

## Call to action on the Role of Parliamentarians to promote pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and financing for resilient and sustainable systems for health

Whilst COVID-19 is demonstrating to be a threat to the gains already made in countering other epidemics, the world should focus on creating opportunities and utilizing recent lessons learned from COVID-19 and previous lessons learned from the HIV pandemic, to strengthen the global health response while prioritizing the need for better pandemic preparedness tools.

To accomplish this, it is critical that parliamentarians are engaged and provide leadership in building public awareness and creating enabling legal environments, thereby acting in the interest of people, to promote pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and investments in resilient and sustainable systems for health.

Within this context, members of parliament and policy makers gathered at the Parliamentary Forum of the springs meetings 2022, in a session hosted by the International Forum on Global Health, the panel for a Global Public Health Convention, the Global Fund to Fight HIV/ AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF and UNITE Global Parliamentarians Network, to discuss the role of parliamentarians in promoting pandemic preparedness and response, and investments in resilient health systems.

Therefore, members of parliament recognize:

- For more than two years, we've endured a pandemic that could have been prevented. Had the right systems been in place, the world could have entered 2022 looking back at SARS-CoV-2 as a contained outbreak, instead of straining to manage hundreds of millions of new infections.
- The emergence of a novel, deadly pathogen is inevitable and a new international architecture that incentivizes effective preparedness and response, secures mutual assurance, includes financial incentives to support low- and middle- income countries, disincentives for non-adherence and brings cohesion to a system in disarray, is essential to secure global health security and resilient health systems around the world.
- Through adherence to a new Pandemic Convention, the world has the chance to stop an outbreak from becoming a pandemic. Should a new threat spread beyond borders, a Convention can ensure our collective response is equitable, and protects lives and livelihoods everywhere.
- Substantial and sustainable financing is urgently needed to accompany new global health architecture reforms and to lay a solid ground for rebuilding strong and resilient health systems.
- Already existing funds, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria play an essential role in low and middle-income countries to strengthening health systems, reduce deaths and infections from existing pandemics, and prepare against future pandemic threats.

Bearing in mind what is stated above and the urgent need to act accordingly, members of parliament, supporters of this call-to-action, commit, using all the tools and actions available, to:

- Ensure that the world is better prepared for future global health threats and support the negotiations of a new legally binding global instrument for pandemic preparedness, prevention, and response, led by the World Health Organization's International Negotiating Body.
- Advocate for a convention that enhances four main principles: solidarity, transparency, accountability, and equity. It is essential that all countries, regardless of income level or perceived power, share equal decision-making, and access equitable opportunities for preparedness, alert, and response.
- Support cohesive governance to implement public health measures that include independent monitoring and verification, as well as transparency in sharing of information, genetic sequences and samples.
- Support the implementation of better frameworks that allow a closer link between the scientific community and the decision-making bodies to ensure public policies are driven by the best evidence-based data.
- Support the development of substantial, predictable, and sustainable financing for pandemic preparedness and response as an essential tool to fund the global health architecture, and advocate for more committed flexible funding for WHO in order to ensure its independence and efficiency.
- Advocate for the use of digital health as a tool to ensure better pandemic preparedness and response and access to health towards Universal Health Coverage, promoting the application of existing technology to increase the share of information between countries and to foster more equitable and fairer access.
- Promote discussions and actions on the sustainability of health systems focusing on domestic funding as a way to ensure resilient health systems.
- Advocate for a successful Seventh Replenishment for the Global Fund; including support for the \$18 billion fundraising target identified in the investment case for the Seventh Replenishment.