

Review Committee on the functioning of the IHR (2005) during the COVID-19 response

Chair's briefing to the EB, 6 October 2020

Professor Dr Lothar Wieler, Chair of the IHR Review Committee

Context and mandate for the IHR Review Committee on Covid-19

- The World Health Assembly Resolution **WHA73.1, OP 9, sub-para (10)**: “Request the Director-General [...] to initiate, [...] a stepwise process of impartial, independent and comprehensive evaluation, ... including ... (ii) **the functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) and the status of implementation of the relevant recommendations of previous IHR Review Committees; ...**
- The IHR Review Committee is established by the Director-General in line with Article 50 of the IHR (2005), with the following functions (*inter alia*):
 - (a) make technical recommendations to the Director-General regarding amendments to the Regulations;
 - (b) provide technical advice to the Director-General on any matter referred to it by the Director-General regarding the functioning of these Regulations.

*including an **IHR Review Committee** and the IOAC

Scope of work of the Review Committee

This IHR Review Committee is expected to review the functioning of the IHR during COVID-19 pandemic with reference to IHR provisions, as appropriate, related to, but not limited to:

- outbreak alert, verification and risk assessment, information sharing and communication;
- international coordination and collaboration, including the role of the National IHR Focal Points;
- Emergency Committee's working modalities, and declaration of a public health emergency of international concern, including the need for intermediate level of alert;
- additional health measures implemented by States Parties in relation to international travel;
- IHR core capacities implementation and reporting, including the possible establishment of peer review processes;
- progress made on the implementation of recommendations from previous IHR Review Committees.

Members of the IHR Review Committee

Vice-Chair: Prof Lucille Blumberg,
South Africa

Chair: Prof Lothar H. Wieler,
Germany

Rapporteur: Dr Preben Aavistland,
Norway

Members

Dr Ximena Aguilera, Chile
Dr Yasir Ibrahim Ahmed, Maldives
Dr Seif Salam Al-Abri, Oman
Colonel (retired) Vincent Anami, Kenya
Dr Thourarya Annabi Attia, Tunisia
Dr Carmen Aramburu, Spain
Dr Kalpana Baruah, India
Dr Malinee Chittanganpitch, Thailand
Mr John Lavery, Canada
Prof James LeDuc, United States of America

Dr Dexin Li, People's Republic of China
Dr Rinat Maksyutov, Russian Federation
Dr Talat Mokhtari Azad, Islamic Republic of Iran
Dr Mohamed Moussif, Morocco
Ms Olubunmi Ojo, Nigeria
Dr Jean-Marie Okwo-Bele, Democratic Republic of the Congo
Dr Tomoya Saito, Japan
Dr Amadou Alpha Sall, Senegal
Dr Mark Salter, United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland
Prof Myongsei Sohn, Republic of Korea

<https://www.who.int/teams/ihr/ihr-review-committees/covid-19>

Progress of the IHR Review Committee on Covid-19

- Packed work schedule:
 - 4 closed virtual meetings since 8 September 2020, 1 open meeting
 - continue with weekly virtual meetings at least until November 2020, sub-groups weekly meetings
 - monthly open meetings, next on 7 October
- Method of work through 3 sub-groups, with reporting and deliberations in plenary:
 - Identify and prioritize questions for deliberations in relation to the terms of reference and relevant IHR articles
 - Identify documentation required for deliberations
 - Identify resource persons for interviews – already 4 interviews, including chairs of previous Review Committees
 - Review submissions from Member States, UN agencies, NSAs – 5 Member States and 1 NSA submitted input so far
 - Design of the IHR as a legal instrument and possible amendments may be discussed at a later stage.
- The Committee welcomes inputs from Member States: these can be provided during the open meetings or submitted through the IHR Review Committee Secretariat.

Preliminary areas of consideration by sub-group

Preparedness sub-group	Alert sub-group	Response sub-group
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IHR core capacities assessment, monitoring and reporting (Articles 5, 13, and Annex 1)• Pandemic preparedness planning• Preparedness for an unexpected event	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notification, outbreak alert and verification (Articles 6-10)• Risk assessment, provision of information (Articles 11)• Emergency Committee's working modalities, PHEIC declaration, possible intermediate level of alert (Articles 1, 12, 15, 48, 49, Annex 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travel and trade restrictions compliance (Article 43)• Collaboration and coordination (Article 44)• Communication and information sharing

Coordination among the three evaluation panels

- Regular meetings among Co-chairs of the Independent panel for pandemic preparedness and response, the Chair of the IHR Review Committee and the Chair of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee
 - First calls held on 2-3 October
 - Next calls to be decided
- Matrix mapping the areas for consideration and the depth of focus for each of the panels - under development
- Regular exchange of findings and relevant common documentations to avoid duplication of efforts and complement work – through the regular meetings of the Chairs

Timeline: achieved and planned steps

