

Recommendations to G20 Health and Finance Ministers

PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS - THE URGENT TRANSITION FROM EMERGENCY RELIEF TO LONG-TERM SUSTAINABLE SOURCING



We welcome and thank the G20 Presidency of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for showcasing an excellent leadership role in responding to the current COVID-19 crisis and by taking active measures with G20 Heads of State following the G20 virtual Leader’s declaration and the recent virtual meeting of Central Bank Governors and G20 Finance Ministers on 18th July.

COVID-19 will impact public health and national economies for years to come. As the current global economic burden of over \$375 billion exceeds the costs posed to the global economy during the financial crisis in 2008/2009, the political choices made by G20 Health and Finance Ministers in the coming weeks, in response to the COVID-19 are of historic proportions.

The G20HDP welcomes the decision of G20 Health and Finance Ministers to recognize the important link between investment in public health and economic resilience and to hold additional meetings as required before the G20 Leaders’ summit to analyse and approve a new regime for pandemic preparedness and global health security.

We respectfully request the G20 Heads of State and Government, Health and Finance Ministers to consider the following 6 recommendations in building a new resilient global health system that will significantly increase the world’s ability to react to future health threats that no longer treats resourcing as emergency relief.

We strongly recommend G20 Health and Finance Ministers to:

1. **Support the ACT-Accelerator** to ensure the rapid scaling up of COVID-19 vaccine, treatment and diagnostic research and product development to ensure that these health products are made available, accessible and affordable, as quickly as possible for all those in need especially in low- and middle-income countries where health systems are weakest. We further urge G20 Health and Finance Ministers to:
 - Continue the support to the ACT-Accelerator, including from domestic fiscal stimulus spending to meet the urgent investment requirements to succeed in defeating COVID-19. **An estimated additional \$35 billion is required, of which \$15 billion is needed by the end of 2020 to save lives, reopen societies and economies worldwide.**
 - Support the **equitable allocation of COVID-19 tools globally**, including diagnostics, medicines, vaccines and personal protective equipment globally.
 - Support the necessity of building on the ACT-A response to COVID-19 to enable more sustainable global pandemic preparedness and health security.

2. Recognise other global health threats such as **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** and influenza, existing alongside COVID-19, that can exacerbate or replicate the terrible health and economic effects of the pandemic. This includes addressing multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB) and increasing antimalarial and antiretroviral resistance as a part of the AMR response. We further call on G20 Health and Finance Ministers to:

- Develop and implement strategies for AMR in collaboration with other stakeholders including **National Actions Plans on AMR**. Exchange best practices among G20 governments, and identify collaborative opportunities to create public private partnerships and blended financing models.
 - To ensure **sustainable and long-term investments into AMR R&D**, publish national roadmaps to implement incentives and market reforms for antibiotics over the next five years and report progress annually at G20 summits.
 - Invest now to prevent this avoidable looming pandemic. **Permanent pull incentives** should be adopted, either individually or in regional groups. Each G20 country should undertake their “fair share” - proportional to other G20 economies - with the technical support of the G20 AMR R&D Hub to enhance coordination.
3. Act upon the recommendations of the **Global Preparedness Monitoring Board’s (GPMB)** and urge the IMF to become an advisor of the GPMB to contribute to its essential oversight role particularly given the rising threat of AMR which has significant economic consequences for national economies. AMR should be a priority for the GPMB to examine and report on in their annual report.
 4. Acknowledge and use the results from the **Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPR)** for the Gap Assessment of the G20 Action Plan Progress Report by the G20.
 5. Recognise the need to make sustained and continued investments in the fight against major infectious epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and viral hepatitis as well as safeguarding the continuity of existing immunization programmes during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes viewing **expenditure on health as critical sustainable public investment rather than as current account spending**, and urging collaboration with Central Bank Governors, the IMF and the private sector **to leverage blended and innovative financing models** - given the significant resources to be invested in new innovative and blended finance initiatives. We further call on G20 Health and Finance Ministers to:
 - Request the WHO, the IMF and WBG, to coordinate with the Financial Stability Board (FSB), to leverage the existing set of agreed metrics that incorporate health as an economic factor in the IMF Article IV consultation process and promote health as a major factor in the performance of national and regional economies in the years to come.
 - Learn from lessons of the Financial Stability Board Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) and implement metrics that define an overarching set of recommendations for voluntary reporting, reflecting what the financial markets actually need to evaluate the financial impacts of health risks and to take action.
 6. Support the development and integration of digital health tools and approaches and investment into health information systems into all aspects of the new pandemic preparedness framework in order to create **data harmonization nationally and globally**. This will facilitate an enabling environment for additional investments by multisectoral partners into needed systems strengthening such as pandemic response **Emergency Operation Centers**.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The G20 Heads of State acted decisively during the banking crisis of 2008/2009. Significant public funds were deployed to stave off a systemic banking collapse. The COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020 represents a significantly greater threat to the global economy, but more importantly, to humanity itself. Therefore, the actions and the leadership required today are of a greater scale. **The G20 Health and Development Partnership offers its total support and cooperation to the G20 Health and Finance Ministers in this historic challenge, and we urge ministers to keep the joint Health and Finance Ministers meeting as an annual meeting on G20 agendas and pay serious considerations to the proposals in this paper.**