



**ESMO Statement for the resumed fifth meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB),
12 June 2023**

Honourable Chair, Esteemed Delegates,

Speaking on behalf of our 28,000 members - cancer professionals from over 160 countries - The European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) applauds the efforts towards the development of an equitable Pandemic Accord.

We acknowledge the crucial importance of pandemic prevention and the integral role of primary care. However, we note with great concern that neither the Zero Draft of the WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (“WHO CA+”) nor the Bureau’s text of the CA+ explicitly mention *secondary or tertiary care*.

We urge the negotiating parties to strengthen the wording on the preparedness and resilience of health systems in the current Article 11 [Article 6 of the Bureau’s text] by specifying both secondary and tertiary care, and the need to ensure robust referral systems from primary to these levels of care, where cancer patients are treated. Given that one in five people will develop cancer at some point in their lives, this precision is crucial if we are to not leave millions of patients behind during and beyond pandemics.

We remain available to assist your invaluable efforts to prepare for, and respond to, health emergencies.

Thank you.