

STOPAIDS.

Statement - Public hearings regarding a new international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response (12 April 2022)

Key elements of a new instrument include:

Firstly equitable access to pandemic response products and health services: To achieve this we need an international instrument that guarantees global equitable cooperation, support for research and development, public health-driven regulatory and licensing processes, increased local manufacturing capacity, logistical support, sharing of technology and know-how, a commitment to the affordability of pandemic health technologies and the strengthening of health systems. We also need an instrument that is committed to overcoming structural barriers that lead to discrimination and unequal access to health services.

Secondly, we need meaningful engagement of civil society and communities in the development, implementation and decision making structures of pandemic preparedness and response: To realise this we need to strengthen the role of community-led organisations. Community-led organisations engaged in the HIV response have come to function as an informal but integral global public health infrastructure. This infrastructure has also played a central role in the COVID-19 response. The instrument needs to facilitate investment into these networks and to also ensure communities, alongside civil society, have a formal role in governance and decision-making structures. Civil society and communities are key partners and the new instrument must allow for their full, equal, meaningful and effective participation at all governance and decision making platforms (at a global, regional and national level), including permanent representation, voting and support to ensure broad representation of diverse communities and civil society groups.

Lastly we need an instrument based on sustainable financing: Global Public Investment (GPI) is a new paradigm of international public finance that has great relevance and legitimacy as a mechanism for funding PPR. It is a long-term, sustainable approach to financing with all governments making incremental and ongoing payments, and all governments and civil society included in decision making, therefore ensuring all benefit from public health safeguards and increased predictability in the event of a pandemic.