Member state briefing
March 11, 2021
# The Independent Panel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2020</td>
<td>Resolution 73.1 adopted by World Health Assembly</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2020</td>
<td>WHO Director General appointed Co-Chairs for the Independent Panel</td>
<td>Co-Chairs for the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness &amp; Response.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2020</td>
<td>Secretariat established. Panelist nominations and comments on draft Terms of Reference. Panelists selected</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 2020</td>
<td>Terms of Reference finalized. Independent Panel assembled and held its 1st meeting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 2020</td>
<td>2nd Independent Panel meeting</td>
<td>Executive Board Special Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 2020</td>
<td>Progress report to resumed WHO Health Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 2020</td>
<td>3rd Independent Panel meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 2021</td>
<td>Report to Executive Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 2021</td>
<td>4th Independent Panel meeting (Feb 9-10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2021</td>
<td>5th Independent Panel meeting (March 17-18)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2021</td>
<td>6th Independent Panel meeting (April 14-15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2021</td>
<td>Presentation of report at World Health Assembly</td>
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Status of panels work

Turning the analyses and fact-base established into...

Work 1st – 4th Panel Meetings

1. Lessons learned
   - 2.1 Impact and epidemiology
   - 2.2 Recommendations made
   - 2.3 National and Sub-National Response

2. Review the present
   - 3.1 How health systems coped
   - 3.2 Communities and information
   - 3.3 Wider impact (economic and society)

3. Understand the impacts

4. Change the future
   - 4.1 The World Health Organization
   - 4.2 The International System at large

5th Panel meeting

"Options for recommendations for a ‘reset’ of the International Systems”
# Theme 1 – Learning from and building on the past

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Methodologies &amp; Next Steps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Discuss and analyse the history and dynamics of global health security, threats and pandemics</td>
<td>1. Literature review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Present a short depiction of responses to other global health threats (e.g. HIV, AMR)</td>
<td>2. Overview of committees and panels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Describe prior learnings of countries in earlier pandemics</td>
<td>3. Preliminary Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Summarize the prior learnings from earlier pandemics, esp. concerning WHO / IHR</td>
<td>4. Further Analysis</td>
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**Preliminary observations**

- In a globalized and urbanized world, fast-spreading outbreaks are increasingly difficult to manage, even in high-income countries.
- This pandemic has been different to previous outbreaks: Direct and indirect impacts to societies across the world, infodemics, geopolitical tensions.
- The International Health Regulations (IHR) were not effective enough; country core capacities for preparedness and response capacities were not sufficient; alert systems and mechanism need revision; results of assessments and evaluations were misleading.
- Frequent recommendations on strengthening WHO’s role as the leading and coordinating organization in the field of health, for both: normative and operational work.
- Many previous recommendations by panels and committees have not been implemented; Main reasons: some are newer; political processes take time; financing issues; Member States not following binding IHR enough due to lack of e.g., sanctions.
- Factors important for positive implementation: 1) A crucial momentum (e.g., the Ebola crisis in West Africa), leading to 2) an amplified political attention to global health security on the national and international level, 3) allowing an increase in available financing, while 4) avoiding difficult and lengthy negotiations (e.g., by not touching the IHR).
# Theme 2 – Reviewing the Present

## The Chronology

### Chronology Legend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCIENE OR NEWS REPORT</th>
<th>Themes</th>
<th>Icons</th>
<th>Strength of Research</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Headline</strong></td>
<td>- Actions</td>
<td>- Annotations</td>
<td>1 - low quality (pre-print)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Author/Actor</strong></td>
<td>- Real-time facts</td>
<td>- Key events</td>
<td>2 - medium (peer reviewed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Published: &lt;&lt;Date&gt;&gt;</strong></td>
<td>- Retrospective facts</td>
<td>- Private document</td>
<td>3 - high quality (top tier journal)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Caption</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Public document</td>
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</table>

**Source**

Links to other sources e.g. news release
Theme 2 – Technical and strategic guidance

**Progress update**

1. Desk review & establishing data base with 900+ recommendations
2. Work with IOAC & IHR Review Committee
3. Expert consultations
4. Roundtable discussion (“Science to policy”, January 14)
5. Analysis of information provided by WHO
6. Analysis of the mechanisms involved in the provision of technical and strategic guidance by WHO (*document*)
7. Integrated work (“deep dives”), analysing selected recommendations (e.g. community masks, school closures etc.)

![Recommendations per month](chart)

- **WHO-HQ**
- **WHO-ROs**
- **UN organizations**
- **CDCs**
- **AU+EU**
Theme 2 – National and subnational response

**APPROACH**
- Prior epidemic experiences
- Leadership and coordination
- Scientific advice
- Community engagement
- Financing
- Prioritisation – public health vs. economic drivers

**STRATEGY**
- Elimination
- Suppression
- Mitigation
- No substantive strategy

**INTERVENTIONS**
- Border controls
- Public health measures
- Social & economic supports
- Health system resilience

**INNER CONTEXT**
*Pandemic driven; shorter term; dynamic (waves)*
- Virus and disease characteristics
- Waves of the pandemic
- Emergence of variants of concern
- Exacerbated inequities within countries
- Heightened economic vulnerabilities
- Climate change and healthcare
- Impacts in congregate settings
- Media and public discourse

