Fourth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body
To Draft and Negotiate a WHO Convention, Agreement or Other International Instrument on
Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response

Agenda Item 3
Consideration and Negotiation of the Zero Draft of the WHO Convention, Agreement, or Other
International Instrument on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (WHO CA+)

Thank you chair,

Health Action International (HAI) is pleased to again address a session of the Intergovernmental
Negotiating Body and commends the efforts of Member States, secretariat and others, including public
interest-driven civil society, that have made it possible for us to discuss this zero draft. A welcome and
timely development as the stakes remain high and urgency unabated.

While we believe that the document constitutes a good first step to substantive negotiations and
provides an acceptable framework for discussion, it is lacking on specific clauses and explicit language to
fulfil the global need for equitable, universal and sustainable access to health technologies, an
indispensable step for an effective response to pandemics and health emergencies. We expect
governments to uphold their pledges for greater cooperation between parties and ambitious scale up of
technology transfer initiatives, driven only by health needs.

Like other stakeholders, we must share our concern about the parallel processes currently underway
regarding a response to pandemics and health emergencies, and the risk of overlapping and straining
the ability of all parties to adequately follow and contribute. Also, we call on governments and other
actors to acknowledge mistakes made in the institutional response to the COVID-19 pandemic in terms
of inclusion, transparency and legitimacy which hindered the ability of the international community to
deliver assistance when and where needed.

Lastly, we would like to strongly reaffirm the legitimacy of public interest civil society to participate in
this and other international processes, not only as providers of expertise and knowledge but as
recipients of a mandate to transmit the voice and grievances of communities, individuals and parties too
often overlooked, persecuted or taken for granted by far too many governments and organisations.

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