

**TRANSCRIPT SUBMITTED FOR THE SECOND ROUND OF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON A NEW  
INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENT ON PANDEMIC PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

*Prepared September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

In July 2022, ahead of the second meeting of the [intergovernmental negotiating body](#), the World Health Organization released [the first working draft](#) of a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (the “WHO CAI”). Then, earlier this month, they requested interested parties to submit a [video statement](#) of up to 90 seconds, accompanied by a transcript, in response to the following question: **“Based on your experience with the COVID-19 pandemic, what do you believe should be addressed at the international level to better protect against future pandemics?”**

The coalition for Preventing Pandemics at the Source submitted a video accompanied by the transcript below:

*“Scientists warned for decades of the risk of a pandemic of zoonotic origin, like COVID-19. They knew that, since the Spanish flu, all viral pandemic originated in animals, particularly wildlife, and spilled over into humans. And they knew that it was likely to happen again. But we ignored them, with devastating consequences.*

*We cannot afford to make the same mistake again.*

*So the international instrument must include provisions to reduce the risk of spillover. There are proven actions to reduce this risk with huge return on investment. These actions are more equitable than containment alone because they protect everyone everywhere. They 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 living close to wildlife, strengthening animal health systems, and enhancing zoonotic virus surveillance.*

*The international instrument must move beyond generic platitudes about One Health and explicitly commit governments to take actions to reduce the risk of spillover. Our collective future depends on it. Thank you!”*