

## **Press Release**

### **Leaving the WHO is a Threat to US Security: the US needs the WHO**

The United States withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO) poses significant risks to public health, national security, and global stability. As demonstrated by past and present health crises such as COVID-19, Ebola, H1N1, and Zika, infectious disease outbreaks are inevitable and do not respect national borders. A failure to prevent, detect, and respond to them can devastate lives, disrupt economies, and strain healthcare systems.

The WHO is the world's early warning system for pandemics. It is indispensable in mitigating risks by working with nations to strengthen health systems, coordinate nations in a global response, and establish global standards to address health challenges. These efforts contribute not only to scientific collaborations and healthier populations but also to a more stable and prosperous global economy—an environment that benefits all nations, including the United States.

The US is a founding member of the WHO and has been pivotal in shaping its agenda, advancing its effectiveness, and securing its successes. Over the past seven years, U.S. leadership has been critical in implementing the most significant reforms in the WHO's history, enhancing its accountability, transparency, and efficiency. Continued engagement ensures the U.S. retains a critical voice in the direction of global health policies that directly affect national and international well-being.

A U.S. withdrawal would create a leadership vacuum that other nations may fill, potentially steering the organization in ways that do not align with American values and interests. By remaining engaged, the United States can safeguard its strategic priorities, influence global health standards, and ensure reforms continue to strengthen the WHO's ability to address pressing health challenges.

Global health is interconnected, and U.S. participation in the WHO is not only about protecting health worldwide but also ensuring the safety, security, and prosperity of its own people. For the benefit of all, it is essential for the United States to remain at the table, advancing both global and national health within the WHO.

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