

REVISED DRAFT OF THE NEGOTIATING TEXT OF THE WHO PANDEMIC AGREEMENT

Article 20. Sustainable financing

1. The Parties commit to working together to strengthen sustainable financing for health emergencies as well as for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. In this regard, each Party, within the means and resources at its disposal, shall:

(a) prioritize and maintain or increase, as necessary, domestic funding for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, without undermining other domestic public health priorities including for: (i) strengthening and sustaining capacities for the prevention, preparedness and response to health emergencies and pandemics, in particular the core capacities of the International Health Regulations (2005); (ii) implementing national plans, programmes and priorities; and (iii) strengthening health systems resilience;

(b) mobilize financial resources through all sources, including existing and new bilateral, sub-regional, regional and multilateral funding mechanisms, to assist in particular developing country Parties, in the implementation of the WHO Pandemic Agreement, including through grants and concessional loans;

(c) promote, within relevant bilateral, regional and/or multilateral mechanisms, innovative financing measures, including but not limited to debt relief, based on transparent financial reprogramming plans for pandemic prevention, preparedness, response and recovery of health-system related actions, for affected countries whose debt payment might affect expenditures on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and in the case of pandemics, take measures for debt relief, including the suspension of debt servicing and debt cancellation; and

(d) encourage governance and operating models of existing financing entities to minimize the burden on countries, offer improved efficiency and coherence at scale, enhance transparency and be responsive to the needs and national priorities of developing countries.

2. The governing bodies of the Cooperating Parties shall adopt, every five years a Financial and Implementation Strategy on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. The Parties, particularly those providing financial support for the strengthening of pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, shall align with the Financial and Implementation Strategy while financing the relevant funding mechanisms, both within and outside WHO.

3. A Coordinating Financial Mechanism (the “Mechanism”) is hereby established to support the implementation of both the WHO Pandemic Agreement and the International Health Regulations (2005) in a sustainable, predictable, inclusive and transparent manner and accountable to the governing bodies of the Cooperating Parties. The mechanism aims to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of existing and future financial mechanisms, including by providing additional financial resources to strengthen and expand capacities for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response in Cooperating Parties, in particular in developing country Parties.

4. The Mechanism shall include a pooled fund to provide financing to support, strengthen and expand capacities for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and as necessary for day zero surge response, in Cooperating Parties that require financial support. The fund may include sources from monetary contributions received as part of operations of the PABS System, voluntary funds from both States and non-State actors and other contributions to be agreed upon by the Conference of the Parties.

5. The Mechanism will also promote harmonization and coordination for financing pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and International Health Regulations related capacities.

6. The Mechanism shall, inter alia:

(a) identify financing instruments and mechanisms that are available to serve the purposes of pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and maintain a dashboard of such instruments and related information such as eligibility criteria, modalities and levels of funding available, priorities and process requirements, including financial contributions made by Parties and non-State actors, as applicable, to such instruments, and the funds allocated to countries from such instruments;

(b) establish, as necessary, following a mandate from the Conference of the Parties, working arrangements with relevant identified financing instruments and entities to facilitate their alignment with the Financial and Implementation Strategy;

(c) provide advice and support, upon request, to Cooperating Parties in identifying and applying in order to obtain access to financial resources in accordance with national pandemic prevention, preparedness and response priorities and identified needs;

(d) assess the availability of funds, and support the mobilization of financial resources free from conflict of interest; and

(e) conduct relevant analyses on needs and gaps, in addition to tracking cooperation efforts, to inform the development of the Financial and Implementation Strategy, guide Cooperating Parties and recommend course corrections as necessary.

7. The Mechanism, including its fund, shall function under the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties and be accountable to it. The Conference of the Parties shall adopt modalities for the operationalization of the Mechanism, including eligibility criteria and the establishment of a governing board of the Mechanism, with balanced representation of WHO regions and developed and developing country Parties, within 12 months after the entry into force of the Pandemic Agreement.

8. The Conference of the Parties shall periodically review the effectiveness of the Mechanism, such as policies, operational modalities and activities, and its first revision should be carried out no less than two years after its establishment.

Quoted from the revised draft shared by the WHO INB Bureau on 8th March 2024 (unedited advance copy); watch out for the full documentation of INB9