

Panel for a Global Public Health Convention: Statement to WHO Member States

May 07, 2026

The Panel for Global Public Health Convention urges WHO Member States to keep up concerted efforts to conclude the PABS Annex

We share **The Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response's** deep disappointment that the PABS Annex could not be finalised before the World Health Assembly. Every delay translates into more time during which the world remains unprepared for the next pandemic threat — and that is a danger the world simply cannot afford.

As Co-Chairs Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Right Hon. Helen Clark rightly remind us: if a new pathogen emerged today, we would be largely unprepared. Governments must act now — strengthening IHR implementation, updating national preparedness plans, and building the financing architecture that pandemic prevention demands as a global public good.

We call on Member States to recommit to finalizing the PABS Annex as soon as possible, including not foreclosing the possibility of holding a special session this year, and to keep the WHO Pandemic Agreement on track. The September UN High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response in New York must also be seized as a critical moment to close enduring gaps on coordination, financing, equity, and accountability.

The world cannot wait.

Read the full Independent Panel statement: <https://theindependentpanel.org/news/the-world-cannot-wait-to-prepare-for-new-pandemic-threats/>