

Written statement, RH Helen Clark, Chair of The Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response

"Greetings. I appreciate the efforts to prepare the negotiating text before you.

I have four points.

First – the objective must be more measurable. One can prepare poorly and respond poorly. The objective must be to prevent, prepare for, and respond to pandemics, in order to protect all people and minimise the health, economic and social impacts.

Second – The investment in pandemic preparedness and response is a common good, and should be reflected in the text as such.

Third – this is an historic opportunity to agree a treaty. It is an imperative to change the inadequate status quo. What you negotiate here must contribute to a transformed, coherent system that ensures an equitable, rapid, effective, clear, and collaborative approach to pandemic threats. Clearly stated, legally binding commitments which are measurable are needed.

Fourth - Remember: you are negotiating on behalf of 8 billion people. You must be certain that the agreement you negotiate will provide the protection needed for all people.

Thank you."