



PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



## *Thematic Dialogue Series on PPPR: Equitable access to vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics*

**Date:** 10 June 2026

**Time:** 1:15-2:30 PM

**Venue:** CR-7

**Co-sponsors:** World Health Organization and United Nations Foundation, in partnership with the governments of Canada, Denmark, Qatar, and Sierra Leone (as co-chairs of the Group of Friends of Solidarity for Global Health Security)

### **SUMMARY**

In preparation for the 2026 High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (PPPR), the United Nations Foundation and World Health Organization, in partnership with the governments of Canada, Denmark, Qatar, and Sierra Leone are co-hosting a series of interactive discussions to foster common understanding and help Member States prepare for negotiations on a political declaration.

This fourth session focuses on the critical need for equitable access to vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.

### **BACKGROUND**

The COVID-19 pandemic underlined the need for countries to be proactive, stay ahead of the curve and react quickly in the face of a public health emergency, of which a core component is equitable access to medical countermeasures. In that regard, equity is the key component of PPPR, starting with the Pandemic Agreement and the 2023 PPPR Political Declaration. Ensuring equitable access to vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics can be achieved through global partnerships and localized manufacturing, particularly in development countries. It raises the issue of strengthening regulatory systems and fostering international cooperation, including treating health tools as a “global public health commons”.

#### *Ensuring access to medical countermeasures during emerging epidemics and pandemics*

In that vein, on request by Member States, WHO established the interim Medical Countermeasures Network (i-MCM-Net)<sup>17</sup> in 2023. This initiative is aimed at facilitating timely and equitable access to quality, safe, effective and affordable medical countermeasures in response to public health emergencies by building on existing networks and fostering global collaboration. The recent global surge in mpox cases and the declaration of a public health emergency of international concern, along with the limited availability of medical countermeasures for low- and middle-income countries during the first global outbreak of mpox, which began in 2022, necessitated a collaborative and transparent process to ensure timely and sufficient sourcing and distribution of medical countermeasures to control the outbreaks in Africa. Building on the i-MCM-Net foundation, an access and allocation mechanism for the mpox response was established with key partners to estimate demand and needs in countries, source and secure available supplies and allocate them strategically, so that medical countermeasures have the desired public health impact. Globally, nearly 6 million doses of the mpox vaccine have been pledged. Through three allocation rounds, the access and allocation mechanism has provided almost 1.9 million Modified Vaccinia Ankara – Bavarian Nordic strain (MVA-BN) vaccine doses to 12 countries. Advancing limited access to vaccines in affected countries using the mpox access and allocation mechanism is a significant step towards a coordinated and targeted use of vaccines as one of the control measures to address the mpox outbreaks. The long-established International Coordinating Group for Vaccine Provision is a highly responsive and effective coordination mechanism involving several agencies to rapidly respond to country requests for vaccines and

therapeutics and strategically allocate limited supply for outbreak response. WHO and partners should support the effective operation and continuing evolution of this mechanism to address urgent operational and emerging needs.

### *Scalable manufacturing/local production*

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an increasing emphasis on the importance of local production and related technology transfer in the context of promoting equitable access to medicines and other health technologies. Progress has been made in promoting local production and improving access; however, challenges remain, and new challenges have emerged. The World Local Production Forum, an initiative that provides Member States and United Nations agencies, representatives for the pharmaceutical industry, financial institutions and civil society with a regular platform for shaping strategies, galvanizing collective action and fostering partnerships on sustainable local production to improve timely and equitable access to quality assured health products. It serves as a platform for generating actionable recommendation outcomes that support local production, with a focus on improving access to quality, safe and effective health products and strengthening global, regional and national health security.

### *Technology transfer*

The mRNA vaccine technology transfer hub has developed an effective COVID-19 mRNA construct that is being transferred to 15 partners across the six WHO regions. This initiative, while initially focused on COVID-19, is also building long-term capacity for the development of other mRNA-based vaccines and therapeutics. Collaborative mRNA-based research consortiums have been established to develop further products, fostering regional self-sufficiency in pandemic response technologies.

Work continues on the Health Technology Access Programme, aimed at bridging the technology access gap for recipients in low- and middle-income countries by targeting platform technologies that are relevant to both pandemic response and other public health needs. Rapid diagnostic test technology was secured for sublicensing under the auspices of the Programme, with a shortlist of potential recipients under assessment, thereby strengthening outbreak detection and response capabilities.

The WHO Biomanufacturing Workforce Training Initiative, established in 2024, synchronizes training in quality biomanufacturing primarily for low- and middle-income countries. More than 7,000 participants globally have been trained by WHO and the Global Training Hub for Biomanufacturing. Regional training centres are being established to tailor training to regional contexts and needs. The initiative enhances the ability of low- and middle-income countries to produce biologics, including vaccines and therapeutics, ensuring that manufacturing expertise is in place before the next pandemic.

## **OBJECTIVES**

In preparation for the High-Level Meeting on PPPR, this thematic discussion will:

## **AGENDA**

### Welcome Remarks

- **Dr. Cecilia Mundaca Shah**, Vice President of Global Health Strategy, UN Foundation

### High-Level Remarks

- **Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations**

### Brief on next steps for the PABS Annex and Pandemic Agreement

## Background and Current Context

### Scene-Setting Remarks

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### Moderated Discussion

- Moderator: **Dr. Cecilia Mundaca Shah**, Vice President of Global Health Strategy, UN Foundation

### Lead Discussants

### Closing Remarks

- **Dr. Werner Obermeyer**, Director, World Health Organization Office at the United Nations

## **GUIDING QUESTIONS**

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**Thematic Dialogues in Preparation for the 2026 High Level Meeting on PPR**