

INB 13

Statement by Third World Network made on 18 February 2024

Thank you, Chair.

At the outset, in Article 13 bis, we urge INB to ensure that risk management policies for novel vaccines do not lead to shifting liabilities to the public, while profits are privatized. Better risk management policies require faster and full sharing of regulatory dossiers between regulatory agencies.

We appreciate efforts to bring more substance to Article 4, providing clarity on pandemic prevention. However, we have key concerns.

First, there is an unnecessary overemphasis on surveillance in prevention. Surveillance is just one element alongside health promotion, environmental protection, immunization, and early healthcare access. A prevention plan should address all these aspects together, making specific mentions of surveillance in the title and chapeau of para 2 unnecessary. Surveillance is already covered in several 4.2 subparagraphs. Also, Madam Chair, Article 4.2 omits reference to intensive factory farming, a key contributor to pandemic risks.

Second, Article 4.2.b is inconsistent with IHR 2005. IHR mandates sharing of information only on PHEIC-potential events and only with WHO. The current wording could be read as requiring most of the zoonotic spillovers to be reported to multiple agencies, exceeding IHR obligations.

At the same time, unlike IHR 2005, PA lacks provisions on WHO's handling of shared information. This creates a situation, where information shared with WHO is more, while regulation on the WHO is less. It does not favour developing countries, many of them are megadiverse countries.

Further, routine immunization, AMR prevention, and vector control require reliable access to tools such as vaccines and antibiotics. The PA lacks sustainable access mechanisms for these products or that build self-reliance in developing countries. Developed countries are told to be opposing technology transfer and PABS benefit-sharing, making equitable access harder than during COVID-19 times.

We request INB to consider these concerns.