

**Aneel Prasad Hegde**

Member of Parliament  
(Rajya Sabha)



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To  
Shri Narendra Modi ji  
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India  
South Block, New Delhi - 110011

31st March 2024

**Sub: Global Pandemic Treaty and  
amendment to International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005**

*Beloved Prime Minister,*

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits. I am writing to you to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed International Treaty, known as the Global Pandemic Treaty and the amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005, which are set to be discussed and potentially signed during the upcoming World Health Assembly (WHA) from May 27th to June 1st, 2024.

As you are well aware, this treaty and its associated amendments have raised significant apprehensions among eminent scientists, medical professionals, Members of Parliament, not only in the United Kingdom but also around the world and citizens of most countries including India. One of the primary concerns revolves around the potential transfer of power from elected sovereign governments to the World Health Organization (WHO), particularly in matters concerning the declaration of lockdowns and the recommendation of medical interventions and vaccines during any Public Health Emergency. It has been pointed out that the majority of the WHO's funding comes from the pharmaceutical industry, pointing to the undeniable influence of these entities and their control over the WHO.

During the recent budget session of Parliament on February 2nd, 2024, I had the opportunity to raise this issue during a special mention. Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister, Health & Family Welfare has responded to my Special Mention vide letter dated 1st March 2024. I have now responded to him vide letter dated 30th March 2024. Both the letters are enclosed herewith for your consideration. I am sharing my concerns with you owing to the grievous and urgent nature of the subject which require specific directions to the Health Ministry and our representatives to the WHO.

I firmly believe that given the implications for our country's sovereignty and the health and well-being of our citizens, it is imperative that this matter be thoroughly debated and deliberated upon in the Indian Parliament before any decisions are made. Therefore, I urge you to bring this issue up for discussion in Parliament, and until such time, I request that our representatives abstain from signing or accepting the treaty or the amendments to International Health Regulations during the World Health Assembly, to ensure that the Sovereignty of India and her Constitution are maintained.

I trust in your leadership and commitment to the welfare of our nation, and I am hopeful that you will give due consideration to my concerns.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Aneel Prasad Hegde

Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)

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o/e



डॉ. मनसुख मांडविया  
DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA



पंजी  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण  
व रसायन एवं उर्वरक  
भारत सरकार  
Minister  
Health & Family Welfare  
and Chemicals & Fertilizers  
Government of India

D.O. No. H-11017/05/2024-III  
Dated, the 31st March, 2024

*Dear Shri Aneel Prasad Hegde Ji,*

Please refer to the special mention raised by you on 2nd February, 2024 in Rajya Sabha regarding World Health Organization's (WHO's) proposed 'global pandemic treaty' and ongoing deliberations for amendments to International Health Regulations, 2005 (IHR, 2005).

2. In this regard it is important to consider that in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, which directly and indirectly impacted billions of lives, the decisions to establish (i) an Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) to draft a 'global pandemic treaty' and (ii) Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (WGIHR) were taken by the World Health Assembly.

3. The World Health Assembly, as you may be aware, is the apex decision-making body of WHO with representation from all WHO Member States (including India) and has a key role in defining and determining key policies and operations of WHO, including issues like appointment of Director-General, WHO; supervision of WHO's financial policies, approval of programme budget etc. Information regarding WHO sources of funding and implementation is made publicly available.

4. While, Government of India has been actively participating in these ongoing deliberations to formalize the 'pandemic treat' or bring about amendments to IHR, 2005 with strong support for principles of equity, sovereignty, accountability and equitable sharing of benefits, it is pertinent to remember that role of WHO in these processes is to support Member States, in negotiating the articles in order to reach consensus. This in-fact reaffirms the principle of sovereignty of Member States in addressing their public health matters as per their own priorities and aspirations.

5. It is also worth noting that the concerns expressed by you regarding possibility of WHO's interference in national policies/priorities, treatment protocol and any negative impact of rights of citizens as granted under the Indian Constitution are speculative and the role of WHO has been recommendatory in nature, based on evidence-based advice, for which countries have the right to make their own decisions.

