

## Multi-Stakeholder Hearings

Main Themes of Pandemic Preparedness Meeting (Consisted of an opening session and 2 panel discussions that included stakeholder comments):

- **Early warning and detection:** There is a need to strengthen global surveillance systems to better detect and respond to emerging infectious diseases. There will be another pandemic, it is just a matter of time, so being as prepared as possible should be the goal.
- **Research and development:** There is a need to invest in research and development to develop new tools and technologies for preventing, diagnosing, and treating infectious diseases. We do not necessarily know what the next pandemic will look like, but there is a high probability of another pandemic in the next 10 years.
- **Health systems strengthening:** There is a need to strengthen health systems around the world so that they are better able to respond to pandemics. This includes nations of all income statuses. Preparedness should not be limited to the countries that can afford access to vaccines and treatments.
- **Communication and coordination:** There is a need to improve communication and coordination between different stakeholders at the global, regional, and national levels. We saw with COVID the collapse of collaboration with COVAX and need to learn from the mistakes of the past to move forward.
- **Open science:** The science of treatments and vaccines can not be gatekept for the sake of profit. Allowing vaccine manufacturing instructions to be accessible globally could be critical in ensuring better outcomes for the next pandemic.
- **Inclusion:** As highlighted, it is critical LMICs are not left behind in pandemic preparedness. All people, regardless of their background or nationality, are entitled to good health and well-being, including during pandemics.

NGOs also added comments and statements at the end of the panels. The panels concluded with a call for action to implement the recommendations that were made by NGOs and other stakeholders. The United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly have committed to working with all stakeholders to implement these recommendations and build a more resilient world against future pandemics.

UHC Meeting:

The United Nations multi-stakeholder hearing on universal health coverage (UHC) was held on May 9, 2023, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. The hearing was convened by DESA and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Director-General of WHO also spoke virtually at the hearing. He said that UHC is a shared responsibility. He called on all stakeholders to work together to achieve UHC by 2030.

The following are the key takeaways from the hearing:

- UHC is essential for sustainable development. It is difficult, if not impossible, to achieve the other SDGs without committing to UHC for all.
- UHC is a moral imperative and a shared responsibility.
- Political commitment, financing, and innovation are essential for achieving UHC. HICs need to be prepared to assist LMICs
- The social determinants of health must be addressed. To look at the biological determinants of health only does a major disservice to understanding UHC.
- All stakeholders must work together to accelerate progress towards UHC, including across sectors.

The meeting concluded with a call for action to accelerate progress towards UHC from various speakers and stakeholders. The moderators called on all stakeholders to work together to ensure that everyone, everywhere, has access to quality, affordable health services.