

Statement to the 150th session of the Executive Board of the

World Health Organization, 24 to 29 January, 2022

on agenda items

15.4 Influenza preparedness

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

Staggering inequity in accessing pharmaceutical products developed using shared resources remains a concern. A negotiated ABS framework that covers seasonal and other human pathogens of pandemic potential, including sequence information, is urgently needed, especially as seasonal flu viruses are not covered in the PIP Framework.

Public health systems strengthening remains crucial for pandemic preparedness.

Equitable access to influenza vaccination requires expanding public sector innovation and vaccine production capacity in the Global South. MS must invest in this at national and regional level.

The suggestion to expand GISRS to other respiratory viruses is concerning. It seems to duplicate the BioHub initiative. It also raises questions about the efficacy of the oversight framework governing fair and equitable benefit sharing arising from the use of the biological material and sequences. An agreement on these issues is required before considering GISRS' expansion.