

Introduction

The Panel for a Global Public Health Convention (GPHC) represents an independent coalition of global leaders working to strengthen the world's ability to prevent, prepare, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks before they become widespread pandemics.

The Panel was founded in 2020 in response to the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic with the aim of bridging critical gaps in the global public health architecture and policy frameworks by promulgating a new global public health treaty or convention in an effort to ensure another pandemic of such magnitude does not happen again.

Who We Are

The Panel is chaired by Dame Barbara Stocking, President of Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge and former chief executive of Oxfam GB. The Panel consists of nine high-level global leaders with expertise in public health, finance, law, parliamentary, national and international governance, and pandemics.

Chair	
<p>Barbara M. Stocking, M.A., Dame Commander of the British Empire <i>Former President, Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge</i> <i>Former Chief Executive, Oxfam Great Britain</i> <i>Former Chair, WHO-appointed Ebola Interim Assessment Panel</i></p>	
Members	
<p>Laura Chinchilla Miranda, M.P.P. <i>Vice-President, World Leadership Alliance - Club de Madrid</i> <i>Co-chair, Inter-American Dialogue</i> <i>Former President of Costa Rica</i> <i>Former Vice President, Minister of Justice and Minister of Public Security, Costa Rica</i></p>	<p>Ricardo B. Leite, M.D. <i>Vice-President of the Social Democratic Party</i> <i>Parliamentary Board, National Parliament of Portugal</i> <i>President and Founder, UNITE Global Parliamentarians Network to End Infectious Diseases</i></p>
<p>Lawrence O. Gostin, J.D. <i>University Professor and Founding O'Neill Chair in Global Health Law, Georgetown University</i> <i>Director, WHO Collaborating Center on National and Global Health Law</i></p>	<p>Jemilah Mahmood, M.D., FRCOG <i>Professor and Director, Sunway Centre for Planetary Health</i> <i>Former Under Secretary General, International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Society</i> <i>Former Chief, UN World Humanitarian Summit</i></p>
<p>Angel Gurría, M.A. <i>Former Secretary-General, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)</i> <i>Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Finance and Public Credit</i></p>	<p>John Dramani Mahama <i>Former President of Ghana</i> <i>Former Vice-President, Minister of Communications and Member of Parliament, Ghana</i></p>
<p>Jane Halton, P.S.M., Officer of the Order of Australia <i>Chair, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)</i> <i>Former President, World Health Assembly</i> <i>Former Secretary of Department of Finance and Secretary of Department of Health, Australia</i></p>	<p>Malebona Precious Matsoso, L.L.M. <i>Director, Health Regulatory Science Platform, University of Witwatersrand</i> <i>Former Director General, National Department of Health, South Africa</i> <i>Former Member, WHO-appointed Independent Panel for Prevention, Preparedness and Response</i></p>

The impetus for the creation of the Panel came from a research study titled “[A Global Public Health Convention for the 21st Century](#)”, which was published in the Lancet Public Health journal in May 2021. This study was conducted by the University of Miami under the leadership of Professor José Szapocznik Ph.D., with the support of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. After the research team gathered and analyzed input from 29 public health thought leaders, it distilled this information into a list of 10 recommendations on what must be done to reform the global public health system to avoid another disastrous pandemic.

Our Mission

The Panel has resolved to ensure that its recommendations for a Global Public Health Convention for the 21st Century do not merely remain a theoretical proposal, as has happened to many similarly sound but unimplemented reform proposals in the past. To this end, the Panel has taken up the task of advocating for the recommendations to be adopted at the highest levels of government as a new legally binding treaty or convention. This would build hope and trust in the global community by ensuring timely cooperation, transparency, accountability, and compliance with agreed upon rules among countries to effectively prepare, prevent, and respond to public health outbreaks wherever they may occur.

The success or failure of international treaties and conventions is typically determined by the degree of compliance they garner from the signatories. Therefore, it is imperative that a new instrument have a compelling set of compliance-enhancing mechanisms, including incentives, disincentives, and perhaps sanctions, to promote broad-based buy-in that builds trust among countries, and supports global solidarity. Below is an overview of some key elements that should be incorporated into the proposed treaty or convention.

Key Elements of a New Legal Instrument

Overview of Characteristics	Mechanisms of Action
Treaty must be negotiated and ratified at the level of heads of state to include enforcement.	The instrument must have a system of incentives, disincentives and sanctions for implementation and compliance.
Transparency of governments: - <i>Immediate and transparent notification of outbreaks</i> - <i>Ongoing data sharing throughout</i> - <i>Acceptance of independent validation</i> Independent monitoring of preparedness and response	Inspectorate function needed - ability to enter a territory for inspection and compliance verification.
The key idea is for a Framework Convention that would focus first on the governance of a global system to ensure prevention, preparedness and response Future protocols might include: - <i>Prevention, e.g. wildlife habitat and zoonotic risks etc.</i> - <i>Equity and financing of global public goods, e.g. vaccines, among other provisions.</i>	To build hope, trust and solidarity, the initial treaty must include the structure for the governance system, functions of inspectorate, incentives/disincentives and sanctions, and transparency requirements.

What’s next?

With the stated goal of advocating for the adoption of the GPHC recommendations at the highest levels of government, the Panel will direct its activities toward reaching heads of state and senior decision makers across the world – with a particular focus on engagement in relevant dialogues at the World Health Assembly, G20 and G7 summits, United Nations General Assemblies, and other multilateral forums.

The Panel aims to leverage these international platforms and the expertise of its members to inform country leaders about the steps that need to be taken to achieve lasting positive change in global pandemic preparedness and response, and build momentum toward the adoption of a rigorous global public health convention or treaty that will change all our futures.