

NEWS

COMMISSION ON A GLOBAL HEALTH RISK
FRAMEWORK FOR THE FUTURE

Statements of Support for
***The Neglected Dimension of Global Security:
A Framework to Counter Infectious Disease Crises***
the report of the independent
Commission on a Global Health Risk Framework for the Future

“The World Bank Group congratulates the GHRF Commission and the National Academy of Medicine on this report, which will help us chart the course for improved pandemic preparedness and response. Ebola has underscored the importance of ensuring that the next time our global health security is threatened, the world is ready to act. But that means the time to act on these recommendations is now—and the World Bank Group is working closely with the World Health Organization, governments, and our development partners to take the steps necessary to prevent the next outbreak from becoming a deadly and costly pandemic.”

—**Jim Yong Kim**, President, World Bank Group

“I welcome this contribution to our global conversation about the best structures and governance for health. The emphasis given to strengthening local health systems is key. Investment in pandemic preparedness, by governments and the international community as a whole, is essential as this report highlights. I hope that the WHO will build on this report, alongside the other recent reviews, to continue their important reform work that that is already underway.”

—**Dame Sally Davies**, Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health, United Kingdom

“The first 15 years of the 21st century saw great gains in health in every corner of the globe. Average life expectancy reached 70 years, and mortality rates from the three major communicable diseases—AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria—declined dramatically. But the Ebola epidemic showed us that this rosy picture is only part of the story. What we saw was dysfunction in the health security system at all levels—global, regional, country, and community alike. This report is the product of extensive discussions among commission members, with advice from world-renowned experts comprising an international oversight group. As one reads the report, one can sense the gravity of the issues and the urgent need to fix them. The report contains 26 recommendations broadly categorized into three elements: stronger national public health capabilities, more effective global and regional systems, and accelerated R&D programs. All of the recommendations are both visionary and practical.

Two strengths of this report in particular should be commended. One is the linking of health system strengthening with the practical framework of health security. This allows discussions on health systems to occur on real and solid terms. Second, while the report repeatedly acknowledges that the WHO is the central organ of the global health security framework, it also addresses the critical gaps in the organization’s track record in managing resources and crises. This report can offer extensive input into efforts to reform the WHO so that it can stay relevant and respected in today’s highly interdependent world. As the report acknowledges, a flurry of reports and recommendations often appear after large-scale epidemics, but the window of opportunity for reform is narrow; it must happen before political will wanes and, more importantly, before the next epidemic emerges. Japan has committed to highlighting health systems and health security as central themes at the forthcoming G7 Summit, and this report will surely contribute to those discussions on how we can make our world both safer and healthier.”

—**Keizo Takemi**, Member, Japanese Parliament