

Advocates Guide for PPPR in 2023

If you're having trouble making sense of all of the initiatives around pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPPR) this year, don't worry—you're not alone! Here, you can find all of the relevant information in one place. We'll explain what the major initiatives are, lay out the key dates for involvement, and provide ways to get involved and make sure your voice and priorities are heard by decision makers.

Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) for the Pandemic Accord

The WHO convened the INB in December 2021 to draft and negotiate an agreement under the Constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO) to strengthen PPPR. This [Pandemic Accord](#) will represent a global agreement on coordination, equity principles, financing expectations, and a range of capacity issues, including: disease surveillance, healthcare workforce, lab facilities, and resources for non-pandemic related healthcare. Issues that are expected to generate the most debate include:

- Language on unhindered access that would speed access to drugs and other health care tools
- Commitments to share technology & know-how and issue temporary waivers on intellectual property rights
- Roles and responsibilities
- Accountability measures
- *Pathogen access and benefit sharing*, which refers to an agreement to ensure that the genetic information of a pathogen is shared on a system that can be broadly accessed by researchers around the world and that the benefits of that research are also shared equally

This process is complementary to the [process of reforming the International Health Regulations](#), which relies on amendments to existing text.

Unhindered Access refers to the degree to which countries and populations have the ability to access drugs & other pandemic tools.

Intellectual Property Waivers are sometimes implemented in emergency situations to rapidly increase the manufacturing.

Technology & Know-how Transfer refers to training or information on a specific process that other manufacturers would need, and cannot produce themselves, to reproduce drugs & other pandemic tools.

Pathogen Access & Benefit Sharing refers to a proposed system where countries share genomic information about novel pathogens and share tools developed to combat those pathogens, regardless of which country discovered the pathogen or developed effective tools.

PPPR Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response

WHO World Health Organization

UN United Nations

INB Intergovernmental Negotiating Body

MCM Medical countermeasures

HLM UN High-Level Meeting

Timeline and key dates: Leading up to these points in the timeline, advocates can influence country representatives to advance community priorities and equity principles.

- Public hearings & informal sessions occurred at multiple points in 2022.
- [The zero draft was released February 1, 2023.](#)
- [The fourth meeting of the INB was March 20-22, 2023.](#)
- The fifth meeting of the INB (which will start to address the equity pieces) will be April 3-5, 2023.
- The INB will deliver a progress report at the World Health Assembly May 21-30, 2023.
- The drafting group will meet June 12-16, 2023.
- The sixth meeting of the INB (to review the work of the drafting group) will be July 17-21, 2023.
- Regional Committees will meet from the end of August to the end of October.
- The drafting group will meet November 6-10, 2023.
- The seventh meeting of the INB will be December 4-6, 2023.
- The eighth meeting of the INB (two week sprint to finalize text) will be February 19-March 1, 2024.
- The ninth meeting of the INB (two week sprint to finalize text) will be March 18-29, 2024.
- The final Pandemic Accord will be presented at the World Health Assembly in May 2024.

How to get involved:

Get in touch with your government representatives to communicate your organization’s or community’s priorities, identify concerns in the working draft, and raise demand for accountability. UN Member States are the negotiators and deciders for this agreement.

Pandemic Fund

[The Pandemic Fund](#) was put into motion by G7 & G20 countries in 2022 and is currently based at the World Bank. The Fund is meant to provide resources for pandemic preparedness capacity-building, including but not limited to surveillance, health workforce, laboratories, supply chain, and risk management. The estimated need for global pandemic preparedness stands at \$10.5B annually; currently, \$1.5B has been committed to the Fund. Eligible recipients are countries who are already eligible to receive development assistance from the World Bank. Regional entities, such as Africa CDC, African Union, or the European Commission may also receive support from the Pandemic Fund through a partnership with any one of 13 development banks or global health institutions. See [this World Bank Factsheet on the Pandemic Fund](#) for more information.

Timeline and key dates: Leading up to these points in the timeline, advocates can influence country representatives to advance community priorities, equity principles, and ensure low- and middle-income country leadership.

- Expressions of interest for the first round of funding (\$300M) went out in February 2023. The [first call for proposals](#) is open now, until May 19, 2023.
- The Pandemic Fund governing board will be reset in May. Calls for interest for one of the two civil society seats (one Global North and one Global South) are [due April 6](#).

