

The Citizens of New Zealand

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29 November 2023

New Zealand Coalition Government
Molesworth Street
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BY EMAIL

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Attention: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, Rt Hon Winston Peters and Rt Hon David Seymour

Dear Sirs

REJECTION OF THE ADOPTED AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS [WHA75.12](#)

1. Congratulations on your election wins and swearing in to form New Zealand's 54th government. We are encouraged by the strong intention you have all shown to return New Zealand to an independent, sovereign and democratic state.

Reject against proposed amendments to WHO health regulations

2. We, the people of New Zealand (**We/Us**), write to you requesting that you urgently satisfy your intentions to respond to the amendments to the 2005 International Health Regulations adopted by the World Health Assembly in [WHA75.12](#) on or before 1 December 2023 (Friday, this week).
3. WHA75.12 proposes amendments to Article 59 (and consequential amendments to Articles 55, 61, 62 and 63) of the International Health Regulations, which would have the effect of significantly reducing the times to:
 - a. reject any future amendments from 18 months to 10 months; and
 - b. implement any future amendments into our domestic law from 24 months to 12 months,

(WHA75.12).

National and NZ First's Coalition Agreement

4. National and NZ First's [Coalition Agreement](#) recognises the need to respond to WHA75.12 by the end of this week (page 10, second bullet point). It states under the section Strengthening Democracy and Freedoms:

“To uphold the principles of liberal democracy, including equal citizenship and parliamentary sovereignty, the Parties will:

...

- As part of the above, by 1 December 2023 reserve against proposed amendments to WHO health regulations to allow the incoming government to consider these against a "National Interest Test".*

5. Also under the same heading and relevantly, the Coalition Agreement stated with respect to any future agreements from the UN or its agencies (page 10, first bullet point):

- Ensure a 'National Interest Test' is undertaken before New Zealand accepts any agreements from the UN and its agencies that limit national decision-making and reconfirm that New Zealand's domestic law holds primacy over any international agreements.*

6. This includes any WHO agreements or treaties, given the WHO is an agency of the United Nations (UN) that is responsible for international public health.

Rejection of WHA75.12 and Further WHO Pandemic Agreements

7. Reservation of amendments is not possible pursuant to Article 62 of the 2005 International Health Regulations. Proposed amendments can only be rejected pursuant to Article 61 of the same.
8. Therefore, **in order to effectively respond to satisfy the terms of the Coalition Agreement, it is necessary to reject WHA75.12 to enable a full, proper and considered examination of any future amendments to the 2005 International Health Regulations**, including, for example:
 - a. the [300+ amendments](#) currently in draft with the IHR Working Group (**300+ Amendments**) for anticipated distribution to the member states in January 2024 (in compliance with Article 55, 2005 International Health Regulations and Decision [WHA75\(9\)](#));

- b. the proposed [Pandemic Agreement](#), the current version is dated 30 October 2023,

(Further WHO Pandemic Agreements)¹.

9. Rejection of WHA75.12 is necessary as the proposed reduction of time frames will not be sufficient for New Zealand's Minister of Finance to conduct the [National Interest Test](#) including to publicly consult on matters for future binding treaty actions with respect to any Further WHO Pandemic Agreements (as per page 10, first bullet of the Coalition Agreement).
10. Further, rejection of WHA75.12 is necessary as maximum time is required to obtain the findings from National and NZ First's broader independent inquiry into the Covid pandemic, which will clearly inform the National Interest Test for any Further WHO Pandemic Agreements.
11. Failing to communicate New Zealand's rejection expressly to the Director General of the World Health Organization by 1 December 2023, will result in the reduced time frames in WHA75.12 becoming binding on New Zealand as tacit acceptance is approval pursuant to Article 22 of the [World Health Organization's Constitution](#).
12. On behalf of the nation, it is imperative that as our new government, you effectively follow through with the agreements made in the National/NZ First Coalition Agreement and expressly reject WHA75.12 by 1 December 2023.

Yours sincerely

Citizens and Permanent Residents of New Zealand

We, the people of New Zealand

To view the tally of New Zealanders that have signed this letter:

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As at the date of sending, over 12,000+ signed

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¹ Both of these Further WHO Pandemic Treaties must also be considered in light of the [UN's Political Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly Pandemic, Prevention, Preparedness and Response Manifesto](#) tentatively adopted at a High Level Meeting of the UN 20 September 2023, which itself may require a National Interest Test be conducted given the terms of the Coalition Agreement (page 10, first bullet).