

OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE 78th UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

13 September 2023

CALL TO ACTION TO WORLD LEADERS IN 2023-24 ON PANDEMIC PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

Pandemic threats are increasing in frequency and severity, posing an existential threat to the global economy, achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the collective security and survival of humanity. The undersigned organizations call on world leaders and Ministers to bring new urgency and political resolve to prevent the next pandemic crisis and **commit to the following agenda for action** and report back at UNGA in September 2024 on progress:

Elevate, facilitate, and sustain political leadership and multi-stakeholder engagement on pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response as an urgent global, regional, and national priority, taking a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

- The Pandemic PPR HLM should **catalyze sustained leadership by Heads of State and Government** to drive political momentum, continued vigilance, and a timely global response to current and future health crises and pandemic threats.
- Leaders should promote **improved mechanisms for international cooperation on pandemics beyond the health sector.**
- Decision-making must be **inclusive of all nations and engage non-governmental actors**, with diverse geographical and gender representation, including health workers and vulnerable communities.

Implement a set of robust and independent pandemic PPR monitoring and accountability mechanisms.

- As with climate change, we urge Heads of State and Government to commit to **review global progress on pandemic PPR at the UN on an annual basis**, starting with embedding pandemic PPR to the 2024 UNGA Summit for the Future and the High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) agendas.
- We also urge governments to **reach consensus on a new Pandemic Accord and amendments to the International Health Regulations by May 2024** to strengthen Member State obligations for pandemic PPR.
- **All Member States should commit to support an independent monitoring and accountability framework and strengthening of existing pandemic PPR-related assessments**, including e.g., developing, publishing, implementing, and regularly updating Joint External Evaluations and National Action Plans for Health Security.

Reach consensus on a global, standing platform to ensure timely, equitable, and affordable universal access to, and delivery of, pandemic countermeasures (PCM).

- A PCM platform should be designed and convened by **low- and middle-income country (LMIC) partners** and ensure **equity in access from research and development (R&D) to delivery**, including through enabling knowledge sharing, capacity-building, technology transfer, and investments in R&D hubs, clinical trials and manufacturing in LMICs, in mutually respectful and beneficial contexts.

- A PCM platform should **link public financing for medical research to equitable access provisions and remove trade-related barriers** in the event of a crisis.
- A PCM platform should **prioritize protection for frontline health workers**, with commitments to gender equity, respect and safe working conditions, and to prioritize the rights of those at higher risk or in vulnerable situations.
- A PCM platform should include non-medical interventions and **identify and facilitate synergies with disease-specific programs and other related areas**, including, for example, AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, cholera, non-communicable diseases, and AMR.

Commit to secure the additional, long-term financing needed to close critical pandemic PPR funding gaps as a global public good. Pandemic PPR investments must be in addition to existing health and development financing.

- Member States should commit to **fully and sustainably finance the Pandemic Fund's** annual goal of USD \$10.5 billion in new international financing.
- Member States should **fully finance the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)'s** and other global finance mechanisms advancing Pandemic PPR.
- **Member States should establish and appropriately resource a global pandemic surge response financing mechanism** that will trigger immediate release of funds to the aforementioned PCM platform and affected countries in the event of a future Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) declaration.
- As their economies grow, Member States should **mobilize additional, long-term domestic pandemic PPR financing.**

Accelerate multisectoral pandemic PPR approaches and investments to build better prepared cross-government systems, as well as end-to-end public health and life science ecosystems that are “always on.” As climate change and migration increase pandemic threats, urgent action is needed to prevent or contain virus spillover and ensure early outbreak detection in humans, domestic animals, and wildlife.

