

Special session of the World Health Assembly to consider developing a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response

Draft decision proposed by Albania, Australia, Azerbaijan, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Fiji, Georgia, Iceland, Indonesia, Kenya, Montenegro, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Member States of the European Union

The Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly,

OP 1. DECIDES:

- (1) to request the Member States Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies to prioritize the assessment of the benefits of developing a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response and to provide a report to be considered at the special session of the Health Assembly referred to in paragraph OP1.2 of this decision;
- (2) to request the Director General to convene a special session of the World Health Assembly in November 2021, and to include on the agenda of the special session only one item dedicated to considering the benefits of developing a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response with a view towards the establishment of an intergovernmental process to draft and negotiate such convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response, taking into account the report of the Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies referred to in paragraph OP1.1;
- (3) to request the Executive Board at its 149th session to determine, in accordance with Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly, that the special session of the Health Assembly referred to in paragraph OP1.2 of this decision will be held from

29 November 2021 to 1 December 2021 at WHO headquarters, either in person or virtually, if limitations to physical meetings preclude the holding of the special session in person;

(4) to suspend, in accordance with Rule 122 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly, and with respect to the above-referenced Special Session, the requirement of Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly under which the Director-General is to convene a special session of the Health Assembly within 90 days of the receipt of the request therefor.

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