



South Centre Statement to the WHO Executive Board 150th Session

24 January 2022

The South Centre, the intergovernmental organization of 54 developing countries from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, considers that key outcomes from the work of the 150th Executive Board should include:

- Reasserting the Member State nature of the WHO and the Executive Board, including in the process of WHO reform, to strengthen the leading role of WHO in the global health architecture
- Urging Member States to ensure the full participation of developing countries in the intergovernmental negotiating body (INB) that will be constituted to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, by adopting adequate working methods and timelines
- Providing direction to the work of INB so as to ensure the availability, as global public goods, of the outcomes of research and development and the deployment of measures to allow for equitable access to and distribution of vaccines, and other technologies and tools for health emergencies; and that the administration of the international instrument remains with the WHO.
- Calling on the Working Group on Pandemic Preparedness and Response (WGPR) to prioritize recommendations to immediately redress COVID-19 vaccine inequity and barriers, including support for a temporary waiver of intellectual property rights, to the expansion of global production and distribution of medical countermeasures, with increased solidarity by developed countries
- Extending the term of the Working Group on Sustainable Financing so that it can report its work to the 75th World Health Assembly.
- Extending the timeframe of the Global Strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property with the allocation of the necessary resources for its implementation and adequate reporting for accountability.
- Requesting the WHO Secretariat to hold regular consultations with all Member States in relation to the activities being advanced in response to requests in resolution WHA 74.7 on strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies, such as the BioHub.