



5. The Independent Panel's recommendations for transforming the international system for pandemic preparedness and response

The Panel believes that system-level change is needed to overcome the manifest failure of the international system to prevent, contain, and mitigate the impact of a pandemic. Pandemic preparedness and response have to function at national, regional and global levels, across different sectors of social and economic life, and include government, business and community.



The current pandemic needs to be stopped as quickly as possible. Then measures in the recovery phase must be taken to ensure that such a pandemic never happens again, by building forward better. The lost ground in progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals needs to be made up by redressing the interlocking impacts of the pandemic on health, livelihoods, and inequality.

The Panel's recommendations follow from the diagnosis we have made of what went wrong at each stage of the pandemic, in preparedness, surveillance and alert and early and sustained response and from our view of the leadership required to transform the system.

There is a need for:

- **Stronger leadership and better coordination** at national, regional and international level, including a more focused and independent WHO, a Pandemic Treaty, and a senior Global Health Threats Council.
- **investment in preparedness now, and not when the next crisis hits**, more accurate measurement of it, and accountability mechanisms to spur action;
- **an improved system for surveillance and alert at a speed that can combat viruses like SARS-CoV-2**, and authority given to WHO to publish information and to dispatch expert missions immediately;
- **a pre-negotiated platform able to produce vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics and supplies** and secure their rapid and equitable delivery as essential global common goods;
- **access to financial resources**, both for investments in preparedness and to be able to inject funds immediately at the onset of a potential pandemic.

The Panel calls on Member States to request the United Nations Secretary-General to convene a **special session of the United Nations General Assembly** to reach agreement on the reforms needed to ensure that the world can prevent the next outbreak of a new pathogen becoming another pandemic.