



Global Health Council, supported by our diverse network, submitted the following statement to the World Health Organization for WHA73 on Monday, May 18th, 2020.

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We applaud the WHO on its COVID-19 response to date, including its coordination of epidemiological data, guidance, critical supplies, and innovation. WHO's support for Member States and the value of international cooperation cannot be understated. The pandemic's ripple effects threaten global health and wellbeing far more broadly than the virus itself. This crisis highlights the need for continued investments in global health, advancements in global health security, research and development, strengthening health systems, including community-based primary health care, and support for health workers to ensure individuals have access to the health care and products they need.

To overcome COVID-19 we must support immediate pandemic response efforts while we strengthen health systems and buttress global health achievements to date. The decision reached here must:

- do no harm;
- put the wellbeing of citizens first;
- protect human rights and vulnerable populations;
- provide equitable access to new COVID-19 drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and other health products;
- invest in all levels of the health system, particularly at the community level;
- ensure access to evidence-based, quality health interventions;
- be guided by peer-reviewed research and devoid of political influence;
- be transparent, accountable, and participatory;
- support solidarity, coordination, and resource sharing;
- catalyze greater compliance with international health regulations;
- ensure universal health coverage by 2030 for a more equitable world, safe from pandemic threats.

As health systems assess their preparedness plans, this pandemic gives us the opportunity to put safety measures in place to protect vulnerable populations now, and in turn, prepare for future outbreaks.



We are grateful that, today, Member States are convening to address these challenges. Furthermore, we believe that engaging a diverse set of stakeholders across nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and corporate entities, is essential to ensuring we meet the needs of those most at risk for the burden of disease. The global health community stands ready to serve as a resource to WHO and Member States.