How to get involved:

Encourage your government to apply for one of the board seats during the reset of the governing board, or have your organization apply for one of the civil society seats. Connect with governments who have representatives on the board to call for more civil society engagement. Publicize what your organization or community thinks should be resourced by the Fund through sign-on letters, briefs, and social media and call on governments to plan for sustainable financing. Join the [Civil Society Constituency Group](#).

Medical Countermeasures Platform ([MCM Platform](#))

Earlier this year, the WHO, Member States, and members of a civil society representative group met to discuss the development of a platform for pandemic “medical countermeasures”, a term used to describe a category of goods that are essential to an emergency health response. This includes vaccines, drugs, tests/diagnostics, gloves, masks and other equipment and tools. The intent of the platform is to equitably develop, allocate, and distribute these goods before, during, and after a pandemic. Negotiations are underway to get agreements in place on the platform’s scope, governance, how it would operate, and its priorities. Finalizing these agreements when the world is not in crisis is a crucial step in PPPR, ensuring goods will rapidly go where they are needed when the next emergency arises.

Timeline and key dates: Leading up to these points in the timeline, advocates can influence the country and civil society representatives to the prototype working group, and later the high-level consultative body, to advance community priorities and equity principles.

- An initial meeting was held in February 2023.
- The prototype working group, which is developing a draft of the MCM platform, will be meeting weekly from March 14, 2023 through April 2023.
- A prototype platform will be developed by April 2023.
- A high-level consultative body will meet from May-September 2023.
- A working platform will be in place by September 2023.
- The platform will be revised six months later based on negotiations for the Pandemic Accord by the INB.

How to get involved:

Collaborate with regional organizations ([Waci Health](#), [EANNASO](#), [PAN Africa](#) and with [AVAC](#)) to develop civil society and community priorities for the platform. Call for extensive civil society engagement principles in the final platform. Reach out to Samantha Rick at AVAC (samantha@avac.org) if you’re interested in being part of the civil society support group for the prototype working group.

UN High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response

UN High-Level Meetings (HLMs) convene UN Member States to negotiate global commitments to crucial issues. In the past there have been HLMs on HIV, TB, and UHC. In 2023, there will be the first HLM on PPPR.

An HLM results in a UN Declaration. These Declarations elevate the issue to Heads of State, leverage commitments to increase effectiveness, and promote a whole-of-government approach, which refers to the involvement of finance, labor, education, environment, and other ministries or departments, in addition to health.

Timeline and key dates: Leading up to these points in the timeline, advocates can influence Member States to advance community priorities and equity principles.

- A multistakeholder meeting will be held May 8-9, 2023 at which civil society and communities can voice their priorities to Member States for all three HLMs this year. [Registration is open until April 7.](#)
- Member States will negotiate a zero draft and subsequent drafts following the hearing.
- The final draft of the Declaration will be presented at the HLM on September 20, 2023, and Member States will sign on (or not, as the case may be).

How to get involved:

There is currently no formal civil society engagement mechanism for the PPPR HLM. This is not the norm. Ask your government representatives to support establishment of a formal civil society engagement mechanism for the PPPR HLM, similar to that supported for the TB and UHC HLMs. Respond to calls from civil society to contribute input on community priorities. As drafts of the Declaration are released, analyze the text for your organization's or community's priorities. Work with civil society and Member States to amplify gaps or essential components.

Working in Solidarity

All of these initiatives are important and civil society organizations must come together now to amplify the voices of communities that have been, and will likely continue to be, most affected by pandemic threats. We hope this cheatsheet offers you concrete information about how to get involved and stay connected. For more information, contact Samantha Rick (samantha@avac.org) and let us know what advocacy you have underway for PPPR. And for timely updates on pandemic news, be sure to [sign up](#) for [Pandemic Watch](#).

About AVAC: Founded in 1995, AVAC is a non-profit organization that uses education, policy analysis, advocacy and a network of global collaborations to accelerate the ethical development and global delivery of HIV prevention options as part of a comprehensive response to the pandemic. Follow AVAC on Twitter [@HIVpxresearch](#) and find more at www.avac.org and www.prepwatch.org.