



Statement by the South Centre on the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the WHO Pandemic Agreement

Geneva, 18 May 2026

The South Centre welcomes the one-year extension to finalise the PABS Annex to the Pandemic Agreement.

Developing countries showed remarkable unity and put forward concrete proposals. Had these been the basis of work, negotiations could have concluded sooner. The additional year must not repeat the same missed opportunities. PABS must deliver what the Agreement intended. The sharing of PABS Materials and Sequence Information, and on an equal footing the fair and equitable sharing of benefits, must be governed by comprehensive rules, fair for all providers and users. Standard PABS contracts must form the legal backbone, and all Parties must ensure the system functions effectively.

The South Centre calls on all Parties to use this year to deliver an Annex that meaningfully advances equity in pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response.