

Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)

Report by the Director-General

CRITERIA FOR EXTENSIONS IN 2014

1. The International Health Regulations (2005) set out a time frame within which States Parties are to “develop, strengthen and maintain” the national core capacities described in Annex 1 of the Regulations. For the great majority of States Parties the target date to achieve this was 15 June 2012. The Regulations also provide for extensions to the target date and more than 100 States Parties have requested two-year extensions.
2. Under the International Health Regulations (2005), an additional extension may be requested for a period not exceeding two years. It is anticipated that this will be sought by a significant number of countries after the expiry of the first two-year extension in 2014. According to the Regulations, this request is granted by the Director-General in exceptional circumstances and when the request is supported by a new implementation plan. In this connection, resolution WHA65.23 requests the Director-General “to develop and publish the criteria to be used in 2014 by the Director-General (...) when making decisions about the granting of any further extensions”.
3. The criteria proposed by the Secretariat are reported to the Executive Board in this Addendum in order that Member States have adequate foreknowledge of the criteria to be used when considering future extension requests and to provide an opportunity for Member States to obtain advice and direction. In proposing these criteria the Secretariat seeks to ensure that obstacles to any States’ full participation in the Regulations are not being created. At the same time, the aim is to provide a concrete incentive to ensure that the national capacities on which Global Health Security relies are indeed present throughout the world.

CRITERIA PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARIAT

4. Based on the requirements stated in the Regulations, the first criterion proposed by the Secretariat is that a **State Party makes a formal request in writing to the Director-General at least four months in advance of the target date** (which for most countries is 15 June 2014). This request must include a statement explaining the exceptional circumstances that have prevented the development and maintenance of the national International Health Regulations (2005) capacities.

5. Secondly any such request must be accompanied by a **new implementation plan** that includes the following elements: (1) a clear and specific identification of those capacity elements that are missing or inadequate; (2) a description of the activities and progress made in establishing those capacities up until that date; (3) a set of proposed actions that will be undertaken and a specified time frame to ensure the capacities are present; and (4) an estimation of the technical support and financial resources required to implement these activities; the proportion of these resources that will be invested from national budgets; and the extent of any external support required.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

6. The Executive Board is invited to take note of this report.

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