

Statement on behalf of the Panel for a Global Public Health Convention on 27 May 2024

The Panel for a Global Public Health Convention is saddened that it has not been possible to put a proposal for the Pandemic Agreement to the World Health Assembly this week. However, the urgency for that Agreement continues. As a world we are not properly prepared for outbreaks which could develop into a pandemic. A Pandemic Agreement is needed now. We urge the World Health Assembly to reset the process for intergovernmental negotiations as quickly as possible and with appropriate support from a bureau and secretariat.

Meanwhile we encourage the World Health Assembly to approve the amendments to the International Health Regulations immediately and in a way that will allow linkage to the Pandemic Agreement at a later stage.

We wish to recognise the enormous amount of time and energy Member States, the INB Bureau and the Secretariat have committed to try to reach completion of the Pandemic Agreement. We thank them for all they have done and look forward to their renewed energy as we enter the next phase of work to reach the outcome the world needs.

Dame Barbara Stocking
Chair, Panel for a Global Public Health Convention