

# World Federation of Public Health Associations

## Meeting:

150th EB Constituency Statements

## Agenda Item:

- Grouping 1.b:

## Statement:

2022 begins with a record number of COVID-19 cases, including in countries with high rates of vaccine coverage. This wave reminds us that the pandemic remains a health threat and that there is not yet an accurate prediction about its evolution.

To tackle the current and future pandemics, three areas of action should be taken: equitable vaccine access; consolidation of a global surveillance and response system; and mitigation of the climate crisis (from the perspective of One Health).

The Constituency calls on WHO and its member states to take action to:

- 1) Ensure equitable access to vaccines against COVID-19, which presupposes patent waiver, sharing of knowledge and transfer of technology, enabling the expansion of production based on equity and epidemiological criteria, at no cost to the end consumer.
- 2) Adopt a Pandemic Treaty that improves preparedness and response to health emergencies by strengthening national health systems, especially public health and primary care, to ensure everyone's right to health. This must include: to keep the COVID-19 definition up to date to ensure all cases are being addressed; and invest in education for multidisciplinary public health and for enhanced professional recognition, and decent work conditions for health workers.
- 3) Recognize that COVID-19 is best characterised as a syndemic, i.e, a synergy of several diseases with social and environmental macro-processes. The construction of a fairer political and economic system than the one that brought us here, requires promoting the right to development to all people

These proposals are based on the understanding that complex problems require multiple and transformative measures. So, it is paramount that the UN act on the current crisis. We urge the EB to recommend to the UNGA and UNSG to hold a High-Level Meeting on "Complex-determination and an integral and collaborative response to the COVID-19 syndemic", during UNGA 77

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