



### **Statement to the INB13**

Given new threats to global health and to the role of the WHO, it is crucial for its Member States to reassert the value of multilateralism in advancing the global common good in public health. To prevent a repeat of the Covid-19 pandemic, new legal means for implementing international cooperation, equity and solidarity – fundamental principles of the multilateral system- are required.

The pandemic treaty negotiations that started in 2022 promised to be transformative, delivering the needed binding obligations in line with those principles.

While we recognise that significant time and effort has gone into the negotiations to date, our assessment is that the WHO membership is not rising to the challenge.

The progress to date is far from what is needed to make a real difference for pandemic prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

This negotiation process needs to deliver concrete legal measures so that medical countermeasures can be produced and distributed more fairly among all countries based on public health needs, with priority to healthcare workers and vulnerable populations. Solid commitments on means to support implementation by developing countries are required.

Various critical sections in the draft treaty have been continuously watered down to find consensus towards greening of the text and propositions have been made to defer them to uncertain future negotiations or decisions by the Conference of the Parties.

However, seeking consensus is particularly futile in cases where members proposing no or weak provisions on critical issues are unlikely to become a party to the agreement. A democratic vote to resolve divergencies is thus the way to proceed.

Any provisions on pandemic prevention should be part of the negotiations now. Minimum elements for a pathogen access and benefit sharing mechanism, including reserve production percentage for developing countries with transparency on production capacities, need to be incorporated.

Without legal commitments to enhance sharing of technology and know how, and surge financing, it will not be possible to ensure timely global production of and equitable access to effective vaccines during pandemics, as during Covid-19.

We urge all Member states to come back to the negotiation table with real political will and leadership to find solutions that will help protect the world from the real threat of a next pandemic.