

The Pandemic Agreement: 15 Benefits for a Safer World

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The European Union has led the call for an ambitious international agreement to tackle pandemics comprehensively and effectively and make the world safer for us all.

The EU proposals **bring benefits across the board** that better equip the EU and the world to face future pandemics. These benefits will achieve more equitable pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, **empower low- and middle-income partners** and support their health sovereignty.

EIGHT BENEFITS THAT DELIVER MORE EQUITABLE RESULTS ON THE GROUND

There is **no silver bullet** to enhance equity in the development, production and distribution of medical countermeasures. Responding to partners' calls, the **eight ambitious, comprehensive benefits** below promote **equity** in the development, production and distribution of medical countermeasures.

1. Closer joint scientific **research** in prevention, preparedness and response to expand regional and national research and development capacities across a wide array of areas.
2. More **technology**, know-how and skills transfers, making full use of voluntary transfers.
3. Expanded regional and national countermeasure **manufacturing** capacities, with support for public and private investment.
4. Equitable **access** to more affordable countermeasures, with a price cap for low-income countries and tiered pricing for middle-income countries, and quantities set aside for these purposes.
5. More regional countermeasure **stockpiles**.
6. Effective regulatory cooperation for higher-quality, **safer**, more effective **countermeasures**.
7. More **transparent** market conditions for **countermeasures**.
8. Work with the WHO and other agencies for more effective and **comprehensive delivery of countermeasures**.



Significant Benefits

Partners have asked first and foremost for enhanced research, manufacturing capacities and technology transfer—and this is what EU proposals deliver. But they are not enough to promote equitable access to countermeasures, as **not all countries will develop and produce all countermeasures**. This is why the EU is proposing **far-reaching measures to deliver strong results on the ground**: prices will better match countries' resources, and partners will enjoy better access to countermeasures (which at times have not been available at any price). This shifts an important economic burden on advanced economies and requires significant efforts by industry, underlining how far-reaching the proposals are.

While no system is perfect, expanded production across the world, together with greater affordability and availability for those most in need, are a **potent combination to address the challenges partners face**, genuinely promoting equity.



FOUR BENEFITS TO DELIVER PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS

Although equity is important, the world will not be safe unless we collectively **strengthen prevention and preparedness** as well. Here, the EU proposals carry four important benefits and significantly **strengthen infection prevention and control across the board**, including the veterinary sector:

9. Better prevention against pathogens crossing the zoonotic bridge.
10. Improved capabilities to detect, survey, identify and characterise pathogens.
11. Better access to, sharing and storage of pathogen samples, along with better generation, storage and sharing of pathogen genomic sequence data and other relevant information.
12. Tighter biosafety and biosecurity.

To achieve this, the necessary support would be provided to low- and middle-income economies, creating a powerful barrier to pandemics that would help save countless lives and avoid much suffering, protecting societies' **economic well-being – and even their political stability**.

THREE IMPORTANT HORIZONTAL BENEFITS TO MOVE US FORWARD

Last but not least, three important benefits underpin the EU's proposals:

13. Greater emergency workforce capabilities.
14. Better information to tackle pandemics and measures to fight fake, inaccurate information.
15. Extended capacity-building in all areas.



PANDEMIC PREVENTION,
PREPAREDNESS
AND RESPONSE

There are two fundamental strengths to the EU's proposals. Firstly, they deliver **tangible, more equitable results on the ground**. Secondly, they define a **realistic space for global convergence**.

The kind of solidarity and common purpose that will genuinely promote equity must go hand in hand with an **inclusive approach** that takes into account the concerns and aims of all countries and stakeholders – because, without everyone's buy-in and active involvement, we will not overcome the challenges before us.

Coming forward with these ambitious proposals has been challenging. Yet the EU has done so in a constructive spirit because we believe that, together, they will help address decisively the equity gap that many partners have felt in different ways. We are engaging openly with them to hear their views and **ensure that we all adopt the same constructive spirit**.

Prevention and preparedness, too, are a **shared responsibility**. There is no trade-off between equity in response on the one hand, and prevention and preparedness on the other. They are **not a zero-sum game**, but two sides of the same coin.

The new pandemic agreement is not an EU project. On the contrary, we see it as a common good for all of us. For it to succeed, we must all embrace it in equal measure and share the same sense of responsibility in enforcing it – so that, together, we can make our world a safer place.



Pandemic agreement