

# From Science to Policy: How the Pandemic Instrument Can Prevent Pandemics and Enable Equity

## CUGH 2023 In-person Satellite Session

Thursday, 13 April 2023 | 8am-12pm | Room: Columbia 11, 12

Washington Hilton Hotel | 1919 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20009

In response to COVID-19, in December 2021, governments at the World Health Assembly (WHA) agreed to draft and negotiate an international instrument under the Constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO) to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. The WHO member states aim at finalizing the legal text for consideration at the 77th WHA in May 2024.

Approximately 75% of emerging infectious diseases<sup>1</sup> are zoonotic. As highlighted by the IPBES Workshop Report on Pandemics and Biodiversity<sup>2</sup>, the contact between humans, farmed animals and wildlife is driving the risk of (re)emerging diseases. This includes deforestation, the rising demand for meat and the globalized food trade, wildlife farming and trade, land use change, biodiversity loss and climate change. The international pandemic instrument can play a crucial role in building a more resilient global health architecture and protecting the world from future health crises IF it tackles the root causes of outbreaks. Primary prevention through a One Health approach that transcends anthropocentrism while ensuring a whole of society, whole of government approach

and that is aligned with the Quadripartite collaboration for One Health and others is critical in order to achieve equity, a key principle that is emphasized in the instrument. International frameworks can only be successful if they are inclusive and move beyond the instrumentalization of animals and nature.

The Satellite session's objective is to assess how the pandemic instrument can bridge gaps in global policy, identify essentials of the pandemic instrument, and expand on the science and evidence driven policy measures that would create an effective pathway to prevent pandemics. The findings will be collated and published as a conference paper.

The list of panelists includes:

- **Dr. Chadia Wannous**, World Organisation for Animal Health
- **Dr. Catherine Machalaba**, One Health High Level Expert Panel
- **Prof. Sam Halabi**, Georgetown University
- **Dr. Hope Ferdowsian**, Phoenix Zones Initiative
- **Dr. Chris Walzer**, Wildlife Conservation Society
- **John Scanlon AO**, End Wildlife Crime
- **Dr. Ann Linder**, Harvard Law School

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### Sources:

1. United Nations Environment Programme. Preventing the next pandemic - Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission. 2020. <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/preventing-future-zoonotic-disease-outbreaks-protecting-environment-animals-and>

2. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform On Biodiversity And Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Workshop Report on Biodiversity and Pandemics of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Zenodo; 2020. <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/ipbes-workshop-report-biodiversity-and-pandemics>.



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