

## **Will the International System be able to rebuild a sense of international solidarity?**

**Pierre-Louis Picot**

The COVID-19 pandemic did not spare any continent. It revealed the importance of supranational organisations and cooperation and can be seen as the logical outcome of our intense globalisation. But beyond the obvious pressing financial and health needs, it also highlighted further the incoming environmental emergency. However, while this pandemic has woken national egoisms, when it came to the distrust about the provenance of the vaccines, the creation of strategic stockpiles (the EU purchased 1.6bn of COVID-19 doses for its 448m residents<sup>1</sup>), and even the hijacking of a French order of masks by the United States, in a Chinese airport in March 2020<sup>2</sup>, it also was a period of international cohesion.

Having witnessed that unilateral responses from hegemonies or superpowers are growing less and less efficient, numerous countries have turned to supranational authorities like the WHO or the UN. And even if one should not give more power to said organisations, as they only have the power and authority that is given to them by said states, the role they played during the pandemic rises the question of a possible new international cooperation. Not based on diplomatic and military strength, but on health and the securing of a common global future. There is a need to find a new way to cooperate on global health issues to be found, and with China willing to talk about the global debt, the end of the Trump administration and the presidency of the G20 by Italy, giving power to the EU in the discussions, there are several positive elements falling into line to prepare the return of solidarity on health issues within our international system.

### **References**

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<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/02/global-battle-coronavirus-equipment-masks-tests>

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<sup>1</sup> (Duke Global Health Innovation Center, 2021)

<sup>2</sup> (Connolly, 2020)

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