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**Statement by the Permanent Representative  
at the Eighth meeting of Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to  
draft and negotiate a pandemic treaty (INB8) on behalf of the  
Group for Equity  
1 March 2024**

**Thank you, Madam Co-Chair,**

Pakistan delivers this statement on behalf of the Group for Equity.

The Group would like to appreciate the dedicated efforts of the Bureau and the Co-Facilitators in steering our discussions forward during these complicated discussions. Your commitment to advancing our collective goal has been instrumental in navigating the complexities of our mandate.

The dedication shown by all parties have brought us closer to our common goal of delivering a pandemic agreement by May 2024. As we move forward, we urge all parties to demonstrate even greater flexibility to ensure the successful realization of this vital objective.

Our collective endeavor to craft an Equity-based Pandemic Instrument emerged from a profound necessity to address and rectify the disparities and inequities laid bare by COVID-19 pandemic.

It is imperative that we reflect a genuine and concerted effort to rectify the facets of the system that have failed us in the past. We must convert all the lessons learned during this pandemic and prepare the world for the future because this is a common global interest.

As the severe global social and economic consequences of COVID-19 demonstrate, protecting the interests of some over others during health emergencies is not only contrary to health equity and international solidarity but it is also self-defeating.

In light of this, we advocate for the development of a legally binding text by the Bureau, using the Negotiation Text where necessary, that encapsulates the following critical dimensions:

**First**, it is essential that the obligations imposed on the Parties, particularly pertaining to surveillance and prevention, are proportionate to their respective capabilities and context, in line with the principle of CBDR-RC. Such obligations should be underpinned by robust provisions for capacity building and cooperation, ensuring that all parties are equipped and enabled to fulfill their commitments effectively, while preserving their right to address self-determined priorities in health sector.

**Second**, The Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing (PABS) System must guarantee equitable benefit-sharing on an equal footing, prohibiting anonymity to ensure transparency and accountability. This will facilitate a fair and just distribution of resources and benefits, which is fundamental to the ethos of our collective endeavor.

**Third**, for the provisions pertaining to technology transfer, we need to differentiate between mutually agreed terms between companies on technology transfer and setting a normative standard by establishing a treaty obligation for State Parties to request and demand anticipated technology transfer and licensing. This will ensure that critical technologies and innovations are accessible where they are most needed and will promote sustainable production.

**Fourth**, establishing a predictable and sustainable financial mechanism is paramount for the implementation of the Instrument and for Pandemic PPR efforts. It should be inclusive and avoid partial solutions outside the UN system. Such a mechanism will ensure that resources are available in a timely and efficient manner, facilitating swift and effective responses to current and future health emergencies.

**Fifth**, the Governance Framework of the Instrument should be designed to maximize participation and ensure accountability to the Parties. This will enhance the legitimacy and efficacy of the Instrument, fostering a sense of ownership and shared responsibility among all stakeholders.

And **lastly**, the Instrument should be applicable and operable for all Parties, without any barriers, so that it better serves the needs of our people as well as of the multilateral environment.

We trust that our recommendations will be received in the spirit of constructive collaboration and will contribute significantly to our shared objectives.

These are the elements that developing Member States consider to be crucial if the Instrument is to be deemed acceptable.

The Group reaffirms its commitment to remain constructively engaged in the ongoing discussions and deliberations. We will continue to assess the merits of the draft text in addressing the needs of developing Member States.

The Group reemphasizes the importance and the central role of Equity in the Instrument and therefore supports the proposal by the Africa Group for the Bureau to kindly take into consideration the red lines of developing countries while putting together the legal text of the negotiating document.

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We stand ready to contribute positively to ensure the successful realization of an Equity-based Pandemic Instrument that can address the challenges of the present and prepare us for the uncertainties of the future.

Thank you

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