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6. It is also worth highlighting that the ongoing deliberations and documents under WHO-INB and WGIHR are made public by WHO.

7. While I appreciate the need to ensure protection of national interests and sovereignty, it is essential to also consider the need to ensure global health security and further strengthen the same, as in this age of global trade and travel interconnectedness, a health threat anywhere is potentially a global health threat.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya)

Shri Aneel Prasad Hegde,  
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Bihar – 800001.

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To,

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya,  
Hon'ble Minister for Health & ~~amp~~ Family Welfare,  
Govt of India,  
348. A Wing, Nirman Bhawan,  
New Delhi – 110011

30<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**SUB: WHO's Proposed Global Pandemic Treaty and  
Amendments to International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005**

Dear Shri Mansukh Mandaviya ji,

I am writing to respectfully address the points you mentioned in your response to my concerns, with regard to the World Health Organization's (WHO) proposed Global Pandemic Treaty and the amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) which I raised on 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 2024 as a 'Special Mention' during the Budget Session of Parliament concluded last month. I personally thank you for providing me the clarifications. However, there are significant issues expressed in the clauses of both documents that raise deep concern for our Parliamentary democracy and the sovereignty of the nation.

Before I respond to the various points you have mentioned in your letter, I want to place before you the following facts. The concerns surrounding the World Health Organization (WHO) and its proposed pandemic treaty have been echoed by eminent medical scientists and politicians alike, casting doubt on the organization's ability to effectively manage global health crises. Dr. Aseem Malhotra, a renowned British-Indian cardiologist, has criticized the WHO for its lack of independence, citing its heavy reliance on funding from commercial entities and asserting that this compromises its impartiality. In an Economic Times report titled "*WHO has lost its independence, Indian govt should exit global health body*" dated 2nd December 2023, he is quoted saying "*Seventy per cent of the funding of the World Health Organisation comes from commercial entities.... As long as the WHO is getting industry funding or funding from vested interests, it should not be considered independent and the Indian government should ignore its advice. Those commercial entities are not interested in your health, they will make money by deception.*"

Similarly, Dr. Peter McCullough, the eminent medical scientist and most cited cardiologist in the world, has condemned the WHO's role in both the SARS-CoV-2 infection and the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, alleging its involvement within a biopharmaceutical complex that seriously undermines its credibility. In his address to the EU Parliament on 13 Sept. 2023, he says, "*There have been two waves of injury to the world; the 1<sup>st</sup> the SARS-CoV-2 infection with its lockdowns; and the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Covid 19 vaccines. The role of the WHO appears to be adverse in both. It has operated within a biopharmaceutical complex, a complicated syndicate that involves Non-governmental organisations and National health agencies*

*operating as a coordinated unit. This massive conflict of interest disqualifies it from any role in World health.”*

Last week a group of Conservative MPs in the UK, including Lord Frost, Philip Davies, Philip Hollobone and Sir Christopher Chope among others, have written a letter to the chair of the foreign affairs select committee, to warn of the potential implications of the WHO's pandemic treaty. They warn that if the new treaty and its amendments are adopted, they risk *“undermining UK sovereignty, allowing unaccountable individuals and supranational bodies tacit jurisdiction over national public health measures”*.

In a recent news report in Telegraph titled, ‘Britain risks losing power to control future lockdowns to WHO’, dated 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Lord Frost shared two major concerns about the treaty. He says:

*“Firstly, the fact that the Government is not really being that open about what it is doing in the negotiations,”*

*“The other concern is about the practical impact this treaty could have on our domestic laws. A UN convention doesn’t itself have direct legal force in the UK.”*

These voices collectively highlight deep-seated concerns about the WHO's integrity and the need for greater transparency and accountability in global health governance.

