

Strengthening of the International Health Regulations (2005) through a process for revising the regulations through potential amendments

**Draft decision proposed by Albania, Australia, Canada, Colombia,
India, Japan, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea,
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States
of America, Uruguay and Member States of the European Union**

(PP1) The Executive Board, having considered the interim report of the Member States Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness for and Response to Health Emergencies (WGPR)¹ and the report of the Director-General on Strengthening WHO Preparedness for and Response to Health Emergencies;²

(PP2) Recognizing the critical importance of the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) in preventing, preparing for, and responding to health emergencies;

(PP3) Underscoring the importance of States Parties' implementation of and compliance with the IHR (2005), including regarding collaboration and international cooperation, and developing, maintaining and strengthening core capacities;

(PP4) Emphasizing the importance of solidarity and equitable access to and distribution of medical countermeasures in the context of health emergencies as well as strengthening the health and care workforce and addressing access concerns;

(PP5) Noting with concern the negative effects of discrimination, misinformation, disinformation and stigmatization on public health emergency prevention, preparedness and response, as well as unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade, and recognizing the need for strengthened coordination;

(PP6) Noting the recommendations aimed at strengthening implementation of, compliance with, and modernizing the IHR (2005) from the report of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response,³ the report of the Review Committee on the Functioning of the IHR (2005),⁴ the report

¹ Document EB150/16.

² Document EB150/15.

³ Document A74/INF./2.

⁴ Document A74/9 Add.1.

of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme,¹ and the Global Preparedness and Monitoring Board,² as well as recommendations from the Review Committee on the Role of the IHR (2005) in the Ebola Outbreak and Response,³ the Ebola Interim Assessment Panel,⁴ and the UN High-Level Panel on Global Responses to Health Crises;⁵

(PP7) Bearing in mind the importance of ensuring coherence, complementarity and communication between different processes that will run in parallel, including the process for developing the new instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and the ongoing work under resolution WHA74.7, and ensuring coordination between those processes in order to avoid creating an excessive burden on Member States.

(OP1) Noting the urgent need to further strengthen implementation of, and compliance with, the IHR (2005), and mindful that Member States face challenges, including inter alia, due to capacity constraints and insufficient global solidarity and collaboration, decided:

(OP1.1) To note that the WGPR will include, as part of its ongoing work, dedicated time to allow for discussions on strengthening of the IHR (2005), including through implementation, compliance and potential amendments.

(OP1.2) To urge Member States⁶ to take all appropriate measures to consider potential amendments to the IHR (2005), with the understanding that this would not lead to reopening the entire instrument for renegotiation. Such amendments should be limited in scope and address specific and clearly identified issues, challenges, including equity, technological or other developments, or gaps that could not effectively be addressed otherwise but are critical to supporting effective implementation and compliance of the IHR (2005), and their universal application for the protection of all people of the world from the international spread of disease in an equitable manner.

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¹ Document A74/16.

² 2019, 2020, and 2021 reports of the Global Preparedness and Monitoring Board (GPMB).

³ Document A69/21.

⁴ <https://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/ebola/report-by-panel.pdf>.

⁵ Document A/70/723.

⁶ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.