



Global leaders unite in urgent call for international pandemic treaty

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- **25 heads of government and international agencies come together in extraordinary joint call**
- **New treaty would signal high-level political action needed to protect the world from future health crises**

The international community should work together “towards a new international treaty for pandemic preparedness and response” to build a more robust global health architecture that will protect future generations, world leaders said in [a commentary](#) published today in several newspapers around the world.

“There will be other pandemics and other major health emergencies. No single government or multilateral agency can address this threat alone,” the leaders say in their article. “The question is not if, but when. Together, we must be better prepared to predict, prevent, detect, assess and effectively respond to pandemics in a highly coordinated fashion. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a stark and painful reminder that nobody is safe until everyone is safe.”

The main goal of a new international treaty for pandemic preparedness and response would be to foster a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to strengthen national, regional and global capacities and resilience to future pandemics. This is an opportunity for the world to come together as a global community for peaceful cooperation that extends beyond this crisis.

According to the article, the treaty “would be rooted in the constitution of the World Health Organization, drawing in other relevant organizations key to this endeavour, in support of the principle of health for all. Existing global health instruments, especially the International Health Regulations, would underpin such a treaty, ensuring a firm and tested foundation on which we can build and improve.”

The commentary has been signed by J. V. **Bainimarama**, Prime Minister of Fiji; Prayut **Chan-o-cha**, Prime Minister of Thailand; António Luís Santos da **Costa**, Prime Minister of Portugal; Mario **Draghi**, Prime Minister of Italy; Klaus **Iohannis**, President of Romania; Boris **Johnson**, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; Paul **Kagame**, President of Rwanda; Uhuru **Kenyatta**, President of Kenya; Emmanuel **Macron**, President of France; Angela **Merkel**, Chancellor of Germany; Charles **Michel**, President of the European Council; Kyriakos **Mitsotakis**, Prime Minister of Greece; **Moon** Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea; Sebastián **Piñera**, President of Chile; Andrej **Plenković**, Prime Minister of Croatia; Carlos Alvarado **Quesada**, President of Costa Rica; Edi **Rama**, Prime Minister of Albania; Cyril **Ramaphosa**, President of South Africa; Keith **Rowley**, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago; Mark **Rutte**, Prime Minister of the Netherlands; Kais **Saied**, President of Tunisia; Macky **Sall**, President of Senegal; Pedro **Sánchez**, Prime Minister of Spain; Erna **Solberg**, Prime Minister of Norway; Aleksandar **Vučić**, President of Serbia; Joko **Widodo**, President of Indonesia; Volodymyr **Zelensky**, President of Ukraine
Dr **Tedros** Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization.

Note to media:

Journalists are invited to attend a virtual conference this morning, Tuesday 30 March, at 10:00 CET (Geneva time), focused on the international pandemic treaty proposal, being held jointly with the President of the European Council, Mr Charles Michel, and WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Join the WHO press conference:

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