- Member States should develop **“always on,” end-to-end, climate- and pandemic-resilient public health and life science ecosystems**, operating continuously to, for example, identify new pathogens, increase global manufacturing, and deploy clinical research capabilities so that when a pandemic threat emerges, countries and their capacities across government and society can pivot effectively.
- Member States should directly address the **root causes and drivers of zoonotic outbreaks and spillover events** through a **One Health approach in implementing these efforts via technical collaboration, expertise and/or financial support.**
- Member States should align their National Action Plans for Health Security with their climate change adaptation and biodiversity action plans.
- The World Bank, International Monetary Fund, other MDBs, and development finance institutions must evolve to step up action on global challenges, and **prioritize joint new investments in climate- and pandemic-resilient health systems.**
- New pandemic PPR investments must advance Universal Health Coverage and leave a legacy of **strong and resilient primary health care systems that protect essential health services in a crisis.**

We urge you to commit to these priorities on Pandemic PPR and deliver on them to help protect humanity from another devastating pandemic crisis.

Yours sincerely,

Access Challenge
Access Health International
Action for Animal Health
Action Group for Health, Human Rights, and HIV
Advocacy Coalition for Health Research and Development
Afe One Health
Africa Center for Health Systems and Gender Justice
Africa Civil Society Platform for Health
Afrihealth Optonet Association
Africa Japan Forum
AIDs Healthcare Foundation
Aminu Saleh College of Education, Azare
Amis des Étrangers au Togo
Amref Health Africa
Association for Promotion Sustainable Development
Barokupot Ganochetona Foundation
Brain Builders Youth Development Initiative
Brighter Green
Burundi Secours
Campaigns in Global Health
Center for Asia-Pacific Resilience and Innovation
Center for Indonesia's Strategic Development Initiatives
Centre for Emergency and Development Support
The Christian Spiritual Youth Ministry of Tanzania
Community Initiative Action Group Kenya
Conservation International
Consortium for the Advancement of Rights for Key Affected Populations
Consortium of Reproductive Health Associations
Disability Peoples Forum Uganda
Dream Weaver Organization
Dr. Uzo Adirieje Foundation
Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS and Health Service Organizations
Every Breath Counts Coalition
EX TB Gambia
Foundation for Environmental Watch
Four Paws
Friends of the Global Fight
Fundacion Huesped
Gavi CSO Constituency
Global Alliance for Surgical, Obstetric, Trauma & Anaesthesia Care
Global Citizen
Global Health Advocacy Incubator
Global Health Security Agenda Consortium

Global Health Technologies Coalition
Health and Global Policy Institute
Health and Rights Initiative
Heart That Cares For Better Health Organization
Hepatitis Aid Organization
HOMES Foundation
IAVI
Intrahealth International
International Treatment Preparedness Coalition
Janaudyog
Jhpiego
Joncaring Foundation
Journalists Association Against AIDS
Kamukunji Paralegal Trust Kenya
Liaison
Livewell Initiative
Living Goods Uganda
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Malaria Youth Army Champion
Management Sciences for Health
Marked by COVID
Mbungonet
MJ Foundation
Murang'a County Government Kenya
Nigerian Women Agro Allied Farmers Association
Nyaama
ONE Campaign
One Health Bangladesh
ONG Plus de SIDA dans les Familles
Organization of Christian Writers
Pandemic Action Network
Panoplia Laboratories
PATH
Pour Demain
Preventing Pandemics at the Source Secretariat
PREZODE
Project HOPE
Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital
Rashida Foundation
Sightsavers
Sister's Hand Liberia
Social Good Summit
Society for Conservation and Sustainability of Energy and Environment in Nigeria
South African Health Technologies Advocacy Coalition
South Eastern Europe Regional TB and HIV Community Network
Spark Street Advisors
Speak Up Africa
Supported by Living Goods Uganda
Swasti

Task Force for Global Health
Teenaid International Organization
Tinada Youth Action Africa
Transparency and Development Information Initiatives
Uganda Child and Aid Development Foundation
United for Global Mental Health (UGMH)
Uganda National Institute of Public Health
Uganda Peace Foundation
United Nations Association of the United States of America
United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth
VillageReach
WaterAid
Youth and Women for Change in Eswatini
Youth Projects Development Platform
WACI Health
Wider Aid & Development Agency-South Sudan
Women Against AIDS and Poverty Mbulu Tanzania
Women in Global Health
Women With A Mission
Zimbabwe Community Competence Trust