
Public health, innovation and intellectual property: towards a global strategy and plan of action

Follow-up to the first session of the Intergovernmental Working Group

Report by the Secretariat

1. Report of the first Session of the Working Group was issued on 25 January 2007.¹
2. A Circular Letter was despatched on 15 January to Member States to solicit by the end of February 2007 additional inputs to the Working Group's elements of a global plan and strategy,² and proposals for the pool of experts or concerned entities. The additional inputs and suggestions will be incorporated into a revised working document containing the draft global strategy and plan of action which will be made available to Member States in July 2007 for their review. Other background information requested by Member States at the first session of the Working Group will also be made available at that time or earlier.
3. On the basis of proposals from Member States the Director-General, in consultation with the Officers of the Intergovernmental Working Group, will identify a pool of experts and concerned entities, ensuring a balanced representation between regions, developing and developed countries, and female and male experts.
4. Regional consultations organized with support of the regional offices could take place in August and September. Identified experts and concerned entities from the region in question could contribute to these consultations. The regional committees may wish to discuss the working document and the outcome of any regional consultations. A second web-based public hearing to solicit additional inputs and comments to the working document could also be held in August and September.
5. It is intended to hold the second and final session of the Working Group in October 2007 in order to finalize the draft global strategy and plan of action. In the meantime, the Officers of the Working Group will continue to meet as necessary to consider other possible intersessional work and detailed arrangements for the second session.
6. The Secretariat will continue to implement the recommendations of the Commission on Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation and Public Health that are specifically addressed to WHO.

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¹ Document A/PHI/IGWG/1/6.

² Document A/PHI/IGWG/1/5.