World Health Organization

Seventy-first World Health Assembly / Soixante et onzième Assemblée mondiale de la Santé
Palais des Nations
May 2018 / Mai 2018

Side event application / Formulaire de demande de réunion parallèle

Contact

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Member States confirmed as co-organizers of the event/Etats Membres confirmés comme co-organisateurs de la réunion: India, Estonia, Nigeria	

Concept

Description of proposed side event, including objective, expected results, proposed programme and speakers* /
Description de la réunion parallèle proposée, y compris les objectifs, les résultats attendus, l'ordre du jour et les orateurs* :

Topic: UHC: **Cyber Threat & Health Security in the era of Digital Health**

Objectives of this side meeting:
- to raise awareness on the issue of cyber threats and health security in the context of digital health and Universal Health Coverage,
- to ensure that innovations in digital health are safeguarded to ensure healthcare and UHC objectives are uninterrupted.

Rational:
The Health sector is witnessing an impressive array of innovations in the field of digital health, enabling new and improved ways to promote health and wellbeing, to deliver health services to the people and to perform diagnostics, disease surveillance and emergency management. These developments are advancing rapidly and contribute significantly to the attainment of healthier lives for all. They have the potential to accelerate progress towards Universal Health Coverage, including access to quality health services, all over the world.

Digital health can leverage and increase healthy life outcomes, bringing health services closer to the people and thus contributing towards the achievement of the SDGs. Examples of digital health can be found throughout all aspects of health systems:
- in health service delivery, such as diagnostic devices (such as NMRs, CT Scanners, digital X-ray Machines) and health devices (such as pacemakers, hearing aids, connected medication devices);
- in health administration, such as medical records, health insurance records, planning tools; and
- in emergency management, such as communication systems, surveillance data management, laboratory management.

While the aforementioned developments are highly instrumental in improving and strengthening our health systems, they also bear certain risks and vulnerabilities, especially in terms of increasing cyber threat, which can

have detrimental effects on national health systems if not addressed early on. With the development of connected devices and the increase of interrelated patient databases (which improve integrated care), the impact of any disruption of these structures make their potential vulnerability highly concerning.

As a matter of fact, it is estimated that, in 2016 alone, healthcare was the 5th most common target of attacks in the UK and the US. Indeed, in the context of cyber threats, various scenarios are imaginable. For the moment, most known examples concern localized but none the less serious incidents like ransomware blocking access to data or data theft. But the number of unreported incidents is suspected to be very high and the nature of cyber threats is developing quickly.

Indeed, cyberattacks can have far reaching consequences by disrupting health service delivery systems on a large scale, jeopardizing emergency response capacities or even causing direct harm, e.g. through compromised access to highly secured viruses or interference with essential health devices.

Consequently, the critical question we have to ask ourselves is: Are our health systems and services, which are evermore information technology-based, ready to cope with these kinds of cyber threats?

The side meeting's aim is to raise awareness on the issue of cyber threats and health security to make sure innovations in the area of digital health are moved forward in a safe and sustainable way.

The topic presented touches on an issue with global impact, relevant to Member States from all regions whether they are advanced in implementing digital health technologies or only at the beginning.

Expected outcome:
An approximation of answers on the following topics:
1. Realistic risk assessment: What are realistic estimates of probability and impact of cyberattacks with public health consequences?
2. What can countries do to manage threats and be prepared? How to reduce the impact of potential attacks, and how to prepare for different scenario? Do our crisis response plans cover cyber threats in an appropriate manner? What does a specific incident response plan look like for this kind of threats?
3. What can countries do in terms of prevention? How can countries embrace digital health technologies in a sustainable and cybersafe manner?

Provisional Agenda
1. Opening Remarks (India, Belgium)
2. Introduction (Video/ Testimonial from a National Health Service representative (UK))
3. Expert Panel (moderated by Belgium) (5 experts)
    a. Panel: Belgium, India, Nigeria, Estonia, WHO
4. Interventions from the floor
5. Closing Remarks
    a. World Health Organization
    b. Belgium

Event details / details de la réunion

Expected number of participants/Nombre de participants attendus : 150
Exact title of the meeting/Titre exact de la réunion: **UHC: Cyber Threat & Health Security in the era of Digital Health**

Interpretation/Interprétation

Interpretation may be provided in the official languages and the estimated costs are as follows: 2 languages: 2561 CHF; 3 languages: 5123 CHF; 6 languages: 11953 CHF.

L'interprétation peut être assurée dans les langues officielles aux coûts estimés suivants : 2 langues-2561 CHF;

3 langues : 5123 CHF; 6 langues : 11953 CHF.

Are interpretation services requested? / L'interprétation est-elle requise ? Yes/Oui ☐ No/Non ☐	
(If yes, which languages)/(Si oui, en quelle langue) ▭ The main language will be English (potential translations to be confirmed)	
English/Anglais ☐ French/Français ☐ Russian/Russe ☐ Spanish/Espagnol ☐ Chinese/Chinois ☐ Arabic/Arabe ☐	
Other language/autre langue: ▭	

Room Layout/Aménagement des salles

Due to type of furniture and technical equipment in the room, the layout of the rooms cannot be changed. For information regarding the location and layout of rooms at the Palais des Nations, please see:
http://www.unog.ch/80256EE60057CB67/(httpPages)/BAE3AF717207A5AF80256EF80049C552?OpenDocument

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*Badges/ Badges d'accès

WHA side events are for participants of the WHA and, as such, panellists and participants should be drawn from those participating in the Health Assembly.

Les réunions parallèles sont réservées aux participants de l'Assemblée; Les orateurs de ces réunions doivent donc être choisis parmi ceux-ci.

Please complete the form and send it to / Merci de remplir le formulaire et de l'envoyer à hqgoverningbodies@who.int