



# SHEM HIGHLIGHTS



## Can we prepare for a new pandemic?

The pandemic treaty was envisioned to establish consensus on legally binding shared principles before the next pandemic, that possess sufficient authority to encourage high-level government involvement. However, following the release of an ambitious draft, a decline in political commitment ensued, and the language of the treaty was toned down, with obligations being reduced to mere recommendations.

WHO was burdened with more responsibility, a decision that overlooked the challenges the organization faces when dealing with politically sensitive issues and uncooperative member states. The current version of the Pandemic Treaty received criticism for its lack of concrete numbers or funding goals for global and domestic healthcare spending in the context of pandemic prevention and preparedness. The state members discussed and voted using the 'silence procedure' methodology, which allowed limited time for member states to voice objections.

The discussion on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response will happen in the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in September. This presents a significant opportunity for political leaders to demonstrate the sustained commitment necessary to prevent and respond to future pandemics. The debate on the draft will happen on September 20th; you can watch it live on UN TV.

### WHAT'S AT STAKE WITH A GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR PANDEMIC RESPONSE?

*The "zero draft" of the international pandemic agreement: rhetoric, inaccuracies and gaps limit progress*

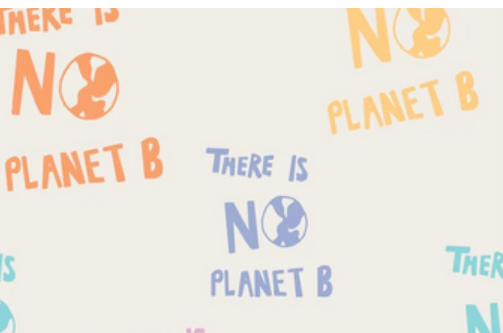
**Pandemic and IHR Reform Agreement**

*Assessing the State of Play in the WHO Pandemic Instrument Negotiations*  
**The South Centre**

*UN Draft Pandemic Declaration Offers 'Little Hope' for Strengthening Global Preparedness*  
**Health Policy Watch**



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## News from the field

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SHOW THE WAY TO OVERCOME THE CLIMATE CRISIS: "THE RIVER FLOWS FROM THE MOUNTAIN TO THE SEA; I AM THE RIVER; THE RIVER IS ME"**

In celebration of the International Day of Indigenous Peoples, the importance of traditional practices in protecting and preserving the Amazon rainforest as well as indigenous culture and lifestyles was emphasized for distinct civil society actors. The [Women in Global Health](#) highlighted the role of indigenous women in healthcare within their communities, stressing the work of midwives in preserving maternal and child health. In turn, the [Planetary Health Alliance](#) (PHA) underscored the importance of an approach based on respect for Indigenous peoples as an essential element in contributing to Planetary Health. The PHA also spotlighted the role of [indigenous youth](#) as agents of change and resistance. Civil society organizations of public interest have maintained their essential role in seeking solutions addressing critical issues such as wars, humanitarian crises, and social justice. During World Humanitarian Day, [CARE International](#) acknowledged the immense challenges faced in humanitarian assistance worldwide, including a growing funding gap, security risks, and the politicization of aid. Also noteworthy are the news about citizens resorting to the Judiciary, taking action against governments that have omitted or neglected actions for the prevention and mitigation of climate change. [Greenpeace](#) reported that the European Court of Human Rights will hear six young individuals suing 32 European countries for their lack of action on the climate crisis.

Read more [here](#)

## VIDEOS

[Equity in global health: civil society between rhetoric and practice](#)

## PODCAST

[Dialogues: a conversation with Daisy Hernández author of "The Kissing Bug: A true story of a family, an insect and a nation's neglect of a deadly disease"](#)

## ARTICLE

[Who is a global health expert?](#)

# ENDEAVOURS

The 78th session of the General Assembly (UNGA 78) takes place in September 2023. The theme is “Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress and sustainability for all”. This articulates with SHEM's goal to “promote sustainable health equity as an ethical principle that guides all national and international economic, social and environmental policies”. SHEM calls for a transformational change of global governance and economy to unite international actors and efforts towards sustainable equity between and within countries.

The webinar's objective is to reflect on the current status of the SDGs and how the principle of sustainable health equity can be harnessed to move the SDG agenda forward in a practical and actionable manner.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**WEBINAR**  
**HAVE THE SDGS LOST THEIR ASPIRATIONAL FORCE?**  
12 UTC THURSDAY • SEP 28

**SUSTAINABLE HEALTHEQUITY**

**WATCH THE EVENT AT SHEM WEBSITE**

## POINT OF VIEW

READ SHEM MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### BOOK

**Science-Policy-Data interface for responding to COVID-19 in Cameroon**

Dr Norbert TCHOUAFFE TCHIADJE

### DEBATE

**From Health in All Policies to Health for All Policies**

**Scott L Greer, Michelle Falkenbach, Luigi Siciliani, Martin McKee, Matthias Wismar & Josep Figueras**

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**[sustainablehealthequity.org](https://sustainablehealthequity.org)**

**[shequitymov](https://shequitymov)**

**[SustainableHealthEquity](https://SustainableHealthEquity)**

At SHEM we link citizens, public health and healthcare advocates, scientists, academics, and related institutions from all regions, cultures, and ideologies pursuing the universal right to health. We aim to promote sustainable health equity as an ethical principle that guides all national and international economic, social, and environmental policies.