



**Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime
welcomes World Health Assembly's decision to develop global accord on pandemic
prevention, preparedness and response**

The Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime (EWC) welcomes the [decision](#) of the World Health Assembly to begin drafting and negotiating a convention, agreement or other international instrument under the Constitution of the World Health Organization to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. The consensus decision was taken on 1 December, during the second-ever Special Session of the Health Assembly, held in Geneva, Switzerland.

EWC first expressed its support for a Pandemics Treaty ('proposed Treaty') under the auspices of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in its June 2021 [Briefing Paper](#), urging the global health community to ensure that any such instrument helps to prevent future pandemics that could emerge from human interaction with wild animals, and to institutionalise a 'One Health' approach to wildlife trade and markets.

EWC commends WHO Member States on this historic decision to protect the global community from future infectious diseases, one that was urgently needed to address the dangerous gaps in our existing international legal framework.

As the work of the intergovernmental negotiating body begins in 2022, EWC would also like to reiterate the critical importance of:

- ensuring the scope of the proposed Treaty addresses the **prevention of the spill over of viruses and other pathogens from wild animals to people** in the first place;
- including a legally binding obligation on States within the proposed Treaty that commits Parties not to trade in, or market, any wild animals, either domestically or internationally, without first **assessing the risks of any such trade, or markets, to animal and/or human health**. This would institutionalise a 'One Health' approach to wild animal trade and markets, as it has been [recently defined](#) by the One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP);
- **engaging with existing international regulatory bodies**, including the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), in order to ensure coherence with related regulatory and implementation mechanisms.

The EWC stands ready to support the WHO and its Member States in advancing the proposed Treaty, and in establishing how to best incorporate a 'One Health' approach to wild animal trade and markets within it.