



Global Health Summit (GHS) Rome Declaration, 21 May 2021

Discussion paper on principles to support global cooperation and joint action for the prevention of future global health crises

The Global Health Summit provides an opportunity for G20 and invited Leaders, international and regional organisation heads, and representatives of global health bodies, to share lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, and develop and endorse a 'Rome Declaration' of principles.

Principles can be a powerful guide for further multilateral cooperation and joint action to prevent future global health crises and also a commitment to jointly building a healthier, safer, fairer and more sustainable world.

The definition of principles should be informed by science and take into account the views of other stakeholders, including civil society, articulating with, providing a framework for, and supporting existing structures (including the International Health Regulations, IHR) and ongoing work in the same domain.

This work includes that done in the context of the G7, G20, by the WHO World Health Assembly and the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPPR), the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board, the work of the G20 High Level Independent Panel on Financing the Global Commons for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (HLIP), and others as appropriate. The definition of these principles will also take into account other initiatives and proposals, such as the Treaty on Pandemics.

Focusing principles on the need for medium to long term structural change, Summit will nevertheless recognise the critical importance of scaling-up efforts to ensure equitable global access to COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics (VTDs) through all ACT-A pillars, including support to health systems strengthening.

Starting point for the development of principles:

An effective system to reduce the severity and incidence of global health events and threats depends on our ability to prevent them, or to rapidly detect their emergence and control their spread. The following is a non-exhaustive list.

Prevention of emergence or rapid detection depends on:

- Addressing health issues holistically by fully integrating a One Health approach to better prevent, detect and respond to zoonotic and other health threats;
- Reducing, reversing, and mitigating emerging or re-emerging infectious disease threats arising from ecosystem depletion, biodiversity loss, habitat encroachment and destruction, including as a result of climate change;

Effective **response and control** of spread depends on:



- Support for effective, well-resourced, regional **surveillance** centres for animal and human populations, effective data and sample sharing, early access to outbreak locations, and differentiated early warning systems at global, regional, national and local levels.
- Cooperation in **research and development**
- An effective and agile **pharmaceutical sector**
- **Regulatory convergence**
- Resilient, well-resourced and well-staffed **health systems** and public health capacities
- **Communication and information:**
 - Trust, public dialogue, the provision of timely and accurate information, measures to counter misinformation, disinformation and stigmatisation, and the promotion of science and knowledge as key drivers in addressing health emergencies
 - Supporting and promoting vaccine confidence
- **Equitable access to effective COVID-19 tools:**
 - Increase local manufacturing capacity and knowledge transfer
 - Resilient, transparent and open global supply chains (distribution)
 - Strategic stockpiling (allocation)

Both are underpinned by **sufficient and sustainable financing** and effective **governance**.

The above may be enabled by principles relating to:

GLOBAL COOPERATION:

- Reinforced commitments to: global co-operation, data sharing, transparency, fair and equitable sharing of tools, and solidarity in response.
 - Including through: the implementation of International Health Regulations (IHR) and the outcomes of their ongoing review, as well as the acceleration of commitments to achieving Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, in view of their delay by COVID-19; and drawing on the example of ACT-A.

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE:

- Support “One Health” and “Health-in-all policies” approaches at all levels, and evidence informed policy design and implementation with State and non-State actors, the private sector and civil society.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MECHANISMS:

- Increase and ensure substantial investment and long-term sustainable financing, leveraging public, private, philanthropic, and international financial institution funds towards a better prevention and control of health threats.