



## **South Centre Statement to the WHA 75<sup>th</sup> Session**

### **General Statement**

The South Centre, the intergovernmental organization of 54 developing countries from Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia, is pleased to participate in this World Health Assembly.

The Covid-19 pandemic is not over. The WHA must prioritize redressing the continued gross inequity in access to Covid vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, the deterioration of national health systems and reduced domestic and donor investment that is reversing progress on the disease burden in developing countries including of drug resistant infections.

We welcome the report on Sustainable Financing with the objective of restoring the public character of the WHO.

To support effective implementation and compliance with the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005), the process of targeted amendments must include equity and must be inclusive of all WHA member States, as agreed by the EB.

In advancing a new roadmap for future pandemics prevention, preparedness and response, we hope that the WHA will provide direction to the work of the Intergovernmental Body (INB) in negotiating a new convention to ensure:

- Full and equal participation of developing countries in the negotiating process
- That the WHO, as the leading multilateral global health agency, is given greater authority and the tools to act effectively
- A multilateral governance mechanism to allow for equitable access to vaccines and other medical countermeasures
- Availability of the outcomes of research and development (R&D) as global public goods, with greater sharing of data, intellectual property, know-how, and increased transparency
- Sustained investment in R&D, strengthened local production and pooled procurement in all regions to increase supply and access
- Defining clear mechanisms to avoid conflict of interest in the involvement of the private sector in the activities of the WHO
- Increase solidarity and secure financing to strengthen country core capacities for preparedness and for managing response to health emergencies