

## **Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)**

### **Draft plan for the first review of the functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) in relation to pandemic (H1N1) 2009**

1. In 2008, the Sixty-first World Health Assembly decided in resolution WHA61.2 that the first review of the functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) (an event that must take place no later than five years after their entry into force) should be made by the Sixty-third World Health Assembly in May 2010.
2. In view of the currently evolving pandemic (H1N1) 2009 and the Health Assembly decision concerning the review of the functioning of the Regulations, the Executive Board at its 126th session welcomed the Director-General's proposal to convene the IHR Review Committee provided for in Chapter III of Part IX of the International Health Regulations (2005) and to request it to review the experience gained in the global response, in order to inform the review of the functioning of the Regulations; to help assess and, where appropriate, to modify the ongoing response; and to strengthen preparedness for future pandemics.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE REVIEW**

3. The review has three aims:
  - (i) to assess the functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) in relation to the current pandemic (H1N1) 2009 and other public health events;
  - (ii) to review the scope, appropriateness, effectiveness, and responsiveness of global actions as well as the role of the WHO Secretariat in supporting pandemic preparedness, alert and response in relation to the pandemic;
  - (iii) based on the above, to identify and review the major lessons learnt from the global response to the current pandemic and to recommend actions to be taken by Member States and the Director-General to strengthen the preparedness and response to potential future influenza pandemics and other public health emergencies.

## SCOPE

4. The scope of the review will encompass an assessment of international preparedness, alert and response in relation to the current and evolving pandemic of H1N1 influenza.
5. The review of the functioning of the Regulations will include aspects of the core capacities required for surveillance and response (Annex 1 of the Regulations), the functioning of the national focal points, provision of information, guidance and assistance, cooperation among international organizations, as well as the functioning of the Emergency Committee, and the effectiveness of temporary recommendations made in relation to the pandemic and the definition of pandemic phases.
6. The review of the Secretariat's role in supporting the preparedness, alert and response to the pandemic will include preparedness and planning; disease surveillance and epidemiology; risk assessment; communications; technical support for outbreak response; pharmaceuticals development and access; resource mobilization; and coordination. It will also include the work of relevant expert committees, advisory groups and other scientific groups providing advice to WHO, and the appropriateness of recommendations made by WHO as a result of their work.

## METHODOLOGY AND TIMELINE

7. The review will be conducted by the IHR Review Committee in accordance with Chapter III of Part IX of the Regulations, supported by technical experts and the Secretariat, as appropriate, in relevant aspects of public health and pandemic preparedness. The Director-General will select members of the Review Committee on the basis of the principles of equitable geographical representation, gender balance, a balance of experts from developed and developing countries, representation of a diversity of scientific opinion, approaches and practical experience in various parts of the world, and an appropriate interdisciplinary balance.
8. The Director-General will convene the first session of the Review Committee prior to the Sixty-third World Health Assembly, presenting the Committee's preliminary findings to that session in May 2010. Subject to the wishes of the governing bodies, a final report would be presented to the Sixty-fourth World Health Assembly in May 2011.

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