



Resumed session of INB5, 12 June 2023

G2H2 statement under agenda item 2

Safeguards, prevention and financial justice - a must for the pandemic treaty

The Geneva Global Health Hub [G2H2](#) is a membership-based association, uniting 46 civil society actors to create and share knowledge and jointly promote democratic global health governance and a rights-based agenda, in the spirit of Health for All.

General comments

We acknowledge the [INB Bureau's new text proposal](#) to steer the next phase of the negotiations. The Bureau's effort reflects the delicate weaving work for bringing Member States together on many diverging elements of the negotiation.

However, the recent negotiations translate into a weakened draft in many fields, such as [human rights](#) or access and benefit sharing. While we acknowledge the principle of sovereignty, soft language ushers confusion and disincentivizes ratification and implementation. Governments need binding clarity, especially because another binding instrument already exists, the IHR.

We align ourselves with civil society organizations including many members of G2H2 who have raised the issue of limited participation of civil society in the shaping and implementation of the new legal instrument. While we welcome, in Article 20, the integration of civil society as observers in the Conference of the Parties and the overall intention of allowing "meaningful representation", the current setup of the negotiations and the outline of the implementation modalities in chapter III in no way respond to [modalities already tailored and tested](#) in previous treaty processes at other UN fora.

On safeguards

In the Bureau's text, clearly spelled out safeguards in the treaty concerning the highly problematic role of the corporate sector, as [persistently requested](#) by the Geneva Global Health Hub and [its members](#), remain utterly ignored. The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control remains the model to follow, yet we see incomprehensible resistance to setting ground rules to [protect the governance](#) of the new instrument [from commercial influence](#). Future negotiations must address this omission.

On pandemic prevention

The Bureau's text pays lip service to the notion of pandemic prevention, mentioned several times, but with a very marginal and limited scope. Pandemic prevention entails a holistic health approach. Prevention starts with addressing the key drivers of spillovers, and with a serious understanding of One Health, one that challenges the policies and industrial models that today destroy ecosystems.

Prevention starts with universal public health systems and people centered care, social protection schemes and financial justice, as expressed in numberless WHO declarations and resolutions. The ongoing persistence on biomedical solutions to respond to crises, and the insistence on vaccination as the main way of pandemic prevention, MUST be shifted to tackling realistic and comprehensive prevention measures. We refer to the G2H2 report on [The politics of a WHO pandemic treaty in a disenchanted world](#) (2021).

On financing

Covid-19 has taught that financing is a key component of pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. Referring to the G2H2 report on [Financial Justice for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response](#) (2022), we welcome the extension of the Article 19 on financing, namely the proposed option A for paragraph 6.

We need to remind us all that the world is awash in money: we clearly witness that governments are never in difficult dilemmas when it comes to finding financial resources to engage in wars and buy weapons. Pandemic prevention, preparedness and response require the same level of prioritization and commitment.

And we insist that debt cancellation and an intentional stop to illicit financial flows must complement article 19, to allow countries to regain financial sovereignty and gain a new investment capacity in national health and social protection systems, away from the current multiple financial dependencies from high income countries.

The same high income countries, and corporations they harbor, have accumulated a huge wealth of nearly USD 192 trillion by [atmospheric appropriation](#). It's impossible to neglect this scenario.

Thank you.

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Next page: short version (2 Minutes)
as read out by our representative
on Monday, 12 June 2023

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The INB Bureau's new text proposal clearly reflects the delicate weaving work for bringing Member States together on many diverging elements of the negotiation.

However, clear **safeguards** in the treaty concerning the highly problematic role of the corporate sector, as persistently requested by the Geneva Global Health Hub, remain ignored. The WHO Tobacco Convention is the model to follow, yet we see incomprehensible resistance to setting ground rules to protect the governance of the new instrument from commercial influence. Future negotiations must address this.

We regret reading a **weakened draft** in other fields like human rights or access and benefit sharing, as well as insufficient involvement of Civil Society in pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. Soft language ushers confusion and disincentivizes ratification and implementation. Governments need binding clarity, especially because another binding instrument already exists, the IHR.

The Bureau text pays lip service to the notion of **pandemic prevention**. Pandemic prevention starts with addressing the key drivers of spillovers, a systemic understanding of *One Health* that tackles the current industrial models destroying ecosystems. Prevention starts with sustained universal public health systems, people centered care, social protection and fiscal justice, as expressed in numerous WHO declarations. The Bureau text's persistence on biomedical solutions, surveillance, data sharing and vaccination as the main way of prevention must be reoriented to a more comprehensive approach.

Finally, **financing** is a key component of pandemic PPR. We welcome the extension of the Article 19 on financing, namely the proposed option A for paragraph 6. We must remind ourselves that the world is awash in money and governments are never in financial scarcity dilemmas when having to find resources to wage wars and buy weapons. Pandemic PPR requires the same level of prioritization and commitment. We also insist that debt cancellation and an intentional stop to illicit financial flows must complement article 19. Indebted countries need to regain their financial sovereignty, away from the multiple colonial dependencies from rich countries, the very same ones that have accumulated a gigantic ecological debt towards the global South.

Thank you.

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