



June 16, 2022

Dear Leaders,

RE: Call to Action to Advance Africa's Pandemic Preparedness through Support for a New Pandemic Preparedness Fund at the World Bank.

We, the undersigned, are writing to urge your governments to pledge their support for the proposed new Pandemic Preparedness Fund at the World Bank and to ensure that the Fund advances the aims of the [New Public Health Order for Africa](#).

The COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated the devastating impact that epidemics and pandemics can have on the health, security, and prosperity of Africans. It has accentuated the need for a New Public Health Order for Africa, not in the least because of the gross global inequities in access to medical tools including vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics, personal protective equipment, and other lifesaving medical countermeasures and supplies that have played out during this pandemic. It has also underscored the need for Africa to build more resilient health systems and collaborate across borders to be able to prevent, detect, and respond to emerging health threats while addressing ongoing health priorities.

Thus, we welcome the solidarity of African leaders to come together and ensure the continent is better prepared for future health threats through the New Public Health Order for Africa, championed by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). The New Public Health Order outlines the following key areas for investment to promote the continent's mid- to longer-term health security: strong national and regional public health institutions to guide and coordinate priorities, standard-setting, and disease surveillance; local production of vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics; investment in public health workforce and leadership programs; high-level partnerships including between donors and governments, public and private sectors, and public health institutions; and a greater role for regional organizations in pandemic governance. These priorities are also reflected in the recommendations included in the recent policy brief, [African Agenda for Pandemic Preparedness and Response](#).

All of these areas require increased, predictable, and sustainable investment from both domestic and external funding sources. The proposed Pandemic Preparedness Fund offers a mechanism to mobilize significant additional financing from diverse actors including governments, multilateral, philanthropic, and the private sector to address critical preparedness gaps at the national and regional levels. We urge your government to work with the World Bank, WHO, and other nations to ensure that the proposed Fund considers among other priorities investments in support of the National Public Health Order, such as:

- Building and enhancing systems and capacities for emergency preparedness including disease surveillance in all countries.
- Investment in a trained, equipped frontline health workforce and in infrastructure capable of timely, agile, and effective infection prevention and control in the event of outbreaks while maintaining delivery of essential health services.
- Incentivizing new, diverse, and sustainable resources for pandemic preparedness beyond international assistance and health budgets, and leveraging both public and private sources of finance. Such a fund should NOT contribute to further indebtedness of African countries.
- Cross-sectoral collaboration and promotion of an integrated, whole-of-government approach to pandemic preparedness, including health, security, environment/climate, One Health, finance sectors, and civil society to reflect the full reach and impact of pandemic threats.

- Link to measurable progress toward global preparedness indicators, support technical assistance to implement capacity-building, and monitor and evaluate effectiveness, leveraging leading tools such as the JEEs, the IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, and the Global Health Security Index.
- Strengthened national, regional, and global systems that can stop localized outbreaks from spreading, such as emergency operations centers, national public health institutes, communications networks, simulations, and pre-agreed response protocols.

In light of the above and considering the challenges of multilateralism in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we urge your government to work with others to advocate for increased decentralization of the global health architecture and equitable representation in key agencies. This would ensure that the needs of all regions are considered in the planning mechanisms. We urge your government to call for and support the inclusion of a high-level representation from the African Union Commission (AUC) or Africa CDC in addition to the Member States in the governing board of the New Pandemic Fund.

If well-resourced, the Fund has the potential to be a transformative new source of financing to advance Africa's health security and to prevent the next pandemic.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

East African Health Platform (EAHP)
 Eastern Africa National Network of AIDS and Health Services Organization (EANNASO)
 Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network - Réseau Pharmaceutique Œcuménique
 Future Africa Forum
 Nigeria Health Watch
 Pandemic Action Network
 PATH
 Resolve to Save Lives
 Speak Up Africa
 The Coalition for Health Research and Development (CHReaD)
 WACI Health
 Villagereach