**OUTER CONTEXT**
*Pre-existing, longer term; more fixed*
- History and colonialism
- Geography
- Demographics
- Social cohesion
- Culture
- Health systems
- Economic factors
- Securitisation
- Politics & political institutions
- Environment and climate crisis
- Legal frameworks & precedents
- International politics
- Global health

**PROCESSES**
### Theme 3 - Impact on Health Systems

#### Progress made

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Impact on Essential Health Services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Impact in HICs, elderly &amp; HWs, mid-long-term impact, recovery updated</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ 28 country comparative analysis on HS drafted (to be shared)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B. Access to Essential Supplies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Roundtable complete with consistent perspectives on future systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ CSCS assessment data integrated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Additional interview with countries</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C. Access to Vaccines, Therapeutics, Diagnostics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Vaccine Roundtable complete with broad set of participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Vaccine report submitted, with latest data and review of COVAX, China &amp; Russia, IPR, etc.</td>
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#### Next steps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work largely done (update data in April/May)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Country interviews and 28 country case study synthesis as part of “national response” work</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Focus groups with HWs in HICs and LMICs</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work largely done</th>
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<tr>
<td>• A few follow-ups (e.g., with WHO, WB, AMSP)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>More work to be done</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Analysis on therapeutics and diagnostics</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Therapeutics and diagnostics roundtable</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Follow up synthesis on future international systems (with “Intl system at large” PoW)</td>
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### Theme 3 - Communication and Communities

#### Progress made

1. **A. Risk communication**
   - Desk review of risk communication in previous outbreaks until today
   - Analysis of the evolution of RCCE at WHO
   - Analyzing WHO messaging at key points

2. **B. The “infodemic”**
   - Desk review of impact of social media in recent outbreaks & COVID

3. **C. National reviews**
   - Pulling initial findings from RCCE 28-country review

4. **D. Communities**
   - Desk review of community engagement strategies in disease outbreaks and categorizing areas for engagement

5. **E. Community Health Workers**
   - Review and synthesis of proposals for CHWs engagement in outbreak response

#### Next steps

- **Interviews:** WHO Communication and RCCE team, other UN agencies, ECDC, African CDC, CSOs (IFRC), country communication heads, journalists. **Integrate recommendations within other relevant sections.**

- **Analysis** of WHO messaging at key points (e.g. HtH, masking, aerosolized); further understanding of “infodemiology.” **Social media roundtable. Analysis of existing KAP surveys.**

- **Additional analysis and round table:** with select country communication/engagement staff.

- **Additional analysis and round table:** with select country communication/engagement staff.

- **Additional analysis, case studies for positive outliers, and townhall:** on CHWs engagement in COVID-19 response.
Theme 3 - The socio-economic impacts

Scope

• Consider the human, social and economic impacts associated with the pandemic

• Consider the determinants of vulnerability to COVID-19, such as age, health status, and the vulnerabilities of underserved groups, the availability or not of health coverage and social safety nets, and other factors

Approach

Draw on information and analyses available from key multilateral institutions

Commission two independent papers to guide the Panel’s discussion and inform its recommendations

• 1st Paper focus on the economic dimensions. Led by Eduardo Levy Yeyati, Dean of the School of Government at Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Argentina.

• 2nd paper focus on social dimensions. Led by Paola Pereznieto at the Overseas Development Institute.

Mini-symposia

• A first mini-symposium took place 2nd February with the regional development banks and other partners and provided an opportunity to capture regional lessons and perspectives.

• A second mini-symposium 26 February to present and discuss the two commissioned papers with key multilateral and national partners and researchers.
Toward 5th panel meeting 17-18 March

- **Gap analysis and options for recommendations** for a “reset” of the international systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analyze gaps and lessons</th>
<th>Prioritize key areas for recommendations</th>
<th>Develop &amp; analyze options for recommendations</th>
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</table>
| • Summarize analysis of lessons for each phase by actor (WHO, Intl. systems, countries) and by function | • Prioritize key areas for the Panel to make recommendations based on:  
  o Impact  
  o Distinct value-add by the Panel  
  o Gravity of the moment | • Guiding principles for “resetted” Intl. systems  
• Develop options for recommendations for each issue  
  (background papers to be used for this)  
• Analyze the options based on impact and feasibility, timeline |
| • Synthesize and integrate findings for each phase across actors | | |
In summary......

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>What should the ideal system do?</th>
<th>Functions</th>
<th>What happened and How it happened</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>WHO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preparedness</td>
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<td></td>
<td>International Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Detection and Alert</td>
<td>Leadership &amp; coordination</td>
<td></td>
<td>National responses</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Access to resources (in kind and cash)</td>
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<td>Cross-sectional synthesis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early response</td>
<td>Access to data/knowledge</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Communications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustained response</td>
<td>Accountability/compliance</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Function by Function synthesis</td>
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Summarize what worked and what did work less well for each phase by actor (WHO, Intl. systems, countries)

Integrate findings for each phase across actors

Synthesize findings for key functions across phases
Pandemic preparedness and response phases for analysis of gaps and lessons

Phases and functions (not exhaustive)

- Prepare for containment and response of different types of diseases
- Monitor, support, incentivize countries' preparedness

- Monitoring, evidence-based advice, TA
- Scaled emergency responses by countries
- Access to essential supplies, new Vx, Tx, Dx

- Detect signs of pandemic
- Investigate disease
- Alert the emergence of pandemic

- Evidence-based advice to on disease & responses
- Rapid PH responses by countries
- Essential supplies
- Early R&D investment