Review of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework

The Seventieth World Health Assembly, having considered the report on the 2016 Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework Review Group and the report of the Secretariat on collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international organizations, 1 decided:

(1) to recall WHO’s mandate as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work, and its role under the International Health Regulations (2005) in global outbreak alert and response in respect of public health crises;

(2) to reaffirm the importance of the PIP Framework in addressing present or imminent threats to human health from influenza viruses with pandemic potential, and emphasize its critical function as a specialized international instrument that facilitates expeditious access to influenza viruses of human pandemic potential, risk analysis and the expeditious, fair and equitable sharing of vaccines and other benefits;

(3) to emphasize the importance of prioritizing and supporting global pandemic influenza preparedness and response, including through the strengthening of domestic seasonal influenza virus surveillance, manufacturing and regulatory capacities, and international coordination and collaboration through WHO’s Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System to identify and share influenza viruses with pandemic potential rapidly;

(4) to acknowledge the critical role of Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System in the identification, risk analysis and sharing of influenza viruses with human pandemic potential in order to allow rapid development of diagnostics, vaccines and medicines;

(5) to recognize the significant progress on the rate of conclusion of the Standard Material Transfer Agreements 2, and on the rate of collection of partnership contributions, and the need to maintain progress, as well as the continued need to ensure timely payments by influenza vaccine, diagnostic and pharmaceutical manufacturers using the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System;

(6) to recognize the ongoing consultations and collaboration between WHO and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international organizations;

(7) to commend the useful recommendations of the 2016 PIP Framework Review Group;

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1 Documents A70/17 (Annex) and A70/57.
(8) to request the Director-General:

(a) to take forward expeditiously the recommendations of the PIP Framework Review Group’s report;

(b) regarding the PIP Framework Review Group’s recommendations concerning seasonal influenza and genetic sequence data, to conduct a thorough and deliberative analysis of the issues raised, including the implications of pursuing or not pursuing possible approaches, relying on the 2016 PIP Framework Review and the expertise of the PIP Advisory Group, and transparent consultation of Member States and relevant stakeholders, including the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System;

(c) to continue supporting the strengthening of regulatory capacities and carrying out burden-of-disease studies, which are fundamental foundations for pandemic preparedness;

(d) to continue encouraging manufacturers and other relevant stakeholders to engage in PIP Framework efforts, including, where applicable, by entering into Standard Material Transfer Agreements and making timely annual PIP Partnership Contributions;

(e) to request the External Auditor to perform an audit of PIP Partnership Contribution funds in line with the Review Group’s recommendation to provide: (1) assurances that the WHO financial regulations have been appropriately applied in the use of funds and that the financial information reported is accurate and reliable; and (2) recommendations to further increase the transparency of reporting on the linkages between expenditure and technical impact;

(f) to continue consultations with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international organizations, as appropriate;

(g) to report to the Seventy-first World Health Assembly, on progress in implementing this decision, including indicating the status of the response to the recommendations contained in the report of the PIP Framework Review Group, and to make recommendations on further action.

(Ninth plenary meeting, 29 May 2017)