

The Pandemic Treaty. A New Global Public Health Instrument

Lisbon – 9 May 2025

Conference Announcement and Call for Abstracts

Venue: NOVA National School of Public Health (NOVA NSPH), Auditorium Coriolano Ferreira, Lisbon, Portugal

Date: 9 May 2025, 9.00 – 17.00

Language: English

Hybrid conference: 2025 will be a hybrid conference that will run fully in-person and fully virtually

Introduction conference topic

COVID-19 uncovered catastrophic weaknesses in the international community's ability to respond to a pandemic, from vaccine and test distribution inequities to insufficient international communication.

Given the impact of the pandemic, the World Health Organization's member states have agreed to draft and negotiate a new convention, also called 'the accord', under the Organization's constitution to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response to future pandemics at a global level.

In June 2024, WHO member countries faced a deadline to pass a pandemic treaty, but parties failed to reach a consensus. Controversial issues include sovereignty concerns, the "transfer of technology," pathogen access for research and benefit sharing, and funding the equitable distribution of vaccines. Now, countries are continuing negotiations before the next pandemic.

The draft text and the need for more consensus raise numerous questions. For instance, what is the accord about, and how will it save lives? What are the main potential incentives and benefits? What is the financial burden to taxpayers and/or industry? How are core human rights standards protected? Will the accord "undermine" intellectual property (IP) rights and pharmaceutical innovation by requiring companies to "give away" IP protections on pandemic-related products they develop? Will an agreement be reached at all? To mention some questions addressed during the conference.

The conference aims to unpack the onion of issues related to the Pandemic Treaty from different perspectives (public health, ethics, law, economics, and other sciences). This

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one-day conference will start with a keynote lecture and several sessions (see Call for Abstracts).

Keynote speaker

Dr. Mark Eccleston-Turner, FRSA
Senior Lecturer in Global Health Law, King's College London

Conference Objectives

This conference allows participants to participate in one of the state-of-the-art research programmes the NOVA NSPH offers. The NOVA NSPH tackles existing and emerging health concerns by bringing together the many academic disciplines needed to address them. Participants will be exposed to the latest thinking in global public health and will present and discuss their research outcomes related to the conference theme.

Organisation

Conference committee: Paula Lobato de Faria, Joao Valente Cordeiro, and André den Exter

André den Exter, Erasmus Law School (denexter@law.eur.nl)

Paula Lobato de Faria, NOVA NSPH (pa.lobfaria@ensp.unl.pt)

We hope you can attend the conference with us. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Registration fee

Conference participants (internationals) are requested to pay a conference fee of 25 euro a person. NOVA NSPH/EUR students will receive a fee waiver.

Account Holder: ERASMUS UNIVERSITEIT ROTTERDAM

Account Number: NL11ABNA0461587084

BIC: ABNANL2A

Reference: Participant name WBS22060000.999.004

Please ensure the submitting account covers all bank fees and that the payment is free of charge for the receiver account. Please mention your first and last name and “WBS22060000.999.004” on the bank transfer. Payment by bank transfer is only possible until 1 May 2025.

Call for Abstracts

The conference's multidisciplinary approach invites academics, professionals, (PhD) students, and other interested persons to participate and submit an abstract for a presentation addressing the conference topic (**deadline: 1 March 2025**).

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Abstracts (app. 500 words) can be sent to the Chair of the Scientific Committee (denexter@law.eur.nl). A short bibliography may be attached on additional pages (optional). The abstracts will be subjected to a peer review process by the Conference's Scientific Committee. Submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis (each submission will be reviewed within a short period from its reception). Those who are selected are expected to present their paper at the Conference. They will be given 15 minutes to present, plus 5 minutes for discussion.

Potential topics

- Pathogen access and benefit sharing, the proposed PABS system
- Open data and sharing, technology transfer and intellectual property
- The accord and international human rights law and standards
- Financing and the Pandemic Fund
- The Accord's accountability mechanisms
- The Accord's One Health approach
- Pandemic governance
- AI-related systems and pandemic preparedness