

THE HEALTH LAW AND ETHICS RESEARCH INTEREST GROUP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL INVITES YOU TO A

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO) PANDEMIC TREATY WEBINAR

THEME:

**GLOBAL SOLIDARITY IN HEALTH:
UNDERSTANDING THE NEW PANDEMIC TREATY**

DATE: THURSDAY, 24 JULY 2025 | TIME: 15H00 - 16H30

CLICK HERE TO CONFIRM ATTENDANCE



PRESENTERS



Dr Mustaqeem de Gama

Legal Scholar, Trade Negotiator, IP and Access to Medicines Advocate

Topic - 2025 WHO Pandemic Agreement: An Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed deep vulnerabilities in global health systems, demonstrating the lack of coordination, equitable access to medical tools, and readiness for large-scale emergencies. In response, the World Health Organization (WHO) initiated negotiations for a new international legal instrument, commonly referred to as the "WHO Pandemic Treaty." Formally titled the WHO CA+ (Convention, Agreement or other International Instrument), this treaty aims to establish a comprehensive framework for pandemic preparedness, prevention, and response. The discussion will provide an overview of the treaty's context, core provisions, and its potential implications, especially for developing countries, including South Africa and the African Group.



Dr Marietjie Botes

Legal Scholar, Research Fellow: University of Texas and
Honorary Research Fellow: University of KwaZulu-Natal

Topic - Equity in Pandemic Preparedness: South Africa's Prospects under the 2025 WHO Pandemic Agreement

On 20 May 2025, the World Health Assembly adopted the long-awaited WHO Pandemic Agreement, introducing equity as a binding principle for global health emergency preparedness and response. This talk critically explores the agreement's potential to reshape South Africa's pandemic readiness, drawing on the country's experience during COVID-19—marked by delayed vaccine access, intellectual property barriers, and opaque procurement processes. Key provisions such as the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing System, commitments to technology transfer, and procurement transparency offer new avenues for equitable participation. Yet, challenges remain: the treaty's lack of enforceable mechanisms, reliance on voluntary compliance, and ambiguity in pricing standards may dilute its transformative potential. By reflecting on South Africa's past and outlining the domestic reforms needed to leverage this global framework, this presentation assesses whether the new agreement truly signals a shift towards pandemic justice—or risks reproducing old inequities under a new banner.

Website:

<http://datalaw.africa/>

Podcast:

Health Law Podcast

by Professor Donrich Thaldar

We look forward to engaging with you!

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