Let me now address the points you have raised in your letter D.O. No. H-11017/05/2024-IH dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024. In the first instance you have mentioned that the decision to establish the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) for the Pandemic Treaty and the Working Group on Amendments to the IHR, 2005, were made by the World Health Assembly (WHA). This is true. The essential issue nevertheless remains and that is, that as sovereign Nations we, and India, must examine the content and implications of these decisions. For India, specifically, the clauses impinge on India’s sovereign status as governed by the Indian Constitution. It is clear from the proposed amendments to the IHR, that through them, the WHO seeks to give itself unprecedented powers through its Director-General, who seeks to be appointed to a position of a universal health dictator and in a *“one health approach”*. It will allow him powers to declare, for example, unilateral declarations of Early Action Alerts (EAAs), Pandemic Emergencies (PEs), and Public Health Emergencies of International Concern (PHEICs). These examples in themselves clearly demonstrate that such decisions will infringe straightforwardly, on powers that properly belong to the purview of sovereign States like India. I address both documents (the Pandemic Treaty and the IHR) in their more drastic recommendations as follows:

### **The Pandemic Treaty**

- **The Treaty's Framework Convention and Unaccountable Bureaucracy** (Articles 21-37) pave the way for a new bureaucracy with unchecked authority, similar to the Framework Convention for Climate Change. The involvement of non-state actors in decision-making processes (Article 42) raises questions about transparency and accountability.
- **The WHO budget:** Only about 15% of the WHO budget is derived from dues, which represent a small part of the WHO budget. Donations from donor organisations and

agencies (Country donations apart), account for the bulk. It is estimated that Gates alone, the largest private funder, represents around 10% of the WHO budget (matches approximately the largest nation state funder). Furthermore, there are revenue streams that accrue to the WHO through pharmaceutical companies. This is a massive and proven conflict of interest; by any definition, a controlling interest. Therefore, it is their objectives and goals that control those of the WHO. The drive to vaccinate, the major goal of the hyped-up Covid pandemic / crises is a case in point.

- **The Treaty's provisions for pathogen access and benefit-sharing (Article 12) and the acceleration of regulatory approval for drugs (Article 14)**, as demonstrated in the dangerous and deadly vaccine roll-out globally, is proof that the interests of pharmaceutical corporations will be prioritised over public health and safety.
- **With regard to accountability**, the document demands that nations be accountable for carrying out their duties as specified by the Treaty and WHO. However, there is nothing in any of the Treaty drafts that requires any accountability whatsoever for the WHO itself. The WHO is under no judicial jurisdiction. It cannot be taken to a court. Its employees have a type of diplomatic immunity. Its officials are not elected by any transparent process.
- **The potential for censorship (Article 18)** further undermines fundamental freedom and raises concerns about transparency and accountability.
- The WHO demands that nations follow its dictates -- pass laws to allow the use of unlicensed drugs and vaccines and waive liability for these products. This demand is incompatible with full sovereignty of the member states, including India.

The evidence now, after 3 years, of the WHO's pandemic announcement and responses on multiple dimensions (as reinforced by the scientists we have quoted in the opening paragraphs), point to a failure of its measures and recommendations, to prevent or ameliorate a pandemic. Furthermore, I am puzzled: how will sharing potential pandemic pathogens globally and proliferating high containment labs to study them, sequence their genomes, and then place the sequence online in publicly accessible databases prevent pandemics? But the potential that this will instead, increase accidents and is likely to increase the number of outbreaks and pandemics, is the likely outcome

### **The IHR Proposed Amendments**

It is pertinent to reference the British MP, Andrew Bridgens in his speech to the British Parliament dated *Dec. 19 2023*, before I address the clauses of the IHR in their specific Amendments.

The proposed amendments aim to transform the current "recommendations" outlined in the documentation into binding requirements, employing three key mechanisms. **Firstly**, the removal of the term "non-binding" from Article 1 signals a significant shift in language. **Secondly**, the insertion of new Article 13A establishes that member states must commit to following the WHO's recommendations, recognizing the WHO as the coordinating authority for international public health responses. **Finally**, Article 42 mandates that member states promptly enact WHO recommendations into law, including measures concerning non-state entities under their jurisdiction, encompassing private businesses, charities, and individuals.

