

Statement to the 150th session of the Executive Board of the
World Health Organization, 24 to 29 January, 2022
on agenda items

15.1 Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies Documents
15.2 Standing Committee on Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness and Response

This statement is supported by the People's Health Movement.

The pandemic has illustrated the failure of the neoliberal UHC model of healthcare.

Equity should be the priority when addressing health emergencies. This includes addressing inequities associated with research, innovation, and production of medical products needed in an emergency, including capacity building, technology transfer, full deployment of TRIPS flexibilities and waiving of TRIPS.

Any sharing of biological materials and sequence information should be rooted in a transparent framework that contains concrete, fair and equitable benefit sharing consistent with the sovereignty of MS and their rights under the CBD and Nagoya Protocol. It is essential that WHO members negotiate such a framework. BioHub facility fails this test as it is a Secretariat driven process lacking credibility.

We are extremely concerned that WHO is pursuing initiatives like BioHub and Surveillance that include private sector participation without any proper mandate from or accountability to WHO's governing bodies.