

The Panel's statement to the Multi-Stakeholder hearing on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response and for consideration in the Political Declaration 2023

A Political Declaration is essential to get Heads of State/Heads of Government committed to a new Treaty, the WHO CA+ and IHR changes. Whether we are talking about accountability or equity, they require a whole of Government commitment. In addition the strong support of UNGA is critical at this time. Without it there is the risk that Member States decide to take more time beyond WHO 2024 and the Treaty runs into the sand or that IHR amendments are completed first and countries suggest that a new Treaty is no longer needed. Neither of these developments would be acceptable.

We appreciate the decision has been taken that there should not be overlap with the WHO CA+ or IHR negotiations. We agree that the Declaration should work on the principles and not get into technical detail.

The principles we believe are needed are:

- Accountability which ultimately has to revert to Heads of State/Heads of Government.
- Equity. Access to global goods, finance or equity in governance also requires agreement at the most senior levels of Government.

An issue that has arisen concerning governance is which bodies should have oversight of the Treaty and related pandemic issues across the globe in preparedness and response both in "peacetime" as well as during an emergency.

It is expected that there will be a Conference of Parties for the Treaty at Heads of State level. The Treaty is being hosted by WHO and we believe that the COP, its Secretariat and any other bodies, should be at arm's length from WHO. The Treaty is owned by the Member States working closely in partnership with the WHO Secretariat.

There has been a suggestion of a Global Health Threats Council. We do not believe this is necessary or wise. It would have to be at Heads of State level and then could duplicate the work of COP. It also seems unlikely that HoS would have the enthusiasm to engage during "peacetime".

The United Nations Secretary General already has the authority to bring together government leaders and others to respond to an emerging or ongoing global health crisis. A recent proposal has been put forward by the UN. A Policy Brief 'Strengthening International Response to Complex Global Shocks – an

Emergency Platform', offers proposals for high-level engagement during complex emergencies. The Policy Brief is one of a number of policy papers being prepared for the UNGA special session in 2024 to develop a 'Pact for the Future'. The Policy Brief describes an 'Emergency Platform' which would not be a standing body but a set of protocols triggered automatically by a 'Crisis of Sufficient Scale and Magnitude', for example a pandemic. The UNSG would convene leaders from Member States, the UN system, international financial institutions, and subject experts including civil society, industry, and research bodies. We strongly support this approach as a means to bring the world together to take action at the time of a pandemic.

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