We applaud and support the leadership of member states behind principles emphasizing the importance of a One Health approach. Specifically, we welcome the use of language on biodiversity loss and protection, the fundamental role of primary healthcare, protection of communities at the human-animal-environmental interface, and equity principles that safeguard vulnerable communities, especially Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, from future zoonotic outbreaks and pandemics. As a result, we recommend that the principles and provisions addressing zoonotic spillover (primary prevention), its drivers, and its impact on vulnerable communities be included within the Compilation 1 text for the final text and the Adoption of Political Declaration at HLM on PPPR.

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 highlight primary pandemic prevention priorities. We recognize that at this stage of the Political Declaration negotiation process, no additional text can be included and, as such, our recommendations refer to existing language.

Recommendations:

The Preventing Pandemics at the Source coalition seconds and recommends that the following specific text proposed by member states, in part of other points or stand alone, be included to develop the final text for adopting the political declaration at HLM on PPPR.

PP2bis. Affirm that pandemics, exacerbated by climate change, weak health systems, poverty, and inequality, pose an existential threat to humanity, [...] urgent and continued leadership at the highest level of government; [CRI ADD]

PP3. [...] Indigenous Peoples CANZ ADD] [Indigenous People, PER ADD][ children, Indigenous People, people of African descent, and older persons, MEX ADD] [...] as well as communities at the human-animal-environment interface EU ADD] [...] PP7. to [financial support to implement science-based measures to prevent spillover of pathogens to avert health emergencies as well as CRI ADD]...

PP15. Recognize the need to [...] [spillover and disease prevention and CRI ADD][for them to be resilient and adaptable for reaching populations worldwide, particularly hard to reach communities in low-resource settings BGD ADD] [...] PP17bis. Acknowledge that present and future pandemics pose unprecedented challenges to humanity and to science, [...] Commit to facilitate a One Health approach to discovery of new tools and other results to be gained through research and development, and sustainable and predictable financing during inter-pandemic periods, as well as ready-releasable surge financing to respond immediately to new outbreaks; (Based on A/RES/74/2, PP53) [BGD ADD]
PP21. Recognize further the [...] [multidisciplinary CANZ, EU ADD]... [environmental and animal GBR ADD] [and veterinarians/animal health workers at national, regional and global level EU ADD], as fundamental to strong and resilient health systems [and communities CANZ ADD]

PP22. Recognize [...] [equitable and people-centered PAK, VNM, BGD ADD] [and community based BGD ADD] primary health care, [...] preventing, preparing and responding to [outbreaks and PAK, BGD, CRI ADD] pandemics, [...] noting that primary health care [and [community-led CANZ ADD] [...] [including those who live in remote geographical regions or in areas difficult to access PER ADD]

PP23bis. Recognizing the interconnectedness between the health of humans, animals, plants and their shared environment, and the importance of the One Health approach that delivers multiple benefits to the health and well-being of people, animals, plants and ecosystems, that would further strengthen the capacity to address biodiversity loss, prevent, prepare for and respond to the emergence of diseases, including zoonotic infections and future pandemics, and combat antimicrobial resistance; (Based on E/HLS/2022/1 and WHA 74.7) [GBR ADD].

PP24. [...] to raise the level of preparedness, including early warning [systems and collaborative surveillance systems [...] EU REPLACE], in order to have the earliest adequate response to any [outbreak or AG ADD] [epidemic or pandemic EU ADD] pandemic CANZ REPLACE that may arise [, and recognizing also the value of an integrated [, collaborative and inclusive CANZ ADD] approach that fosters cooperation between [the protection of environment and the protection of EU ADD] the human, animal [environmental the wider environment CANZ REPLACE] other relevant sectors GBR, SYR DELETE]; (A/RES/76/301, Verbatim PP12)

PP24bis. Recognizing that human, animal and environmental health are interconnected and that human activity, including habitat destruction and conversion, wildlife trade and intensive animal agriculture increases the risk of pathogen spillover from animals to humans, and the need to address the root causes and prevent disease outbreaks through an integrated One Health approach (New language based on A/71/L.2, PP11) [EU ADD]

PP24bis. Recognize the need for all countries to build scientific and clinical medical research capacity in partnership with other countries, international organizations and other entities and the global value that such capacity offers in early detection of outbreaks with pandemic potential [...] [USA ADD]

PP25. Recognize further the consequence of the adverse impact of climate change, [loss of biodiversity, pollution natural EU ADD][pollution and biodiversity loss, natural CANZ ADD] [...] health in [all environmental policies and in EU ADD] climate change [mitigation and CHE, PAK, VNM, CRM, BGD, CRI ADD] adaptation [pollution prevention, disaster risk reduction and environmental protection CANZ ADD] efforts [integrate climate into pandemic prevention, preparedness and response efforts, as well as effective approaches to addressing antimicrobial resistance, EU ADD] [...] [and whole-of-society, multisectoral and One Health approaches CANZ ADD] [and an integrated One Health approach EU ADD]...[in particular those [who are vulnerable or living CANZ REPLACE] and countries most affected by climate change PAK ADD]

