



STATEMENT

EB154 individual statement on health emergencies

25 JANUARY 2024, GENEVA – We are concerned that the draft proposals for the WHO Agreement would compromise the innovation ecosystem and fail to come up with practical solutions to addressing equity.

First, the current proposals are likely to delay access to the pathogens that scientists need to rapidly carry out research at the outbreak of a future pandemic. Second, the proposed WHO Agreement text would also lead to a weaker pipeline of vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments for diseases with pandemic potential. The weakening of intellectual property (IP), coupled with burdensome conditions, will deter investment in the research and development (R&D) of infectious diseases. Third, many proposals do not address equitable access effectively, failing to propose an adequately funded procurement mechanism for low-income countries. Finally, the commitments to remove trade restrictions should be strengthened as no interventions on equitable access will work if export restrictions are in place.

The pharmaceutical industry sets out practical solutions in the [Berlin Declaration](#) to address inequity in future pandemics. These plans include a commitment from pharmaceutical companies to reserve an allocation of real-time production of vaccines, treatments, and diagnostics for priority populations in lower-income countries. We urge governments to refocus on such practical solutions and ensure we do not see a repeat of the export restrictions that hampered the roll out of COVID-19 vaccines, driving the inequity of access that we saw.