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**News:** Draft Pandemic Treaty

- The Draft Pandemic treaty also known as “Zero Draft” is currently under negotiation by Member States at the World Health Assembly.

## **Draft Pandemic Treaty**

- The draft pandemic treaty is an **international agreement proposed to prevent, prepare for, and respond to pandemics and global health emergencies.**
- It is being **negotiated by the World Health Organization (WHO) and member states.**
- The treaty aims to **strengthen global cooperation and solidarity in addressing health threats.**
- It covers aspects such as **surveillance, detection, notification, access to health technologies, collaboration, and accountability.**
- The treaty is based on **principles of human rights, equity, and solidarity, while respecting each state's sovereign right to determine its health policies.**
- It **establishes a global health threats council, a global health threats fund, and an independent review and evaluation mechanism.**
- The draft pandemic treaty is a **response to the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.**

## **Principal Components of the Draft**

### **Global Cooperation**

- It calls for increased global coordination and cooperation in the preparation for and response to pandemics and other global health emergencies.

### **Strengthening of Health Systems**

- It emphasizes the need to strengthen health systems in all countries, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, to ensure they are better prepared to respond to pandemics and other global health emergencies.

### **Investment in Research and Development**

- It calls for improved access to essential health technologies, such as vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments, during pandemics and other global health emergencies.
- It calls for increased investment in research and development of health technologies, particularly for diseases that pose a significant threat to global health.

## **Transparency in Sharing of Information**

- It calls for increased transparency and sharing of information about pandemics and other global health emergencies, including data on the spread of diseases and the effectiveness of interventions.

## **Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing System (PABS)**

- The constitution of PABS has been constituted under the WHO, making Genomic sequences of all pathogens with the pandemic potential to be shared on an “equal footing” in the system.
- The PABS system is an important tool for ensuring the responsible and equitable use of pathogens and their genetic resources in the research and development of new medicines and vaccines, while also recognizing the rights and interests of the countries and communities that provide these resources.

## **Addressing Gender Disparities**

- In addressing gender disparities in the healthcare workforce, the draft aims to “ensure meaningful representation, engagement, participation and empowerment of all health and care workers” by stressing equal pay and addressing barriers specific to women in taking leadership roles.