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-Check against delivery-

## ***ORAL STATEMENT***

**At the Public Consultations with the WHO Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response to address the question “Based on your experience with the Covid-19 pandemic, what do you believe should be addressed at the international level to better protect against future pandemics?”**

**Second Round Public Consultation, 29-30 September 2022**

Amnesty International thank the WHO Intergovernmental Negotiating Body for this opportunity for input.

It is crucial to ensure meaningful and adequate participation by affected groups throughout the negotiation process for this instrument. The instrument itself should enshrine participation as a key component in decision making and implementation at all levels of pandemic response. This includes people and communities affected by the content of this instrument, and civil society and community-led organizations, irrespective of their official relations with the WHO.

We reiterate that States’ human rights obligations should be central to efforts to prepare and respond to public health emergencies. Here, we wish to highlight three priority issues that should be addressed through international commitments:

*First:* the instrument should reflect long-standing international legal principles regarding states’ implementation of their human rights obligations. These require governments to address the underlying determinants of health, and to avoid using criminal law or violate human rights, to achieve public health objectives.

*Second:* there should be global commitments to act on obligations of international cooperation and assistance, and to invest in health and social security systems in all countries to ensure that people, especially the most marginalized, are protected from the impacts of any future pandemics.

*Third:* intellectual property rights should not be a barrier to equal access to health tools. The instrument should include explicit commitments and concrete mechanisms to achieve this end.

Thank you.