

Statement on the COVID-19 pandemic and the Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit on COVID-19

Geneva, 1 April 2020 - The Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB) met on 30 March 2020 to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic, and the commitments made by world leaders during the Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit on COVID-19 held on 26 March 2020.

The GPMB welcomes the initiative taken by G20 Leaders and their statement on COVID-19, particularly their commitment to fill existing financial gaps in the response.

The Board will monitor the implementation of the commitments made by G20 leaders to ensure progress is made and will continue to advocate at the highest levels to draw attention to the most urgent preparedness gaps.

The Board is pleased to see the commitment of G20 leaders to develop a concrete and collective plan of action that places the health and wellbeing of people and communities at the center, but recognizes that there is still an urgent need for more collective action. On 9 March the GPMB [called for G7 and G20 leaders to immediately inject US\\$ 8 billion of new funding to bolster action at the global level in the response to COVID-19](#). While some countries have made significant contributions since then, the world is still far short of this immediate funding need and it is important that others step up urgently. The Board hopes that the strong commitments made during the G20 Extraordinary Summit will lead to equally strong action by leaders.

The Board also welcomes the request by G20 to WHO in cooperation with relevant organizations, to assess gaps in pandemic preparedness with the view to establish a global initiative on pandemic preparedness and response.

COVID-19 is a global crisis, impacting all sectors, industries, and people, without regard to borders. The Board strongly believes that successfully stopping this pandemic will require countries to work together, with the international community, the private sector, and communities, to ensure coherent action and a comprehensive approach that not only addresses immediate health needs, but also the socio-economic impact the pandemic will have on all people, notably vulnerable countries and communities. G20 leaders should ensure that global public goods, such as R&D for vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics for COVID-19, are funded and that mechanisms are put in place to ensure equitable and affordable access by all.

The pandemic has the potential to jeopardize progress made over decades to fight other diseases such HIV, polio and malaria and to impact delivery of health care everywhere. Leaders must continue to invest in strengthening health systems and infrastructure to ensure that other health needs are met during the pandemic. As billions of people are now physically distancing and many are isolated and have lost employment, leaders should also ensure that the mental health needs and the psychosocial dimensions of the pandemic are addressed.

As the Board highlighted in its 2019 annual report, *A World at Risk*, significant gaps persist that urgently need to be addressed to stop the COVID-19 crisis and mitigate its impact, but also to prevent future epidemics and pandemics. The GPMB stands ready to support WHO in assessing and monitoring these gaps.

About the GPMB

As an independent monitoring and advocacy body, the GPMB urges political action to prepare for and mitigate the effects of global health emergencies. Co-convened by the World Bank Group and the WHO, the GPMB works independently to provide expert assessments and recommendations on the state of global preparedness. The opinions and recommendations of the GPMB are those of the Board and do not necessarily represent the views of the World Bank Group and WHO.

The GPMB annual report, *A World At Risk*, can be found here:

http://apps.who.int/gpmb/annual_report.html