



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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WHO adopts Pandemic Agreement to strengthen global preparedness

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Context

- In a move to bolster global collaboration and ensure a **stronger and more equitable response to future pandemics**, the World Health Organization (WHO) member states on Tuesday unanimously adopted the **world's first Pandemic Agreement**, marking the culmination of over three years of negotiations initiated in response to the COVID-19 crisis.
- The landmark decision by the 78th **World Health Assembly** is the culmination of more than three years of intensive negotiations launched by governments in response to the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and driven by the goal of making the world safer from — and more equitable in response to — future pandemics, the release said.
- The COVID-19 pandemic exposed inequities in vaccine distribution, with developed countries stockpiling vaccines while developing countries, especially in Africa, faced shortages.

Pandemic Agreement

- The agreement sets out the **principles, approaches and tools for better international coordination** across a range of areas, in order to strengthen the global health architecture for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response. This includes through the equitable and timely access to vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.
- **Protection of Health-care Workers:** Countries committed to better protection measures.
- **Pathogen and Benefit Sharing System:** Developing countries will receive access to diagnostics, vaccines, or treatments developed from their shared pathogen samples.
- **Pharmaceutical Commitments:** **Pharma companies have agreed to donate 10% of production to WHO and sell up to another 10% at affordable prices.**
- **Technology transfer agreements will occur on "mutually agreed terms" instead of being "voluntary".**
- The treaty emphasizes **"equitable access to health products"** and encourages technology exchange.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- Established in: 1948, as a **specialized agency of the United Nations** focusing on international public health.
- Headquarters: Based in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

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- **World Health Assembly (WHA): Highest decision-making body; meets annually.**

- Core Objectives:

1. Promote universal health coverage.
2. Combat disease outbreaks, ensure health security, and advance public well-being.
3. Support countries in policy development, emergency preparedness, and health system strengthening

- Funding Mechanism:

1. Assessed contributions: **Mandatory membership dues.**
2. **Voluntary contributions:** Additional funding from countries, UN bodies, private sector, and philanthropies