

**Born Free's written statement to INB-7
on the Proposal for Negotiating Text of the WHO Pandemic Agreement
(A/INB/7/3)**

Born Free urges Member States to:

- make **prevention at source** (also referred to as '**upstream**' or '**primary**' prevention) a key element of the instrument, as it is the most efficient and cost-effective way of responding to the risk of future pandemics, and of achieving equity.
- incorporate **explicit references to the primary drivers of pathogen emergence at the human-animal interface**, based on existing knowledge, to inform and guide States in their efforts to tackle hotspots, drivers, and sources of outbreaks, through the regulation or elimination of high-risk activities, including **wildlife trade and live animal markets**.
- embed the adoption of **well-resourced One Health strategies to operationalise prevention** in a practical and holistic way, allowing for a **multisectoral approach rooted in coordination** amongst relevant sectors.

To this end, we call for the following specific changes to strengthen the current text:

Article 1. on Use of terms should include a **definition of prevention** that explicitly states the entire scope and stages of prevention including spillover prevention, in line with the One Health High Level Expert Panel's (OHHLEP) guidance on prevention of spillover¹.

Article 4. on Pandemic prevention and public health surveillance currently refers to strengthening post-spillover 'containment' measures, rather than primary prevention. Surveillance, risk assessment and early warning systems will not be sufficient to prevent outbreaks and spillover events.

We recommend adding:

[NEW] (a) develop primary prevention strategies to prevent pathogen spillover and address drivers of outbreaks, including through the adoption of a highly precautionary approach to high-risk activities, such as wildlife trade, habitat destruction or intensive animal agriculture, and the elimination or reduction of such activities and the transition of people reliant on them to alternative activities;

~~(a)~~ (b) [NEW] (iii) detect and identify animals and activities involving animals that can pose a risk to public health and take measures to mitigate the risk associated with the use of such animals;

¹ WHO: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/prevention-of-zoonotic-spillover>

[NEW] (h) develop a national multisectoral coordinating mechanism to develop and implement effective holistic strategies.

Article 5. on One Health should list primary drivers of pathogen emergence at the human-animal interface and encourage States to develop alternative livelihood opportunities for communities that currently rely on unsafe and unsustainable practices.

3. [...]. **These drivers include but are not limited to commercial wildlife trade and husbandry, live animal markets, factory farming, habitat encroachment and biodiversity loss.**

4. (a) implementing science-based actions, including focusing on but not limited to: **identifying drivers and hotspots**, improving infection **and spillover** prevention and control measures; [...]

(b) fostering and implementing actions at national and community levels that encompass whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to **prevent and control** zoonotic outbreaks, including through the engagement of communities **to identify high-risk activities and a transition to alternative behaviours and livelihoods**, and in surveillance to prevent and identify zoonotic outbreaks;

5. The Parties commit to develop, within the framework of relevant institutions, international norms and guidelines **to prevent pathogen spillover at the source and zoonotic outbreaks in animal populations.**

Born Free would also like to draw your attention to our comprehensive joint comments and textual suggestions developed alongside the [Pandemic and Animal Welfare coalition \(PAW\)](#). We stand ready to offer our skills and expertise in wild animal health and welfare to the INB and Member States.

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