effective and quality medicines, including generics, vaccines, diagnostics and health technologies, reaffirming the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) as amended, and also reaffirming the 2001 World Trade Organization Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which recognizes that intellectual property rights should be interpreted and implemented in a manner supportive of the right of Member States to protect public health and, in particular, to promote access to medicines for all, and notes the need for appropriate incentives in the development of new health products; ([A/RES/74/2, Verbatim OP51](#))

OP13.

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

OP18.

health-in-all-policies approach and by engaging stakeholders in an appropriate, coordinated, comprehensive, integrated and whole-of-society action and response; (Based on A/RES/74/2, OP57 and OP59)

OP24. Commit to prioritizing pandemic prevention, preparedness and response in national agendas, with full respect for human rights, to ensure a whole-of-government and whole-of-

OP41. Ensure timely, adequate, predictable, evidence-based and sustainable financing for infrastructure and capacities, while improving their effectiveness to support national efforts in strengthening pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, in accordance with national contexts and priorities, through domestic, bilateral, regional and multilateral channels, including international cooperation, financial and technical assistance, considering the use of traditional and innovative financing mechanisms, as well as partnerships with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders; [\(New language\)](#)

OP42. Commit to leveraging existing financing tools and to explore potential options to mobilize additional timely, reliable,

OP45. Request the Secretary-General to provide, in consultation with the World Health Organization and other relevant agencies, a report including recommendations on the implementation of the present declaration towards strengthening pandemic prevention, preparedness and response during the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, which will serve to inform a high-level meeting to be convened in 2026;