The overarching effect of these amendments is to consolidate decision-making power under the WHO, particularly during public health emergencies of international concern, potentially raising questions about national sovereignty and individual liberties. *Dec. 19 2023*)

### **The IHR Specific Amendments:**

Articles 1, 5, 8 and 12 of the proposed amendments gives the WHO Director-General the authority to unilaterally declare an Early Action Alert (EAA) and a Pandemic Emergency in addition to a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), without oversight and checks or balances on the power he can bring to bear. The lack of clear criteria or limitations on these measures raise concerns about potential overreach and infringement upon national sovereignty. Additionally, the WHO is granted broad authority to issue recommendations and guidelines, which member states are expected to implement without question. The language, used repeatedly, is "SHALL". Thus, they are neither recommendations nor guidelines.

Furthermore, the proposed amendments introduce provisions for quarantine (Articles 24, 27 and Annexes 4 and 8) and additional documentation required for travel (Articles 35, 36, 37, and Annexes 3 and 8) which will directly impact Overseas Citizens of India and Non Resident Indians from whom India benefits through their remittances. These measures will clearly impede the free movement of individuals and infringe upon their Constitutional rights. Similarly, the expansion of surveillance (Annex 1-c-i) and the disclosure of personal data (Article 45) raise serious privacy concerns, and likewise, require the constitutional protection of individual rights.

To reiterate, the language in these clauses, goes beyond mere recommendation and are a doorway to the imposition of mandatory measures that will certainly conflict with national sovereign laws and constitutional rights.<sup>1</sup>

Sir, on September 30, 2022, a total of 94 nations submitted 197 pages that included over 300 amendments to the International Health Regulations. They were kept secret until mid-December 2022. Secret negotiations have been held since then. I emphasise and respectfully bring to your attention that the entire process is out of the public gaze, nothing has been made public. The next scheduled meeting is April 22-26, 2024. The February 9, 2024 version of the secret "negotiating text" was leaked. We now have a better idea of what is being negotiated (in secret). And I am constrained to say that they are unacceptable. They include:

- **Vaccines** Authorized by the WHO for Emergency Use: (Annex 6)  
Requiring "vaccines", especially those that are authorized for **emergency use** is UNACCEPTABLE.
- **Making Non-State Actors Comply With Public Health Measures:** (Article 42)  
Coercing "non-state actors" to comply with government dictates is UNACCEPTABLE.
- **Proliferation of Pathogens with Pandemic Potential:** (Article 44 and Annex 1)

<sup>1</sup> ref. civil society memorandum to the PM and Minister of H&FW dated 16 Dec 2024:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jy9Uf0ihsN1Qsy5Hujjh37pADIHUES0U/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jy9Uf0ihsN1Qsy5Hujjh37pADIHUES0U/view?usp=drive_link)

Facilitating the proliferation of pathogens with pandemic potential and their genetic sequence data through a Pathogen Access and Benefits Sharing system is absolutely UNACCEPTABLE.

- **National IHR Authority:** (Article 4 and Article 44-e)

**Requiring that we allocate human and financial resources** and adjust our national laws by creating a National International Health Regulations Authority is UNACCEPTABLE.

- **Disclosure of Personal Data:** (Article 45)

Allowing the public disclosure of private data is UNACCEPTABLE.

- **Censorship:** (Annex 1-c-vi and Annex 1-5-vii)

Attempting to limit freedom of speech and freedom of expression under the guise of countering misinformation and disinformation is UNACCEPTABLE.

Finally I urge you, respectfully Sir, to submit this whole Question of the Pandemic Treaty/accord and the IHR Amendments to a full Parliamentary debate, including the evidence of the efficacy of the Covid response. Through this debate we will examine its impact/impingement on the sovereign status of our Nation and the overriding supremacy of specific articles of our Constitution as a Democratic Federal Republic.

The next session of Parliament will only begin in mid-July which means we should not respond to the 77<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly, which is scheduled to be held from Monday, May 27 to Saturday, June 1, 2024. We, India, should not sign any treaty or accept any amendments to IHR till such time that these issues are debated and scrutinised in the Indian Parliament.

Thank you for considering these important issues. I look forward to further dialogue and collaboration on this matter.

Thanking you

Yours Sincerely



Aneel Prasad Hegde