

Recommendations from the coalition for Preventing Pandemics at the Source (PPATS)
on the
Zero Draft of the Political Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on
Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response

Prepared June 10th, 2023

On 9 September 2022, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution 76/301, which mandated the convening of a High-Level Meeting (HLM) on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPPR). This convening will take place on September 20th, 2023, in New York. Its goal is to galvanize action at the highest political level, and it is expected to result in the approval of a historical political declaration on PPPR. The first draft of this declaration was released on June 5th, 2023.

We welcome the inclusion of principle PP24 and provisions OP34 and OP35 which recognize the importance of a One Health approach and commit member states to address the drivers of zoonotic spillover (primary prevention). The zero draft is, however, strongly focused on actions to contain outbreaks (secondary prevention, preparedness, and response). While these actions are crucial, primary prevention of pandemics by reducing the risk of spillover is equally crucial and needs to be equally emphasized. We believe the draft could better reflect primary prevention priorities by i) explicitly mentioning the drivers of spillover including land use change (particularly deforestation), commercial wildlife trade and markets, weak animal health systems and management, and climate change and ii) recognizing the crucial role of spillover prevention to achieve global health equity.

Spillover prevention is the critical first step to prevent future pandemics, as outlined by the [One Health High-Level Expert Panel](#). It is also the most cost-effective and equitable approach to PPPR. Focusing only on containing outbreaks accepts the illness and deaths of Indigenous Peoples and communities in vulnerable positions, who tend to be disproportionately affected by outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics. Actions to reduce spillover risk protect everyone equally. Global PPPR efforts must adopt a holistic approach, encompassing and building on One Health and Planetary Health perspectives.

In this advisory note, the [Preventing Pandemics at the Source coalition](#) - a group composed of leading organizations focused on public health, human rights, science, health justice, biodiversity, climate change and Indigenous rights - offers specific textual recommendation for how the Political Declaration might better integrate primary pandemic prevention priorities.

Recommendations:

Text that we recommend be added to the draft is shown in *italicized, bolded blue font*, while text that we recommend be deleted is shown in ~~*italicized red font with strikethrough*~~.

PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPHS

*PP3. Express concern that the emergence and re-emergence of epidemic-prone diseases continues to accelerate, **revealing serious underinvestment in the prevention of zoonotic spillover, notably through addressing their drivers**, and recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has a disproportionate impact on low and middle-income countries as well as people living in poverty, women and girls, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and persons with disabilities, as well as those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, with repercussions on health and development gains, thus hampering the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; (Based on A/RES/77/275 PP5)*

*PP24. Recognize further the need to strengthen epidemic prevention by **addressing the drivers of the emergence and re-emergence of epidemic-prone diseases including but not limited to land use change (particularly deforestation), biodiversity loss, the degradation of ecosystems, wildlife trade and markets, wildlife farming, weak animal health systems and management, climate change, and human-wildlife conflict, using an integrated One Health approach that fosters cooperation between the human health, animal health,***

environmental and other relevant sectors ~~sharing experience and best practices,~~ and to raise the level of preparedness, including early warning systems, in order to have the earliest and most adequate response to any epidemic that may arise, ~~and recognizing also the value of an integrated One Health approach that fosters cooperation between the human health, animal health and plant health, as well as environmental and other relevant sectors;~~ (A/RES/76/301, Verbatim PP12)

Proposed additional preambular paragraphs:

PP31. Recognize that healthy relationships between people, animals and the environment are key to preventing spillover events that lead to pandemics;

PP32. Recognize that preventing pandemics at the source by reducing the risk of spillover is significantly less costly than responding to pandemics once they have emerged, with numerous societal and environmental co-benefits, and is critical to achieve global health equity;

PP33. Recognize the need for more integrated and increased funding from all sources, including international public finance, to address the interlinked challenges of pandemics, biodiversity loss and climate change, including investment to minimize risks of zoonotic spillover and subsequent pandemics.

CALL TO ACTION

Global governance (page 9)

*OP18. Strengthen international collaboration and coordination ~~for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response~~ at the highest political level to accelerate efforts to **prevent, prepare for and respond to future pandemics and health emergencies at the** ~~ensure~~ international, national, regional and local level ~~readiness for future pandemics and health emergencies;~~ (New language)*

*OP20. Call for the integration of a multisectoral approach towards pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, given the multifaceted **drivers and** consequences of pandemics; (Based on A/RES/77/275, OP2)*

Leadership and accountability (page 9)

Proposed additional operational paragraph to be included in this section after OP31:

OP31bis. Commit to promote or establish One Health joint training and continuing education programmes for human, animal, and environmental health workforces, particularly for veterinary and environmental services needed to prevent spillover events, to build complementary skills, capacities and capabilities to prevent, detect, control, and respond to pandemic health threats; (based on the Bureau's text of the WHO CA+, Article 5/7/f)

Overarching health-related issues (page 11)

*OP34. Strengthen pandemic prevention by **addressing the drivers of the emergence and re-emergence of epidemic-prone diseases including but not limited to land use change (particularly deforestation), biodiversity loss, the degradation of ecosystems, wildlife trade and markets, wildlife farming, weak animal health systems and management, climate change, and human-wildlife conflict, using** ~~sharing experience and best practices, and to raise the level of preparedness, including early warning systems, in order to have the earliest and most adequate response to any pandemic that may arise, and recognizing also the value of a~~ One Health approach that fosters cooperation between the human health, animal health, ~~and plant health, as well as~~ environmental and other relevant sectors, including through collaboration among the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Organization for Animal Health and the United Nations Environment Programme, ~~and~~ look forward to the high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance to be held in*

2024, *and raise the level of preparedness, including early warning systems, in order to have the earliest and most adequate response to any pandemic that may arise;* (Based on A/RES/77/275, PP16)

OP35. Call for international cooperation and coordination to ensure support in building national and community level One Health capacities, *prevent zoonotic spillover events*, enable rapid diagnostics of drivers of outbreaks in animals of zoonotic potential, support communities in transitioning away from high-risk practices and towards *long-term, sustainable ~~other~~ sources of livelihood with low risk of spillover* to support in preventing and mitigating any outbreaks in animals, the environment and humans during both inter- pandemic and pandemic times; (New language)