



NEGOTIATION OF NEW GLOBAL ACCORD ON PANDEMICS MUST LOOK BEYOND TRADITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH SECTOR APPROACHES

STATEMENT FROM THE COALITION ON PREVENTING PANDEMICS AT THE SOURCE

December 9, 2021

The [Coalition on Preventing Pandemics at the Source](#) welcomes the increased emphasis on “prevention” in the landmark agreement to begin negotiation of a new United Nations global accord on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, announced at the conclusion of the World Health Assembly Special Session in Geneva, December 1, 2021.

As governments prepare to begin negotiations, we urge them to recognize the following key points that must be prioritized to reduce the risk of future pandemics. Investing more in business-as-usual approaches alone will not work, as we see tragically during this current pandemic.

First, reducing virus spillover from animal hosts to people should be given high priority. This prevention before pandemics even start has been ignored in almost all global processes promoting pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response to date. The proposed new accord should prioritize actions for upstream prevention of future pandemics by including mechanisms and funding to reduce spillover risk.

Second, there is a [well-established scientific basis](#) for reducing spillover risk. The science calls for systematic adoption of a One Health approach, consistent with [the new definition](#) also announced December 1, 2021, by the [One Health High Level Expert Panel](#). More specifically, greater investment is needed to:

- Engage with key tropical forest nations to reduce the drivers of deforestation, forest degradation, and forest fragmentation;
- Shut down commercial wildlife trade that risks contributing to zoonotic spillover events, depending on the local context, geography, and nature of wildlife markets;
- Improve biosecurity in animal agriculture; and
- Improve basic health service provision for people and livestock in rural tropical regions.

Third, the likely new global fund (or suite of funds and strengthening of related mechanisms), as well as strengthening of the International Health Regulations, to support pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, must include funding windows and policy provisions to support efforts by governments, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples, and communities to reduce spillover risk.

Finally, it is imperative that expertise from the beyond the traditional public health sector be consulted and included in the negotiation process. The science and practice of spillover prevention depend on expertise in human-wildlife interactions, animal ecology, wildlife health, conservation biology, human behavior, economics, health equity and rights, and other fields, and benefit from traditional indigenous knowledge. Government, academic and civil society representatives with expertise in these areas should be integral participants helping to draft the new global accord, together with representatives from affected communities including COVID-disabled and bereaved organizations and Indigenous Peoples.

For more information, please visit the [Preventing Pandemics at the Source](#) website or contact Nigel Sizer, Executive Director, Preventing Pandemics at the Source at nigel.sizer@dalberg.com

The recommendations presented in this note are based on the findings of the independent [Report of the Scientific Taskforce on Preventing Pandemics](#) convened by the Center for Climate, Health and the Global Environment of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

More details about specific interventions to reduce spillover risk can be found in the report, [Interventions to Prevent Pathogen Spillover and Curb Early Disease Spread among Domestic Animals and Humans](#), prepared by the Preventing Pandemics at the Source coalition.