



Parliamentarians call on world governments for "A dose of solidarity"

On May 5th, 2023, the WHO ended the global emergency status for COVID-19, after four years facing the most significant health threat in decades. It's a glimmer of hope, but it's also critical to remember that a new pandemic is inevitable. We cannot predict the moment it will happen, or the virus which will cause it, but one thing is certain: vaccines are among the most effective public health tools, and will therefore continue to be a pillar of our response, saving millions of lives each year. Vaccines are also an undeniable human right.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in a two-tiered world, where Northern countries enjoyed accelerated access to vaccines, whilst Southern countries faced considerable delays. Although progress has been made on this during the fight against the pandemic, inequalities between the Global North and the Global South persist.

In the exercise of our parliamentary duties, we have firmly committed to prioritising health in our policies, both nationally and internationally. We have pledged to increase the resources allocated to this vital sector, particularly concerning vaccination, in order to meet the needs of our countries, of our continent, and of the world. We are committed to protecting the world, because it is the only way our citizens will be protected as well.

Today, significant challenges remain, and the fading of the pandemic from our debates must not decrease our mobilisation and vigilance on this issue. Only a new global pact on pandemics and vaccination efforts can ensure that future generations are better equipped to face a crisis similar to that caused by COVID-19. Despite the fragmentation and division our world faces, international cooperation remains the one and only path to finding global solutions to global challenges. It is time to act to ensure true progress in the fight against diseases, by strengthening global access to vaccines.

We, current and former parliamentarians of the world, are calling, during this World Immunisation Week and beyond, on governments worldwide:

- To advocate for these positions in ongoing negotiations, which must accelerate if we are to achieve the very first international agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response;
- To support the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA) and the replenishment of resources for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance;
- To mobilise funding for research for the development of new vaccines.

The year 2025 is of the utmost importance. In the early months of the year, the high-level pledging summit, culminating Gavi's replenishment cycle, will take place in Brussels. The

event will bring together world leaders to secure major investments in essential immunisation programmes. Renewing Gavi's resources for an additional four years will accelerate vaccination rates, reach more unvaccinated children, strengthen health systems, and collectively protect us against new health threats related to climate change.

As members of parliament, we will on this occasion take on the role of mobilising our governments and public opinion, and we will continue to collectively advocate for a more solidarity-driven and healthier world.

Join this call by signing [here](#).

First signatories:

Ricardo B. Leite, Founder & President of the UNITE network

Guillaume Gouffier Valente, French Member of Parliament, member of the parliamentary club Unis pour la santé and of the UNITE network

Ambang Njume Peter, Member of Parliament in Cameroon

Andrea Álvarez Marín, Member of Parliament in Costa Rica

Andrew Ullmann, Member of Parliament in Germany

Akua Sena Dansua, former Member of Parliament in Ghana

Ashraf Hatem, Member of Parliament in Egypt

Carmen Leyte, Member of Parliament in Spain

Esther Muthoni Passaris, Member of Parliament in Kenya

Gisela Scaglia, former Member of Parliament in Argentina

Gustavo Rivera, Member of Parliament in the United States

Habibe Millat, former Member of Parliament in Bangladesh

Hon. Fatou Cham, Member of Parliament in The Gambia

Ibtissame Azzaoui, former Member of Parliament in Morocco

Jean François Mbaye, former Member of Parliament in France

John Bowis, former Member of Parliament in the United Kingdom & the European Parliament

Kelvin Yii Lee Wuen, former Member of Parliament in Malaysia

Mariam Jashi, former Member of Parliament in Georgia
Marie Toussaint, French Member of the European Parliament
Mously Diakhate, former Member of Parliament in Senegal
Nuria Segués, Member of Parliament in Andorra
Orjola Pampuri, Member of Parliament in Albania
Pastor Vera Bejarano, Member of Parliament in Paraguay
Ramesh Paudyal, former Member of Parliament in Nepal
Sobita Gautam, Member of Parliament in Nepal
Sonia Sidhu, Member of Parliament in Canada
Sven Clement, Member of Parliament in Luxembourg
Valentina Buliga, former Member of Parliament in Moldova