

Seven recommendations for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response

To achieve its aims, the INB should ensure the instrument it is negotiating can:



1

Finance biomedical research & development (R&D):

Sustainable financing for innovation, both pre-pandemic and crisis-related, is critical. Governments have a key role to play in subsidising, rewarding and/or derisking R&D investments. R&D funders (public and private) must coordinate and collaborate.



2

Create conditions for government-funded R&D:

A pandemic treaty should establish binding conditions on government-funded R&D, such as a requirement to share any resulting intellectual property, technology and know-how, and to disclose clinical trial data.



3

Mandate technology transfer:

Technology sharing should be a norm in pandemic preparedness and response. A pandemic treaty should require technology transfer for government funded research, and incentivise/ subsidise/ provide mandates it for privately funded research. Financing should also be provided for technology transfer.



4

Require intellectual property (IP) and knowledge sharing:

Voluntary IP sharing mechanisms are insufficient in pandemics; a treaty should require that a declaration of a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) trigger compulsory sharing of IP and knowledge.



5

Streamline regulatory standards and procedures:

A treaty should address regulatory barriers that can delay access to pandemic countermeasures, such as excessively restrictive approval pathways for novel technology or inconsistent application of emergency use provisions.



6

Greater transparency:

International coordination is stifled by a lack of information sharing at all levels of medical countermeasure, development, financing, procurement and use. A treaty should address the need for transparency on a range of issues.



7

Inclusive governance:

A treaty should provide financial support to allow low-resourced states to participate in negotiations, and ensure equitable global cooperation to meet the six prior recommendations at three levels: binding in cases of strong consensus, opt-in for harder-to-agree provisions, and normatively for more novel provisions.

This infographic was developed from a longer research paper, the full text of which is available here: <https://gh.bmj.com/content/7/7/e009709?rss=1>

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