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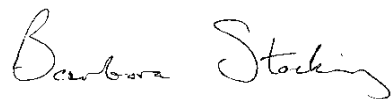
Statement on behalf of the Panel for a Global Public Health Convention on the April 16 2024
Pandemic Agreement

The Panel welcome the shortened text of the Agreement. We believe it is now possible and necessary to achieve adoption of the Agreement in the upcoming WHA. The draft should, and largely does, go beyond principles to specify commitments. This is essential if States are to be confident that their key concerns will be addressed, including equity. There will of course be negotiations in the next weeks to define those commitments clearly. Where there are Mechanisms to be developed to deliver the detail after adoption, the timescale needs to be clear and as early as possible.

We believe the CoP should have its own independent Secretariat, separate from WHO, even if it is hosted by WHO. A strong CoP is important to ensure pandemics are not only seen as a health matter, but as important to the whole of Society and the whole of Government.

Going forward, we need to focus on two issues: finance and compliance. The Mechanism proposed for financing in Article 20 will also require action after the WHA to achieve it. The financing Mechanism must be governed by the CoP but should also be linked to the amended IHR so that all PPPR financing needs can be addressed in a coordinated manner. We believe it could be based on the model of the Global Environmental Facility, which not just co-ordinates, but engages with, and seeks financing from, existing and new sources. How the Pandemic Fund should mesh with these sources has yet to be defined. The CoP structure would provide more equitable governance than now.

Our main concern is compliance. A major issue in the Covid 19 Pandemic was that countries did not comply with IHR. To be effective, Treaties should have compliance specified. The Agreement and IHR need to be linked together on this issue so that all matters can be covered. Proposals have previously been made for a Compliance and Implementation Committee and this should now be included in the text. Compliance should include those matters for which national and regional Parties have committed themselves in pandemic surveillance and response, and commitments concerning equity. There is also the need, as stated elsewhere in the text, for CoP to have information and to assess the overall implementation of the Agreement.



Dame Barbara Stocking

Chair, Panel for a Global Public Health Convention

Statement on behalf of the Panel:

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