



Global Health Council, in collaboration with DAI, Global Health Technologies Coalition, NTI, and Save the Children, is grateful for the opportunity to submit the following statement.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that the world needs a strong WHO. We applaud reform discussions underway to improve WHO's capacity to address the world's most pressing health challenges. The current crisis has also underscored WHO's role in providing technical guidance and support to Member States as they prepare for and respond to emerging and re-emerging infectious disease threats. As Member States and the Secretariat continue reform discussions, we urge Member States to consider recommendations put forth by the Independent Panel, IAOC, and IHR Review Committee.

Reform proposals must include solutions for WHO's long-term financial sustainability. Reducing WHO's reliance on voluntary contributions is critical to creating a more effective organization with predictable funding streams, particularly at the country level.

We urge Member States to prioritize interactions with civil society by mandating that WHO establish a Civil Society Commission, endorsed by the Executive Board. This proposal aligns with the Director-General's commitment to more meaningfully engage diverse civil society organizations. Including the most historically marginalized and underrepresented voices is critical for a strong WHO.

We urge Member States to prioritize interactions with non-state actors (NSAs), especially civil society, by attending and actively participating in informal sessions, and sharing draft documents and resolutions in a timely manner so that NSAs can meaningfully inform outcomes.

The recent Informal Meeting with NSAs provided an opportunity for substantive discussion with the Secretariat, particularly on the topic of constituency statements. While we support the concept of constituency statements, more support from the Secretariat is needed to facilitate diverse NSAs to connect with each other and find areas of alignment. Additionally, the timeframe for creating a broad constituency was too short. NSAs are critical actors in policy deliberations and WHO governing bodies and must continue to be part of ongoing conversations.

We stand ready to work with the Director-General, the Secretariat, and Member States to help improve non-state actor and civil society engagement and determine the best next steps. We are committed to ensuring WHO is well-positioned to confront future health threats. We look forward to offering key insights and support from the civil society community in alignment with this common goal.