

Statement on behalf of the Panel for a Global Public Health Convention on 3 June 2024

The Panel for a Global Public Health Convention welcomes the adoption of the amendments to the International Health Regulations at the 77th World Health Assembly.

We wish to thank Member States, the WGIHR Bureau, the Drafting Group at the WHA and the Secretariat for their efforts and recognise the enormous amount of time and energy that have been committed to reach agreement on the completion of the amended IHR. As the WHO Director-General noted “The amendments to the International Health Regulations will bolster countries’ ability to detect and respond to future outbreaks and pandemics by strengthening their own national capacities, and coordination between fellow states, on disease surveillance, information sharing and response”.

However, the urgency for a Pandemic Agreement remains and we strongly support the decision to extend the mandate of the INB to finish its work as soon as possible, and submit its outcome for consideration by the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly in 2025, or earlier by a special session of the World Health Assembly if possible in 2024.

We encourage Member States, the INB Bureau and the Secretariat to continue their efforts with renewed energy to reach an outcome we all need.

Dame Barbara Stocking
Chair, Panel for a Global Public Health Convention