

INB 13

Statement by Third World Network made on 17 February 2024

Thank you, Chair.

We appreciate the Bureau for their new text and acknowledge positive changes, particularly in some parts of Articles 4 and 12. However, we see areas for improvement.

Preamble: The text does not adequately reflect the urgency and concerns that initiated the INB process. The barriers to equity faced during COVID-19 are not fully described. It must also call for practical and legally binding measures to address both the causes and consequences of pandemics that brought the world together to initiate INB.

Article 1: The One Health definition states what it recognizes but not what it will do. Integrated actions on human and environmental health involve social, economic, and environmental determinants, which must be addressed equitably. We reference CBD Decision 15/29 paragraph 2.a, urging quadripartite, OHHLEP, and other agencies to incorporate social determinants and equity concerns, particularly inequalities between developed and developing countries.

Article 4: While we welcome the efforts to improve prevention, we are concerned with the specific emphasis on surveillance as well as call for indiscriminate data/sample sharing to WHO and other agencies. The current wording risks extraction from developing to developed countries. WHO's role must be clearly defined, ensuring all exchanges align with IHR.

Finally, we are concerned about the reliance on a charity-based model for technological and financial resource sharing, in article 11 and 20. This would jeopardize both pandemic response and prevention, including vector control, routine immunization, and resisting AMR. Recent global political shifts further emphasize this need. Article 11 should not limit the scope of already available law in various national and international law instruments.

We urge INB to address these concerns before the PA's consideration in May 2025.