PP25bis. Determined to reduce the risks for future outbreaks of zoonotic diseases, which may lead to epidemics and, in extreme cases, pandemics and their devastating impact on human health and livelihoods, and recognizing that curbing illicit wildlife trafficking and conserving and restoring biodiversity and functioning ecosystems can contribute to reducing the risk of emergence and spread of zoonotic diseases; (PP11, “75/311. Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife”) [EU ADD]

Global Governance (page 39)

OP20. [...] engaging all parts of the multilateral system, given the multipronged nature of effective prevention and preparedness measures and the multifaceted drivers and consequences of pandemics, and to safeguard human health, detect and prevent health threats at the human-animal- environment interface, in particular zoonotic spill-over, mutations and antimicrobial agents, and call for better dialogue between the United Nations and the World Health Organisation, following a One UN approach [EU ADD]

OP21. [...] support[ing IRN ADD] countries to [...] [prevent pathogen spillover CRI ADD] [...] OP21bis. Commit to preventing, preparing for and responding to pandemics [...] through an integrated One Health approach that is rooted in achieving equity in health [...] [EU ADD]

Leadership and Accountability (page 42)
OP28. [...] for effective pandemic prevention, preparedness and response [...] including those most affected by pandemics or other health emergencies [...] Overarching Health Related Issues (page 48)

OP33pre. [...] As public health threats with pandemic potential start from the local level and communities, all countries require capacity for health security, supported by political commitment, sustainable financing and coordination. [...] [EU ADD]

OP33. [...] pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, with a focus on primary health care, [including community based health care BGD ADD] [...] OP34. [...] [support communities in transitioning away from high-risk practices and towards other sources of livelihoods to support preventing and mitigating any outbreaks in animals, the environment, and humans USA ADD] [and recognizing also the value necessity GBR REPLACE] of a [an inclusive and collaborative CANZ ADD] [...] approach that fosters cooperation between the human [health UKR, BRA DELETE], animal [health UKR, BRA DELETE], and [plant environmental GBR, EU REPLACE] [plant health CHN DELETE], as well as [environmental the wider environment CANZ REPLACE] and other relevant sectors [...] OP34alt. Strengthen pandemic prevention by adopting a “One Health” approach that fosters cooperation between the human health, animal health and plant health, as well as environmental and other relevant sectors [...] [DOM ADD]

OP34bis. Call upon the Quadripartite to build on and strengthen their existing cooperation and intensify their efforts to implement actions included in their One Health Joint Plan of Action, particularly Action Tracks 1 (enhancing One Health capacities to strengthen health systems) and 2 (reducing the risks for emerging and re-emerging zoonotic epidemics and pandemics), including through ongoing collaboration with the One Health High Level Expert Panel and enhanced support for country level prioritisation and implementation of relevant actions, to improve the prevention, monitoring, detection, control and containment of zoonotic diseases, threats to health and ecosystems, the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance, and future health emergencies, by fostering cooperation and a coordinated approach between the human health, animal health and plant health sectors, environmental and other relevant sectors, and urge Member States to adopt an all-hazard, multisectoral and coordinated approach to prevention, preparedness and response for health emergencies, in the context of the One Health approach; [...] [GBR ADD]

OP35. [...] prevent spillover and spillback of infectious agents GBR REPLACE] in animals, the environment and humans [and addressing the consequences of climate change for zoonotic diseases EU ADD] during both inter-pandemic and pandemic times [...] OP35quat. Examine all relevant international conventions with a view to adjusting them if necessary to fully include One Health Principles, ensuring their contribution to prevention and early detection and zoonotic pathogens before they cross over to humans; [EU ADD]

OP38bis. Call for continued international collaboration and coordination to strengthen global surveillance governance and systems at all levels focused on the routine, day-to-day monitoring of human, animal and environmental health systems and eco-systems which promote the early detection and analysis of emerging pathogens of pandemic and epidemic potential; [GBR ADD]

Financing and Investments (page 53)

OP43bis. Commit further to promote mobilizing sustainable and sufficient financing from all sources for the Pandemic Fund as a key mechanism to achieve pandemic prevention, and preparedness worldwide, to help low and middle incomes in particular to be better prepared for future pandemics, as well as for other international health organizations and initiatives performing relevant tasks in strengthening pandemic prevention, and preparedness; [EU ADD]