

## Input by the GLOBAL CITIES HUB on the negotiating text of the WHO pandemic agreement (A/INB/7/3)

The [Global Cities Hub](#) (GCH) seeks to better connect local and regional governments (LRGs) to Geneva-based multilateral processes. As such, it encourages States to better take into account the role and perspectives of LRGs in the draft pandemic agreement to ensure that it enhances equity between States and also within States, where LRGs are best placed to ensure that no one is left behind.

As the Covid-19 pandemic has shown, LRGs are well positioned to implement national policies and regulations; prevent and contain the spread of diseases; provide the right information to the population; assist and protect people in vulnerable situation; collect data; and promote socio-economic recovery. Consequently, the role of LRGs needs to be referred to in the pandemic agreement to ensure effective PPPR.

Hence, in close collaboration with the [Global Parliament of Mayors](#), the GCH has prepared a [Mayors' Declaration for better PPPR](#), signed by almost 80 mayors worldwide. Among others, the Declaration recalls that LRGs should be involved in designing and implementing adequate responses to future pandemics and that the pandemic agreement should be guided by a whole-of-government approach to ensure policy coherence and effective implementation among all sectors and levels of government.

While the GCH welcomes the references in the current text to the subnational level and to equity within States, the latter could be strengthened to ensure effective implementation at the local level. The GCH thus submits the following proposals (in red) for the consideration of negotiating States:

- The word “**local**” should be inserted in PP 4 and 8, in Art. 2.1, Art. 6.2 (h), Art. 8.4, Art. 16.2 (a).
- PP7: “ensuring political commitment, [...] across **all levels of government and** sectors” (in line with PP12).
- PP9: “the [...] engagement [...] of, **local authorities**, communities”.
- Add new PP: **Recognizing that urban settings are especially vulnerable to infectious diseases and epidemics, and that therefore, cities, local authorities and communities have an important role to play in preventing, preparing for and responding to health emergencies;**
- Add new § in Art. 3: **“Whole-of-government approach – The effective prevention of, preparedness for and response to pandemics requires a whole-of-government approach to ensure horizontal and vertical policy coherence across all sectors and levels of government;**
- The word “**multilevel**” should be added next to “multisectoral” in Art. 4.2, Art 4.4, Art. 8.1, Art. 8.2.
- Art. 5.4: “actions at national and **community local** levels [...], including through the engagement of **local authorities and** communities”.
- Art. 17.3: “promote the [...] engagement of **local authorities**, communities”.
- Art. 17.4 (e): “promote collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including **local authorities ...**”.
- Art. 20.1 (b) (i): “sustaining capacities **at all levels** for PPPR”.
- Art. 23.2: “These reports shall be drawn up [...] **following a whole of government approach, ...**”.

The GCH hopes that these suggestions may be included in the next iteration of the text and stands ready to provide any further clarifications.