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THE PANDEMIC AGREEMENTⁱ : A FINAL STRETCH FOR A SAFER WORLD

In just a few weeks, a wave of presidential decrees in the United States has shaken the global order. Health is among the sectors most severely affected by the Trump administration. The near-immediate decision to withdraw the United States from the World Health Organisation (WHO), followed closely by the suspension of international development assistance programmes such as USAID and PEPFAR, sent a strong and troubling message – a signal of further drastic measures to come^{ii iii}.

As of early April, US federal funding and activities related to infectious disease research and public health have come to an almost complete standstill. This abrupt halt has severely undermined international capacity for disease surveillance and response to emerging diseases^{iv}. This places the world in a state of health insecurity, including Europe.

Against this worrisome backdrop, the final phase of negotiations for the global Pandemic

Agreement began on 7 April in Geneva, with the goal of presenting the agreement at the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA) in one month's time. Launched in 2022, the negotiations were originally intended to conclude with the adoption of an international treaty at the 77th WHA in May 2024. Despite significant progress, it became evident that more time was needed. Under the joint presidency of France and South Africa, this diplomatic marathon continues – but time is running out, and critical obstacles remain.

The think tank *Santé mondiale 2030* advocates for the swift adoption of an agreement – even an imperfect one. European countries must put aside their individual interests. Approval of the agreement at the next WHA in May 2025 will be decisive for the future of global health, particularly in strengthening global health security at a time when numerous pandemic threats are already on the horizon. The moment to act is now; tomorrow may be too late.

ⁱ *Pandemic prevention, preparedness and response accord*. Website accessed on 08 April 2025.

ⁱⁱ Group letter (15 February 2025). *The US's healthcare decisions pose serious threats to scientific progress and cooperation*. *Le Monde*. Accessed on 08 April 2025. [Online].

ⁱⁱⁱ Santé mondiale 2030 (14 March 2025). *Saving Official Development Assistance: a crucial health issue for everyone*. *La Tribune Dimanche*. Available in French only. Accessed on 08 April 2025. [Online].

^{iv} Roucaute, D. (05 April 2025). *The US healthcare system weakened by waves of mass layoffs*. *Le Monde*. Available in French only. Accessed on 08 April 2025. [Online].

The *Santé mondiale 2030* think tank on global health was launched in 2016. It brings together a number of key actors in global health in France: Sana de Courcelles, François Dabis, Annabel Desgrées du Loû, Jean-François Delfraissy, Éric Fleutelot, Frédéric Goyet, Michel Kazatchkine, Marie-Paule Kieny, Mathieu Lamiaux, Léo Marmora, Benoît Miribel, Olivier Nay, Luis Pizarro, Amélie Schmitt, Agnès Soucat, and Stéphanie Tchiombiano. Jessica Borges serves as coordinator.

The members of the group are acting in their individual capacity and not on behalf of their respective organisations. The present document is the result of a collective work within the group. It does not commit or reflect the individual opinions of any of the members.

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