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Remarks by the Permanent Representative at the third meeting of Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a pandemic treaty (INB3) on 5 December 2022

Thank you, distinguished Co-Chairs

We commend the INB bureau for its stewardship of this important process.

We thank the bureau for presenting the conceptual zero draft as a first step in the drafting and negotiating process.

At this stage of the process, we support keeping the negotiating process under Articles 19 or 21.

In terms of priorities, we would like to reiterate embedding the principle of equity throughout the text. We are pleased with the focus on this principle in the draft text keeping in view the lessons learnt before, during and in the aftermath of the ongoing pandemic. Therefore, equity should continue to remain the cornerstone of any future pandemic instrument.

Secondly, the future instrument must respond to the needs and capacities of developing countries. It is therefore important to shape a system for benefit sharing, not just in terms of pandemic response products, but also in terms of technology transfer and capacity building, so that countries are not left to their own devices when a pandemic hits the next time. International cooperation, assistance and solidarity should therefore remain key features of the draft instrument.

We would also underscore the centrality of anchoring the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the draft text. It is important that burden sharing is done in line with national capacities and circumstances.

We support integrating the One-Health approach into the draft instrument with commensurate components of international assistance and cooperation.

We would like to emphasize the importance of inclusivity and participation of all countries, small or large. It is equally important to avoid convening parallel meetings.

I assure you of the full cooperation of my delegation in these discussions. We look forward to engaging constructively in this important task.

I thank you