



High-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response

“Fostering a multilateral and intergenerational approach to prevent, prepare for and respond to pandemics and public health emergencies, through the principles of equity and solidarity”

Friday, 25 September 2026
United Nations Headquarters

Concept Note

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 79/333, the President of the General Assembly will convene the high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPPR) on Friday, 25 September 2026, under the theme: “Fostering a multilateral and intergenerational approach to prevent, prepare for and respond to pandemics and public health emergencies, through the principles of equity and solidarity”.

The meeting will review the implementation of the “Political declaration of the General Assembly high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response” of 2023, taking into consideration and in full coordination with the outcomes of other related processes to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. The meeting will bring together Member States and Observers, non-government organizations, civil society organizations, relevant medical organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community and the private sector.

Background

The meeting takes place at a critical moment for global health emergency governance, when there is a need to sustain political attention, investment and international cooperation in PPPR. Since the first high-level meeting on PPPR, held in September 2023, progress has been made in strengthening legal, institutional and financing frameworks for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and continued efforts to strengthen capacities, surveillance, research and development, and equitable access to relevant health products.

Nevertheless, significant challenges persist, including inequities in access to health products, fragmented financing and governance mechanisms, and persistent weaknesses in surveillance, laboratory and health systems capacities. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the human, social and economic consequences of inadequate preparedness as nearly 780 million cases and more than 7.1 million deaths had been reported globally since December 2019.¹ The international community

¹ World Health Organization, “Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)”, 27 November 2025

must therefore preserve the gains achieved, address remaining gaps and invest proactively in resilient, equitable and sustainable systems.

Equitable access to tools, capacities, resources and response measures has remained central to effective PPPR. The international community has advanced the health emergencies governance framework through international instruments that aim to improve global coordination, solidarity, and equity, namely the adoption of the WHO Pandemic Agreement by the World Health Assembly in May 2025², and the entry into force, in September 2025, of amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005)³. These instruments provide an important basis for strengthened international coordination, solidarity, equity and accountability.

Sufficient, predictable and sustainable financing is indispensable. Continued efforts are needed to align domestic and international financing with country-led priorities and to reduce fragmentation and duplication.

General Assembly resolution 79/333 recognizes that “health is a precondition for, and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions – economic, social and environmental - of sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. Strengthened PPPR therefore requires coherent whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches. It also requires coherent, rapid and robust actions to strengthen health systems and health emergency capacities; investments in resilient health systems and a skilled health and care workforce; action to address the drivers of infectious disease emergence and re-emergence, including through a One Health approach; strengthened research, development and manufacturing capacities to enable equitable access to medical countermeasures; and enhanced domestic financing and investment, and international cooperation, for effective pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

On 9 June 2026, the President of the General Assembly convened an interactive multistakeholder hearing as part of the preparatory process for the second high-level meeting on PPPR. The hearing provided an opportunity for stakeholders to share perspectives, experiences and recommendations to strengthen PPPR through multilateralism, equity, and community engagement. Participants identified concrete actions towards achieving these aims at the second high-level meeting.

The second high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, will provide a timely opportunity for Member States and stakeholders to take stock of progress, identify persistent challenges and renew their commitment for strengthening pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

Format

The high-level meeting will be held in person from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will consist of an opening

² WHO Pandemic Agreement [WHA78.1](#)

³ [International Health Regulations \(2005\)](#), as amended in 2014, 2022 and 2024

segment, a plenary segment, two multistakeholder panels in parallel with the plenary segment and a closing segment.

Multi-stakeholder Panel 1: The world together: multilateral action for coordinated pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, including sharing of best practices and lessons learnt so far

Participants are invited to engage on the following guiding questions:

1. What lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic and other recent health emergencies have proven most valuable in strengthening PPPR at national, regional and global levels, and what best practices should be scaled up?
2. How can Member States strengthen multilateral cooperation and solidarity to improve coordination, trust, transparency and collective action during future health emergencies, while respecting national sovereignty?
3. What role can broad inclusive partnerships play to support multistakeholder coordinated engagement for strengthened PPPR at the national, regional and global levels, including through the implementation of relevant international agreements and global frameworks?
4. How can whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches be operationalized more effectively to strengthen preparedness capacities, improve community resilience, and address the drivers of infectious disease emergence and re-emergence, including through a One Health approach?

Multi-stakeholder Panel 2: Equitable access through sustainability and predictability: capacities and financing for strengthened pandemic prevention, preparedness and response

Participants are invited to address the following guiding questions:

1. What measures are needed to strengthen surveillance and laboratory systems, health and care workforce capacities, emergency preparedness mechanisms and community-based services engaging communities in a sustainable manner?
2. How can global, regional and national efforts strengthen research and development, manufacturing, regulatory and supply-chain capacities to ensure timely, equitable and affordable access to vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other health products during pandemic emergencies?
3. How can sustainable financing and investment for PPPR be strengthened at both domestic and international levels, and what role can financing mechanisms play?
4. How can donor countries, international financial institutions, development banks, global health initiatives and the private sector better support country-led preparedness and response priorities, while avoiding fragmentation and duplication?

Participation

The high-level meeting is open to Member States, Observers of the General Assembly, the United Nations system, representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with

ECOSOC and representatives of organizations with special accreditation. In accordance with the modalities of the meeting, all Member States, Observers and members of the United Nations specialized agencies are invited to participate in the high-level meeting, including the multistakeholder panels, at the highest level possible.

Member States are also encouraged to include in their delegations ministers from all relevant ministries, as appropriate, representatives such as parliamentarians, mayors and governors, representatives of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent, persons with disabilities, community organizations and faith-based organizations, academic institutions and the private sector with expertise in PPPR, philanthropic foundations and networks working in the field of PPPR, with due regard for gender balance and geographical representation.

Programme outline

The following is an outline of the programme of the high-level meeting. The full programme will be circulated separately.

Time	Session	Venue
10–10.30 a.m.	Opening Segment	Conference Room 1
10.30 a.m.–5.30 p.m.	Plenary Segment	Conference Room 1
11 a.m.–1 p.m.	Multi-stakeholder Panel 1	Conference Room 2
3–5 p.m.	Multi-stakeholder Panel 2	Conference Room 2
5.30–6 p.m.	Closing segment	Conference Room 1

Outcome of the high-level meeting

The high-level meeting shall approve a concise and action-oriented political declaration, agreed in advance by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations, to be submitted by the President of the General Assembly for adoption by the General Assembly.

Logistical information

A detailed logistics note for this high-level meeting will be circulated separately.