



General Assembly

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Global health and foreign policy

**Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Costa Rica, Ghana, Indonesia, Jamaica,
New Zealand, Rwanda, South Africa, Sweden and Viet Nam: draft resolution**

High-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [75/27](#) of 7 December 2020 on the International Day of Epidemic Preparedness and [76/257](#) of 29 March 2022 on elevating pandemic prevention, preparedness and response to the highest level of political leadership,

Recalling also World Health Assembly resolution 73.1 of 19 May 2020 on the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response,

Recalling further World Health Assembly decision 74(16) of 31 May 2021 on a special session of the World Health Assembly to consider developing a World Health Organization convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response,

Taking note of World Health Assembly report A75/17 of 23 May 2022 on strengthening World Health Organization preparedness for and response to health emergencies, which, inter alia, launched an intergovernmental process led by the World Health Organization for targeted amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005),

Taking note also of the report of the Review Committee on the Functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) during the COVID-19 Response, as well as the reports of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the World Health Organization Health Emergencies Programme and the report of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response entitled *COVID-19: Make It the Last Pandemic*, of 12 May 2021, and its most recent subsequent report, entitled *Transforming or Tinkering? Inaction Lays the Groundwork for Another Pandemic*, of 18 May 2022,

Noting with concern that the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed serious shortcomings at the country, regional and global levels in preparedness for, timely and effective prevention and detection of, and response to potential health emergencies, including in the capacity and resilience of health systems, indicating the need to better prepare for future health emergencies,



Recognizing that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – of sustainable development and that, despite progress made, challenges in global health, including major inequities and vulnerabilities within and among countries, regions and populations, still remain and demand persistent and urgent attention,

Recognizing also that the COVID-19 pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and noting with deep concern its impact on health and the loss of life, mental health and well-being, as well as the negative impact on global humanitarian needs, on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, the enjoyment of human rights and across all spheres of society, including on livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and education, the exacerbation of poverty and hunger, disruption to economies, trade, societies and the environment, and the exacerbation of economic and social inequalities within and among countries, which is reversing hard-won development gains and hampering progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ and all its Goals and targets,

Recognizing further the potential of future outbreaks of diseases or other global health threats with equally, or more devastating consequences than those caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and that preventing and preparing for future health threats is therefore of utmost importance and will support efforts towards attaining universal health coverage,

Acknowledging that preventing future global health emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic calls for continued leadership, multilateral commitment and collaboration among Member States and with relevant United Nations entities and other relevant international organizations, to implement robust global, regional, national and local responses, underscoring that the pandemic has shown the critical importance of a whole-of-society response to fully address its direct and indirect consequences, and recognizing the leadership and centrality of the World Health Organization on global health matters within the broader United Nations response,

Emphasizing the urgent need for initiatives that focus on preventing threats from emerging pandemics and on building an effective global defence against outbreaks of deadly infectious diseases should such threats emerge,

Recognizing the need to strengthen epidemic prevention by 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,

1. *Decides* to hold a one-day high-level meeting, to be convened by the President of the General Assembly in collaboration with the World Health Organization, and at the level of Heads of State and Government, by no later than the last day of the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, to adopt a succinct political declaration aimed at, inter alia, mobilizing political will at the national, regional and international levels for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response;

2. *Recommends* that the President of the General Assembly appoint two co-facilitators to present options and modalities for the high-level meeting, as well as the political declaration.

¹ Resolution 70/1.