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# **UAE URGES NATIONS TO** REDEFINE PRIORITIES

WHO chief says countries must deliver Pandemic Agreement in order to contain future outbreaks

#### DUBAI

**BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN** Senior Reporter

espite heavy rains, world leaders and delegates gathered in Dubai yesterday to attend the 11th edition of the World Governments Summit (WGS) that opened with Mohammad Al Gergawi, UAE's Minister of Cabinet Affairs and Chairman of the WGS, calling upon the world to redefine its priorities and focus on the positives and what unites them.

"If we look throughout history, we are living in the best, safest and most prosperous human era," said Al Gergawi.

Highlighting that there were many pointers to this, he said: "Without being overly optimistic or delusional, we must dwell on making the right choices to shape our des-

Pointing out some key developmental indicators cover-

Without being overly optimistic or delusional, we must dwell on making the right choices to shape our destinies."

**Mohammad Al Gergawi** UAE Minister of Cabinet Affairs and WGS chairman

ing the economy, politics, media and society, he said it is up to governments to turn them into opportunities.

#### WHO's appeal against

next pandemic Speaking at a plenary session, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director general of the World Health Organisation (WHO), issued a stark warning about the looming threat of a next pandemic and asked countries to deliver the Pandemic Agreement to

contain future outbreaks efficiently.

Citing that the next pandemic is a matter of when not if, he reminded that countries have only 15 weeks to prioritise the completion and adoption of the agreement at the World Health Assembly in May. It was due to the devastating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic that the WHO's member states had met in Geneva in December 2021 and agreed to develop an international agreement on pandemic preparedness and response, a legally binding pact to work together to keep themselves and each other safe.

Meanwhile, Professor Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum, urged leaders to harness technology to create what he termed a 'humanocracy' and prepare for an 'intelligent age' merging our physical, biological, and digital dimensions.

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