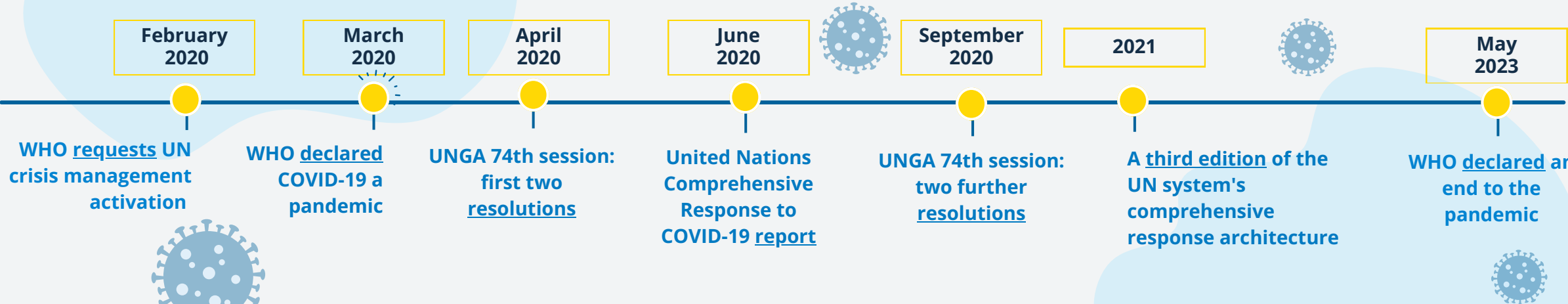




THE SHOCK

COVID-19 was a complex, **cascading global shock that hit every country at once**, overwhelming health systems, collapsing economic activity, and deepening inequality and humanitarian need. **The UN system was not prepared or equipped for it.**



THE RESPONSE

UN's **Crisis Management Team (CMT)**, chaired by World Health Organization (WHO), was a cross-pillar body that brought together the UN's peace and security, humanitarian, development and human rights arms. The CMT coordinated the joint strategy and country-level action across public health, human rights, socio-economic impacts, and travel and trade. The General Assembly endorsed the effort through resolutions on solidarity, equitable access to vaccines and medicines, and a coordinated global response.

“

This pandemic has shown us that this is not only a health crisis requiring medical solutions: its **impact has gone far beyond the health sector** and therefore must involve **whole-of-government and whole-of-society political decision-making and investment.**

”

“COVID-19: Make it the Last Pandemic” - Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPPR).

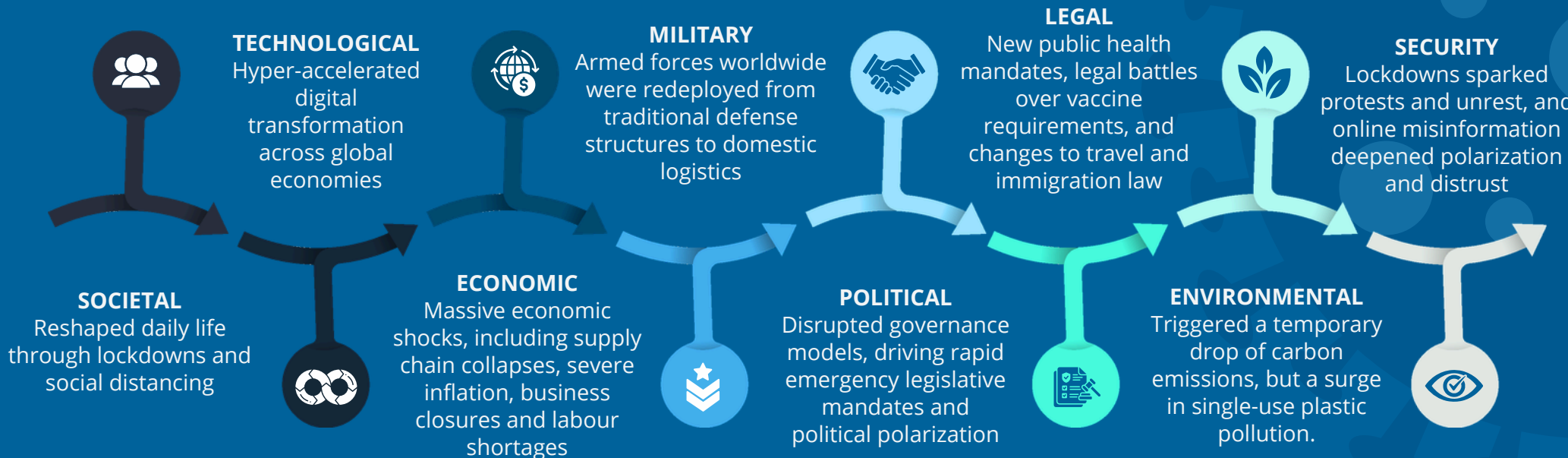
Source: United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19



THE REPERCUSSIONS

By the end of the 2023, **775 million confirmed COVID-19 cases** had been officially reported to the World Health Organization globally, and **7.1 million COVID-19 deaths** had been formally registered worldwide, The WHO estimates total **excess deaths directly and indirectly driven by the pandemic reached between 15 million and 22.1 million globally.**

However, as the UN concluded, COVID-19 was “more than a health crisis” – it was simultaneously a crisis for societal, economic, humanitarian, security, and human rights goals:



Read our [Position Paper: Governance of Complex Global Shocks](#) | [Complex Global Shocks Website](#)

