



Covid-19: Make it the Last Pandemic Report

Why in News

Recently, an independent global panel, the **Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPPR)** in its report named "**Covid-19: Make it the Last Pandemic**" concluded that the **catastrophic scale of the [Covid-19 pandemic](#) could have been prevented.**

- The report was requested by [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) member states in May 2020.

Key points

▪ Reasons for Inflated Covid Catastrophe:

◦ **Bad Decisions:**

- A series of **bad decisions meant Covid-19 went on to kill at least 3.3 million people** so far and devastate the global economy.
- **Poor strategic choices, unwillingness to tackle inequalities and an uncoordinated system** created a toxic cocktail which allowed the pandemic to turn into a catastrophic human crisis.

◦ **Failure of Institutions:**

- Institutions **failed to protect people and science**-denying leaders eroded public trust in health interventions.
- The **threat of a pandemic had been overlooked** and countries were woefully unprepared to deal with one.

◦ **Lack of Urgency:**

- Early responses to the outbreak detected in Wuhan, China in December 2019 **lacked urgency**, with **February 2020 a costly "lost month" as countries failed to heed the alarm.**

◦ **Delay:**

- The emergence of Covid-19 was characterised by a mixture of some early and rapid action, but also by **delay, hesitation, and denial.**
- WHO could have declared the situation a **Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)**, its highest level of alarm in January 2020.

▪ **Recommendations:**

◦ **Rich Should Help Poor:**

- Rich, well-vaccinated countries should provide the 92 poorest territories in the [Covax scheme](#) with at least **one billion vaccine doses by September 2021, and more than two billion by mid-2022.**
- The [G7](#) industrialised nations should pay 60% of the USD19 billion required to **fund vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics** via the WHO's access to **Covid Tools Accelerator programme in 2021.**

- **G20** nations and others should provide the rest.
- **International Organizations should Facilitate Technology Transfer:**
 - The WHO and the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** should also get major vaccine-producing countries and manufacturers to agree to voluntary licensing and technology transfers for Covid-19 vaccines.
 - If actions do not occur within three months, a **waiver of intellectual property rights should come into force immediately.**
 - India and South Africa are already attempting to get WTO member countries to agree to such a [waiver to fight the pandemic equitably.](#)
- **Suggestions to Prevent Future Pandemics:**
 - **Global Health Threats Council:**
 - To tackle future outbreaks and pandemics, the panel called for a **Global Health Threats Council** made up of world leaders, plus a **pandemic convention.**
 - **International Pandemic Financing Facility:**
 - The **G20** should also create an International Pandemic Financing Facility, able to **spend USD 5-10 billion a year on preparedness**, with USD 50 to USD 100 billion ready to roll in the event of a crisis.
 - **Overhauling WHO :**
 - Proposed an overhaul of the WHO to **give it greater control over its funding and more authority for its leadership.**
 - Its alert system **needed to be faster** and it should have the authority to send expert missions to countries immediately without waiting for their green light.

Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response

▪ About:

- It was **established in 2020 by the WHO** Director-General in response to the World Health Assembly resolution 73.1.
 - **Resolution 73.1** renewed the **commitment to better prepare for health emergencies and compliance** with the International Health Regulations.

▪ Secretariat:

- The Independent Panel is supported by its own **independent Secretariat**, based in **Geneva.**

▪ Mission:

- To provide an **evidence-based path for the future**, grounded in lessons of the present and the past to ensure countries and global institutions, including specifically WHO, effectively address health threats.

[Source:TH](#)

