
THE NEW SEOUL DECLARATION

ON THE GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA

2022. 11. 30, SEOUL



Global Health
Security Agenda
2022 Ministerial Meeting in Seoul

The New Seoul Declaration

on the Global Health Security Agenda

We, the Ministers of Health and our multisectoral delegations who attended the seventh Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) Ministerial Meeting in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, on November 30, 2022 underscore that the COVID-19 pandemic that has lasted for more than two and a half years has demonstrated the need to strengthen health security capacities at all levels. We commend and urge GHSA members to continue to strengthen multisectoral and multilateral cooperation to prepare for and respond to future COVID-19 variants and other infectious disease crises that may pose a threat to global health security again.

To advance the goal of a world safe and secure from emerging and reemerging infectious diseases, the GHSA has played a key role in promoting a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach to national security threat posed by a public health crisis caused by infectious diseases.

GHSA members have built technical expertise and collaborated through Action Packages for the prevention, detection of and response to infectious diseases in order to help strengthen national capacities and advance regional and global health security. We applaud progress made in the second phase of GHSA and applaud all who have contributed towards achieving the targets of GHSA 2024.

Building on these achievements, we support extending the GHSA for a third five-year phase from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2028, to continue facilitating the full implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)

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and helping enhance countries' relevant technical capacities. With the extension comes an opportunity to strengthen GHSA's role in the global health security architecture and maximize its impact at the country level toward improving multi-sectoral preparedness to prepare for, prevent, detect, and respond to future health security crises. As such, we emphasize the need to develop a clear vision and target for GHSA in the third phase and to encourage members to contribute by actively sharing experiences, goals and national action plans.

The COVID-19 pandemic has once again demonstrated the need to strengthen national capacity across relevant sectors, full implementation of the IHR, and motivated the countries to participate in the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) and other IHR assessment tools for national, regional and global health security as well as the new strategy for operationalizing the National Action Plan for Health Security, recognizing Quadripartite cooperation for One Health. [WHO, Finland, Australia] A predictable and sustainable financing mechanism is critical to strengthen health security capacities at all levels. We recognize the global efforts from the Group of Twenty (G20) to establish the Pandemic Fund, a predictable and sustainable financing for strengthening health security capacities, particularly in low and middle-income countries (LMICs).

We acknowledge that significant work remains to fully achieve and maintain sub-national, national, regional and global health security, and encourage countries to actively participate in the Action Packages of the GHSA to strengthen capacity to prevent, detect and respond to the next pandemic.

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In addition, we recognize that GHSA activities need to complement and align with important ongoing initiatives to prepare for and respond to changes in global health governance on future pandemics, such as the amendment process of the IHR (2005) and the deliberations on a pandemic accord. These processes are currently being actively discussed in the international community to address the gaps exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and other health emergencies, as well as to prepare for, prevent, detect, and respond to future health threats. We also reaffirm that GHSA should continue to play a role in driving progress at the country-level, as well as supporting, and encouraging the broader suite of technical efforts in the international community.

As GHSA looks to its third phase, we urge the Steering Group to develop a plan containing the following content and to share it with members by December 2023.

- Recommendations to leverage the GHSA network to strengthen sub-national, national, regional and global health security capacities including technical and multidisciplinary discussions
- Recommendations for reform of GHSA initiatives, governance, procedures, communication, and working methods with the objective of enhancing impact and connecting the GHSA fully to other elements of the evolving global health architecture and increasing administrative efficiency.
- Detailed plans outlining goals and the scope of the next GHSA, revised targets for 2028, the level of expectations for member commitments and a timeline for

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an external evaluation of the GHSA to be made public in 2026 in consultation with interested members

We also welcome the proposal of the Republic of Korea, the host country of this GHSA Ministerial Meeting and one of the GHSA Steering Group members, to establish the Global Health Security Coordination Office in Korea to work with other GHSA members to support efforts to strengthen regional and global health security, including by: improving technical and multisectoral coordination, facilitating the sharing of best practices/lesson learned among members, and supporting the technical work of the Action Package, which collectively will aid efforts to improve multisectoral capacities at the national, regional and global levels, including efforts undertaken through GHSA during the third phase.