



finally through the work undertaken by the WHO Secretariat on strengthening the global architecture for health emergency preparedness, response and resilience.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us that pandemic prevention, preparedness and response requires a multi-sectoral and whole-of-government approach, so therefore is important to address socio-economic, gender, human rights, educational impacts, which are all areas of traditional focus of the UNGA. It will be important also to look at how the HLM can be leveraged to support countries in building capacities and encourage investments in a multi-sectoral approach to PPPR, such as achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and advancing multilateral financing, and other areas of support.

The purpose of the hearing is to get views from all stakeholders on these dimensions of pandemic preparedness prevention and response:

- on urgent actions and investments needed in and by all sectors, in pandemic prevention, preparedness and response
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civil society organisations, academic institutions, philanthropic foundations, health professional associations and the private sector. There will be no preestablished list of speakers and participants will be invited to indicate their interest to intervene during the panels.

### **Panel 1: Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic: the case for Pandemic, Prevention, Preparedness and Response**

While WHO and others have consistently raised the alarm for investment in PPPR, it was during the COVID-19 pandemic that the international community fully realized its criticality, when even the most advanced health systems were not adequately prepared. As we are moving beyond the initial response phase of the pandemic, it is time to take stock of experiences and lessons learned so that we can prepare for the future.

**Multi-sectoral engagement:** While the core of PPPR is health systems strengthening, the COVID-19 pandemic showed us that preparedness and response goes beyond the health sector, and requires a multi-sectoral approach, at the global, regional, national and local levels.

**Leave No One Behind:** The COVID-19 pandemic brought to light inequities amongst countries, but also in countries. It laid bare risks that have been ignored for decades, from inadequate health systems, to gaps in social protection and structural inequities. It is especially critical to focus on the most vulnerable people and those disproportionately impacted in different operational contexts, including those in low-resource settings, conflict situations and displaced communities.

**Combatting mis/disinformation:** Misinformation and disinformation causes unacceptable harm. It can undermine public health responses, threaten social cohesion and fuel violence and conflict. False and misleading information costs lives and hinders global efforts to fight health threats. To date, we have seen a range of efforts at all levels to call out and respond to misinformation and disinformation. It is important to take stock of experiences and share best practices for the future.

### **Panel 2: Investing in Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response**

COVID-19 has highlighted the pressing need for action to build stronger capacities to respond to future pandemics. Investing now will save lives and resources for years to come. Investments need to be made in research and development, training of health workers,

**Developing national/local capacities:** The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for all countries to have strengthened prevention, preparedness and response capacities. This includes strengthening health systems, building capacity of the health work force, strengthening progress in research and development, sustainable provision for social protection and other essential services, as well as increasing multi-sectoral crisis management and response. It is important to address how investments in infrastructure, transport systems and education support the health sector in times of crises.

**Financing:** In order to , funding mechanisms have been established, such as the Financial Intermediary Fund for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response and the Pandemic Fund.

## **VI. Outcome**

The President of the General Assembly will prepare a summary of the hearing prior to the high-level meeting.