



WRITTEN SUBMISSION FOR THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARINGS ON A NEW INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENT ON PANDEMIC PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

In December 2021, the World Health Assembly agreed to launch a process to develop an [international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response](#). The intergovernmental negotiating body responsible to draft this instrument met for the first time in February 2022 and the first round of [public hearings](#) was held earlier this week, on April 12th and 13th.

The public hearings comprised a spoken component and a written component, guided by the following question: **“What substantive elements do you think should be included in a new international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response?”**

The coalition for Preventing Pandemics at the Source participated in both the spoken and written component of the hearings. Below is our written submission:

The Preventing Pandemics at the Source Coalition – 18 conservation, public health, health justice and Indigenous Rights organizations – welcomes the creation of an international instrument against pandemics. Problematically, pandemic ‘preparedness’ has focused largely on ‘containment’, subsequent to outbreaks. It is crucial that the instrument addresses the origin of all viral pandemics over the last century—pathogen spillover from animals, particularly wildlife, into people.

Cost-effective actions can steeply reduce the risk of pathogen spillover. Peer-reviewed research highlights that \$20 billion annually is sufficient to implement actions at scale – just 3% of the annualized cost of new zoonotic diseases. Actions include shutting down or strictly regulating commercial wildlife trade and markets that pose public health risks, protecting tropical forests, providing healthcare and livelihood alternatives to communities in zoonotic spillover hotspots, improving biosecurity in livestock management and enhancing zoonotic virus surveillance.

The international instrument should: include support for One Health with a focus on preventing pathogen spillover; require States to include spillover prevention measures in national action plans; establish a substantial, dedicated Fund and reporting mechanism to support actions and ensure accountability; and be guided by an international scientific and policy advisory body. A dedicated Fund for pandemic prevention is a global good and should be funded outside existing development assistance. Cooperation with the Quadripartite partnership for One Health and environmental conventions (e.g., CBD, CITES, UNFCCC, CMS) is encouraged to create synergies on nature-based solutions.

For more information, please visit the [Preventing Pandemics at the Source](#) website or contact secretariat@preventingfuturepandemics.org