



The Global Business Community's Response to the Launch of Negotiations on A New International Health Instrument on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response

February 23, 2022

Dear World Health Organization Member States:

The global business community applauds the WHO and world leaders' current efforts to create an intergovernmental negotiating body (INB) to prevent, prepare, and respond to future pandemics. Global leaders must take deliberate steps now to end the current COVID-19 pandemic as a top priority, while capturing lessons learned to ensure that the world is ready to fight back against future pandemics. As we have witnessed with COVID-19, only a whole-of-society approach that includes the private sector and civil society will ensure our success. The current pandemic represents a paradigm shift in the way governments, business, and civil society forge deep bonds to respond to emergency situations and to develop sustainable health policies. This task is not something governments can achieve on their own. Therefore, we urge the WHO to make a fulsome commitment to engage the business community and to establish decision-making processes that allow the public and private sectors to coordinate at every stage of the negotiations.

The private sector remains the dominant force in pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR) when it comes to the innovation, manufacturing, delivery and administration of healthcare and public health products and services. The private sector has also increasingly partnered with governments and multilateral organizations on policies that support sustainable and equitable access to these products and services around the globe.

In particular, we seek to highlight how firms throughout the COVID-19 pandemic have mobilized enormous resources to quickly accelerate the research, development and manufacturing of protective equipment, advanced diagnostics, disinfection products, medical devices, digital health tools, targeted treatments, and vaccines. Businesses made peer-reviewed research and epidemiological data widely available and provided informational, educational, and other creative content for people and their families in times of heightened need. They also maintained and enhanced the communication technologies that enable billions of people to stay connected and productive in their professional and personal lives.

We are employers, innovators, manufacturers, supply chain experts, and drivers of economic opportunity and growth. We have proven to be an essential contributor in coping better with the pandemic and remain fully committed to providing our valuable and needed products, services, and employment opportunities to global citizens. It is imperative that the business community participates in the process to inform the INB to strengthen pandemic PPR.

We thank the WHO for the opportunity to provide these recommendations and to voice our support for a new instrument to fight current and future global health threats. To prevent, prepare, and respond to future pandemics appropriately, global leaders must maintain robust and sustained engagement with the business community. We look forward to continued dialogue on how private industry can assist global leaders with these endeavors.

Sincerely,

Global Business Coalition

Argentinean Industrial Union (UIA)

Australian Industry Group (Ai Group)

Business Unity South Africa (BUSA)

BusinessEurope (BE)

Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC)

Confederation of British Industry (CBI)

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

Confederation of Italian Industry (CONFINDUSTRIA)

Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI)

Federation of German Industries (BDI)

Federation of Korean Industries (FKI)

French Business Federation (MEDEF)

Keidanren

National Confederation of Industry of Brazil (CNI)

Spanish Confederation of Employers and Industries (CEOE)

Turkey Industry and Business Association (TUSIAD)

U.S. Chamber of Commerce (USCC)

ABOUT Global Business Coalition

Established in 2012, the Global Business Coalition, brings together leading independent business associations from the major world economies and advocates on behalf of more than 6.8 million small, medium and large companies.

Through well-established networks, each business association that is a member of the Coalition, represents the views of enterprises in its respective market and leads critical dialogues with governments to promote policies that foster sustainable and inclusive growth, job creation and competitiveness.

By providing a unique link between governments, relevant international institutions and business communities, the Global Business Coalition has become instrumental in representing the voice of enterprises within the G20 process and other major international fora.