

Pandemic treaty: preliminary discussions

Tratado sobre pandemias: discusiones preliminares

Miguel Gallegos

School of Health Sciences, Universidad Católica del Maule, Talca, Chile; School of Psychology, Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina; Interdisciplinary Center for Research in Health Sciences and Behavior, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas, Buenos Aires, Argentina

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are still being felt, not only with respect to the circulation of the virus and post-COVID-19 sequelae, but also in terms of the discussion on how to be better prepared for future international public health crises. In 2021, a discussion opened regarding the existing instruments of international policy to address pandemics^{1,2}, in which the need to revise the International Health Regulations (IHR) was raised, whose function is precisely to guide actions during international public health emergencies¹.

Due to the magnitude of the consequences of the recent pandemic, doubts and criticisms about the IHR's capacity to face an international health crisis have been reactivated. The IHR's limited effectiveness in ensuring compliance with agreements by countries has been pointed out, as well as the World Health Organization's (WHO) limited authority to achieve adherence to guidelines^{2,3}. Consequently, different world leaders and the WHO itself made a call to discuss the development of a new treaty on pandemics. Several authors have already established different ideas about the orientation and content that the new international policy document should contain (Table 1).

While these are some of the most visible consensus among the different authors, attention has also been drawn to other crucial issues that should be incorporated into the discussion, such as greater participation of civil society, a gender perspective, the discussion on climate change, the broadening of the

Table 1. Consensus topics for addressing a new treaty on pandemics

Extend the perspective of human rights and public health.
Promote a "Global Health" or "One Health" perspective.
Broaden global consensus and commitments by governments.
Guarantee equity in access and distribution of health resources.
Foster greater exchange of scientific information.
Establish legally binding commitments for governments.
Waiver of intellectual property rights for the production of health technology.
Strengthen health systems and specific funding for health crises.
Improve the public health risk information and communication system.
Review the international emergency alert system.
Promote greater international coordination and governance in health.
Emphasize pandemic prevention actions.
Favor coordination with other international organizations.
Provide greater authority to the World Health Organization.

Global South's vision, and stimulating a critical perspective of health that limits hegemonic and colonialist views^{4,5}. In conclusion, the debate is open, and it is necessary to provide greater diversity to the development of the new treaty on pandemics.

***Correspondence:**

Miguel Gallegos
E-mail: maypsi@yahoo.com.ar

Date of reception: 07-02-2024
Date of acceptance: 23-03-2024
DOI: 10.24875/CIRUE.M24000841

Cir Cir (Eng). 2025;93(2):235-236
Contents available at PubMed
www.cirugiaycirujanos.com

2444-0507/© 2024 Academia Mexicana de Cirugía. Published by Permanyer. This is an open access article under the terms of the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

Funding

The author declares no funding was received for this study.

Conflicts of interests

The author declares no conflicts of interests.

Ethical considerations

Protection of people and animals. The author declares that no experiments on humans or animals have been carried out for this research.

Confidentiality, informed consent, and ethical approval. The study does not involve personal data

of patients nor does it require ethical approval. The SAGER guidelines do not apply.

Declaration on the use of artificial intelligence. The author declares that no type of generative artificial intelligence was used for the writing of this manuscript.

References

1. Labonté R, Wiktorowicz M, Packer C, Ruckert A, Wilson K, Halabi S. A pandemic treaty, revised international health regulations, or both? *Global Health*. 2021;17:128.
2. Singh S, Bartos M, Abdalla S, Legido-Quigley H, Nordström A, Sirleaf EJ, et al. Resetting international systems for pandemic preparedness and response. *BMJ*. 2021;375:e067518.
3. Gostin LO, Meier BM, Stocking B. Developing an innovative pandemic treaty to advance global health security. *J Law Med Ethics*. 2021; 49:503-8.
4. Phelan AL, Carlson CJ. A treaty to break the pandemic cycle. *Science*. 2022;377:475-7.
5. Fukuda-Parr S, Buss P, Ely Yamin A. Pandemic treaty needs to start with rethinking the paradigm of global health security. *BMJ Glob Health*. 2021;6:e006392.