



Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) thanks the INB for allowing relevant stakeholders to join the INB7 plenary in person. With only a few short months until consensus text is due, we hope that civil society will be granted additional access to the INB and the negotiations.

We appreciate the time, effort, and consideration that has gone into developing the proposed negotiating text. The text takes a step in the right direction with its solid recognition of the One Health approach, as evidenced by its inclusion in Article 1 and as a standalone article (Article 5). However, while prevention is a core element of the WHO Pandemic Agreement's mandate, any mention of upstream or primary prevention is essentially absent from the proposed text. As the "directing and coordinating authority on international health work," the WHO and its Parties must ensure that this once-in-a-generation agreement includes provisions that will truly reduce the risk of pathogen spillovers, epidemics, pandemics, and the emergence and reemergence of diseases at the human-animal-environment interfaces from happening in the first place. The global community cannot afford to focus solely on reducing the impacts of events resulting from spillovers. Governments must also focus on preventing pandemics at their source.

WCS is the only international conservation organization with an embedded wildlife health program, working on the ground in approximately 60 countries across Asia, Africa, the Pacific, and the Americas. With more than 125 years of scientific and technical expertise and experience related to emerging infectious diseases, prevention at source, collaborative surveillance, and One Health implementation, WCS is ready to assist Member States, the INB Bureau, and/or the WHO Secretariat whenever needed. In the meantime, we offer the following high-level recommendations to strengthen the "prevention" pillar of the WHO Pandemic Agreement. A more comprehensive document may be found at www.wcs.org/preventionatsource.

Article 1. Use of terms

It is imperative that the term "prevention" be defined to give scope to this agreement. "Prevention" is a core element of the WHO Pandemic Agreement's mandate; however, upstream or primary prevention is essentially absent from the proposed text. If governments aim to prevent future pandemics, they must consider the full spectrum of prevention. WCS recommends including the definition of "prevention" used by the [Pandemic Fund](#), which is hosted by the World Bank with WHO as technical lead.

Additionally, we recommend that the terms: "[prevention of zoonotic spillover to humans](#)" and "[collaborative surveillance](#)" be added to this section.

Article 4. Pandemic prevention and public health surveillance

The focus of Article 4 is downstream or secondary prevention, whereas upstream or primary prevention is equally or arguably even more important as it reduces the likelihood of spillover events happening in the first place. Likewise, public health is a tool or sub-discipline of a One Health approach. Surveillance should not be limited to the human sector. It must also include the health of the environment, ecosystems, and animals. Thus, WCS recommends that the focus of Article 4 be expanded to include

both primary and secondary prevention and collaborative surveillance of all One Health sectors. It is also important to note that the International Health Regulations do not cover animal health or prevention of spillover.

WCS also recommends the following:

- “One Health” should be reinserted into **Article 3. General principles and approaches.**
- Veterinary health workers should be recognized in **Article 7. Health and care workers.**
- **Article 17. Whole-of-government and whole of society approaches at the national level** (paragraph 4) should include a bullet to “*support primary pandemic prevention by addressing the drivers of spillover.*”
- **Article 20. Financing** (paragraph 1e) should read “provide support and assistance to other Parties, at their request to facilitate prevention and containment of spillover at source.”

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