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## Covid-19: Make it the Last Pandemic Report

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### Why in News

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Recently, an independent global panel, the **Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPPR)** in its report named "**Covid-19: Make it the Last Pandemic**" concluded that the **catastrophic scale of the Covid-19 pandemic could have been prevented.**

The report was requested by World Health Organization (WHO) member states in May 2020.

### Key points

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- **Reasons for Inflated Covid Catastrophe:**
  - **Bad Decisions:**
    - A series of **bad decisions meant Covid-19 went on to kill at least 3.3 million people** so far and devastate the global economy.
    - **Poor strategic choices, unwillingness to tackle inequalities and an uncoordinated system** created a toxic cocktail which allowed the pandemic to turn into a catastrophic human crisis.
  - **Failure of Institutions:**
    - Institutions **failed to protect people and science-denying** leaders eroded public trust in health interventions.
    - The **threat of a pandemic had been overlooked** and countries were woefully unprepared to deal with one.
  - **Lack of Urgency:**

Early responses to the outbreak detected in Wuhan, China in December 2019 **lacked urgency**, with **February 2020 a costly "lost month" as countries failed to heed the alarm.**
  - **Delay:**
    - The emergence of Covid-19 was characterised by a mixture of some early and rapid action, but also by **delay, hesitation, and denial.**
    - WHO could have declared the situation a **Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)**, its highest level of alarm in January 2020.
- **Recommendations:**
  - **Rich Should Help Poor:**
    - Rich, well-vaccinated countries should provide the 92 poorest territories in the Covax scheme with at least **one billion vaccine doses by September 2021, and more than two billion by mid-2022.**
    - The G7 industrialised nations should pay 60% of the USD19 billion required to **fund vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics** via the WHO's access to **Covid Tools Accelerator programme in 2021.**
    - G20 nations and others should provide the rest.
  - **International Organizations should Facilitate Technology Transfer:**

The WHO and the World Trade Organization (WTO) should also get major vaccine-producing countries and manufacturers to agree to voluntary licensing and technology transfers for Covid-19 vaccines.

    - If actions do not occur within three months, a **waiver of intellectual property rights should come into force immediately.**
    - India and South Africa are already attempting to get WTO member countries to agree to such a **waiver to fight the pandemic equitably.**

- **Suggestions to Prevent Future Pandemics:**

- **Global Health Threats Council:**

To tackle future outbreaks and pandemics, the panel called for a **Global Health Threats Council** made up of world leaders, plus a **pandemic convention**.

- **International Pandemic Financing Facility:**

The **G20** should also create an International Pandemic Financing Facility, able to **spend USD 5-10 billion a year on preparedness**, with USD 50 to USD 100 billion ready to roll in the event of a crisis.

- **Overhauling WHO :**

- Proposed an overhaul of the WHO to **give it greater control over its funding and more authority for its leadership**.
- Its alert system **needed to be faster** and it should have the authority to send expert missions to countries immediately without waiting for their green light.

## **Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response**

- **About:**

It was **established in 2020 by the WHO** Director-General in response to the World Health Assembly resolution 73.1.

**Resolution 73.1** renewed the **commitment to better prepare for health emergencies and compliance** with the International Health Regulations.

- **Secretariat:**

The Independent Panel is supported by its own **independent Secretariat**, based in **Geneva**.

- **Mission:**

To provide an **evidence-based path for the future**, grounded in lessons of the present and the past to ensure countries and global institutions, including specifically WHO, effectively address health threats.

**Source:TH**