Health Action International statement to public hearings regarding a new international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response

12 April 2022

We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body.

As demonstrated by the rampant inequity in access to COVID-19-related health goods, from PPE to vaccines and therapeutics, it is critical for the international community to rein in IP-based monopolies, boost tech-transfer and ensure sharing of know-how to scale up production and fulfil global demand.

Any pandemic preparedness instrument must guarantee the involvement and participation of public interest-oriented civil society and ensure that governments are accountable for their actions and omissions vis-à-vis international commitments.

We need this instrument to build on and make use of already existing initiatives, such as the WHO’s COVID-19 Technologies Access Pool (C-TAP) and the mRNA tech transfer hub, and for it to explore new possibilities that go beyond current legal and regulatory regimes.

While we commend the European Union Member States for being early supporters of these efforts, and the political will shown by other wealthy countries in finding common ground for the promotion and protection of global health, we wish they would extend this goodwill and eagerness to other forums and issues equally relevant in the fight against a pandemic which, unfortunately, is not over yet.

Thank you.