



Statement to the Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) on the WHO Pandemic Agreement

3 November 2025

1. We understand the need to develop a text that all Parties can accept, but this should not come at the expense of pursuing the objective of the Pandemic Agreement and advancing equity. The test for the Annex at the end of the day is if it produces the intended effects. The first Bureau text would not do that, but it helps to kick start textual negotiations. We expected to see more of the proposed elements in the Member State written proposals submitted to the IGWG to be better reflected in the Bureau text.

2. A key notion for building consensus is the agreement that the PABS system must align with the existing international Access and Benefit Sharing legal rules for biological resources and sequence information. Access is subject to the grant of Prior Informed Consent and mutually agreed terms established in advance for how benefits arising from the utilization of these resources and information will be shared. This alignment is essential for the PABS as a multilateral system that aims to function as a special instrument under the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing. For this reason, standard contracts must be a central element of the PABS.

3. Parties can do more than merely encourage the participation of the manufacturers of vaccines, treatments and diagnostics (VTDs) in the PABS system. They can, for example, include in PABS a provision whereby Parties agree to procure VTDs only from manufacturers that join PABS by signing legally binding standard contracts with the WHO. Moreover, Parties can condition access through PABS to pre-defined benefit sharing, nonwithstanding the flexibility that the system may provide.

4. We must foresee how the PABS can be designed to avoid multilateral policy failure, leverage public funding and multilateral cooperation for a stronger, more collaborative research and development system that advances public health before profit.