

Statement to INB13R on 10 April from the Panel for a Global Public Health Convention

My Panel members are very grateful for the effort and time that Member States are giving to achieve the Pandemic Agreement. A lot of “greening” has now been done but there are also still difficult issues.

My Panel would press you strongly to agree and sign off the Agreement this week. Some people have suggested that it could stay open for the World Health Assembly. That seems a dangerous approach. In between now and the World Health Assembly, a lot might happen, including campaigning from people who do not want to see this Agreement come about.

You have a very short time until Friday evening. It is the moment to compromise. We need real negotiations now, not people holding their cards to their chests or bringing in new issues.

If you achieve the Agreement you will be giving a gift to the world’s people. If you do not, can you imagine what people would say if there were to be a Pandemic, or even the possibility of one. They would say “you let us down” and I am sure no-one wants that.

I hope you can deliver this Agreement by understanding the concerns of each other and finding a way to compromise. This is not a game you are playing but it is something you should all be proud to achieve together.

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