

MIKTA Statement at the 76th World Health Assembly

22 May 2023

We as MIKTA Countries, namely Mexico, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Türkiye and Australia, stress the urgent need to increase momentum in the negotiation process for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) for a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (CA+) and targeted amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005.

Member States will need conviction and courage to overcome challenges to reaching consensus and meet the timeframe we have set ourselves to finalise negotiations by this time next year. As we transition to long-term management of COVID-19, we must continue to prioritize equity in access to healthcare services, pandemic-related health products (vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics), and take lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic to strengthen the global health architecture.

COVID-19 has exposed the vulnerabilities in our health systems and the urgent need for a coordinated, comprehensive, and equitable response to pandemics. The concurrent negotiations to develop a pandemic agreement and amend the IHR represent critical steps towards establishing a robust international framework that ensures equitable access to pandemic-related medical countermeasures health products, strengthens prevention and preparedness, and fosters international cooperation, including through the One Health approach.

We call upon all member states of the World Health Organization (WHO) to maintain momentum in the negotiation processes. This requires transparent and inclusive discussions, engaging all stakeholders, and facilitating constructive dialogue to address diverse perspectives and build consensus.

Equity must remain a guiding principle throughout the two processes. We must address the existing disparities in access to healthcare, resources, and technologies, which have disproportionately affected vulnerable populations and low-income countries.

Among other critical steps for prevention, preparedness and response, the INB should emphasize mechanisms for equitable and timely access to countermeasures, resource mobilization, and global solidarity, ensuring

that no one is left behind in our collective response to future health emergencies.

Additionally, we underscore the need to enhance global health governance and strengthen public health core capacities through amendments to the IHR. Amendments must be targeted and enable improved prevention, preparedness, response, and coordination among member states.

We also stress the importance of the synergy, complementarity and interoperability between the two instruments, and their alignment with existing international obligations. They must include effective governance and compliance-measures to support implementation.

As MIKTA, we remain committed to working with cross-regional partners to advance these critical processes. We urge all member states to increase the momentum, actively engage in the negotiations, and contribute to this once in a generation opportunity to shape and strengthen the global health architecture.

Together, let us seize this opportunity to transform our learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic into concrete actions, ensuring that the world is better prepared to face future health challenges by living up to our commitments to work together for coordinated prevention, preparedness and response.
