



APRIL 2022 BRIEFING

Civil Society and Community Participation in the development of the Pandemic Treaty

The '**Proposed modalities of engagement for relevant stakeholders**' approved at the INB meeting in March 2022, include:

Non-State Actors in official relation with WHO

(including NGOs, private sector entities, philanthropic foundations, and academic institutions) will be able to attend open sessions of meetings of the INB, to speak at those open sessions and will be invited to provide inputs to the INB (via an electronic portal, an open "hearing", and/or a segment of a session)

Broader civil society and communities

who are not in official relation with WHO will only be able to engage in the formal process by providing inputs into the INB (expected to be via an electronic portal, an open "hearing", and/or a segment of a session) as 'Other entities and persons'.

This will be decided by the INB and is expected to be open to civil society, indigenous populations and communities, academic institutions, manufacturers and industry associations, and individual experts.

Informally, communities and civil society can influence the process by developing relationships and sharing information and recommendations with Member States, Non-State Actors in official relations with WHO, UN agencies, and other entities who will officially participate in the negotiations.

The agreed-upon methods of works seem to indicate that **participation of civil society and communities in the drafting process may be limited** on at least two fronts:

1. The INB may decide to conduct some 'closed' sessions, excluding non-state actors even as mere observers;
2. It remains unclear to what extent non-state actors which are not in official relations with WHO will be meaningfully engaged.

This full and meaningful participation of civil society and communities at the earliest stages of drafting, and throughout the process, is essential to ensure a human rights-based approach.

Civil Society and Community Participation in the development of the Pandemic Treaty

Ahead of the INB meeting on 14-15 March, over 90 civil society organisations, community organisations and concerned individuals signed a letter calling for INB to review these proposed modalities to ensure the full and meaningful participation of civil society and communities beyond those in official relations with WHO, by providing opportunities to engage directly in the drafting process.

This participation should include (but not be limited to), opportunities to speak at INB sessions (both in-person and remotely), regional consultations, civil society briefings, opportunities to submit written statements and recommendations, timely access to documents, and the provision of interpretation services.

