



SHEM HIGHLIGHTS



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Pandemic (Dis) Agreement Talks Limp into Extra Time

Kerry Cullinan

The fractious pandemic agreement talks (...) have limped into extra time, with WHO member states resolving to hold an additional Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) meeting from 29 April to 10 May. The World Health Assembly (WHA) (...) is supposed to adopt the agreement, intended to be a global guide on how to prevent, prepare for, and respond to pandemics. But the best case scenario is for the WHA to adopt an “instrument of essentials”, a bare-bones text that will be fleshed out over the next 12 to 24 months in advance of the proposed Conference of Parties, according to people close to the talks. The INB Bureau would get a revised text to member states by no later than 18 April. However, this text would be different from the previous one as it would aim to draw out consensus points rather than provide a shopping list of issues. The INB drafting group will focus on “agreeing text”, and member states were also urged to “provide the Bureau with any convergence text resulting from informal consultations, as soon as possible”. Finding consensus points may be hard in the coming days as many countries appear to have lost patience with one another, and with the INB Bureau and WHO Secretariat members who have been steering the process. Countries across the political spectrum accused one another of refusing to make compromises, and criticised the Bureau for failing to provide direction. However, the geopolitical reality is that some of the 194 member states are at war, while others are long-term trade enemies. This was never going to be easy, despite the recent trauma of COVID-19. So much text has been added to the 31-page draft (...) to a completely unwieldy 100-page draft (...) with multiple opposing clauses contained in brackets. The now notorious Article 12, which deals with pathogen access and benefit-sharing, remains the biggest obstacle. Read the complete version [here](#).

DRAFT AND ANALYSIS

[Revised draft of the negotiating text of the WHO Pandemic Agreement](#)

[Time for Top Leaders to Join Pandemic Negotiations](#)

[The ‘Pandemic Agreement’: What it is, What it isn’t, and What it Could Mean for the U.S.](#)

[An Equitable INB Pandemic Agreement: Deal or No Deal?](#)

[Strengthening preparedness for the next pandemic: are we ready?](#)

ENDEAVOURS: GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK



The third edition of Global Public Health Week (GPHW) took place from **April 8 to April 12, 2024**, under the theme "**Fostering Peace as a Prerequisite for Equitable Health**".

The WFPHA brought together institutions, communities, and public health actors from around the world to recognize the contributions of public health and its workforce. This annual event engendered discussion on the best practices and missing gaps fundamental to disease prevention and the promotion of health and wellbeing. It was a hybrid event, combining face-to-face and digital gatherings worldwide. In addition to the week's theme, each day focused on a specific theme.



OPENING CEREMONY

Access to the event list [here](#).

POINT OF VIEW

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HealthQuest Newsletter

WEST AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Growing Green Hearts: Inspiring the Next Generation with Planetary Health Education

PLANETARY HEALTH ALLIANCE

HEALTH DIPLOMACY

BOLETIM CRIS/FIOCRUZ INTERNATIONAL

The April edition of Boletim Fiocruz International underscores a pivotal partnership for the localized production of CAR-T cells and lentiviral vectors in Brazil, poised to advance treatment options for a spectrum of diseases and bolster healthcare innovation across Latin America. This initiative exemplifies a strategic step towards more accessible and advanced healthcare solutions.

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SHEM's Highlights Curators: Andre Luis Sales, Diana Zeballos, Gustavo Buss