



JOURNAL

Second special session of the World Health Assembly

Journal No. 2 30 November 2021

Programme of meetings

Time	Plenary
10:00	Third meeting
14:30	Fourth meeting

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Interpretation

Interpretation will be provided in the official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) to help delegates to follow the discussions. Delegates are requested to speak clearly and at a normal speaking pace to enable clear and accurate interpretation through the virtual platform. Copies of all statements should be submitted at least one hour in advance by email to interpret@who.int. Clearly indicate the name of the country delegation/group in the subject line of the email. Note: a statement of three minutes at normal speaking pace is equivalent to approximately 330 words.

Documentation

Documents for the Second special session of the World Health Assembly are available at: https://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_whassa2.html#top on the WHO website.

1. Programme of work

Tuesday, 30 November 2021

Third and fourth meetings

10:00 and 14:30

Item 1.2 continued

- Report of the Committee on Credentials
 - Document SSA2/4

Item 2 continued

Consideration of 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 a 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

- Documents SSA2/3, SSA2/CONF./1 Rev.1, SSA2/CONF./1 Rev.1 Add.1 and SSA2/INF./2

Wednesday, 1 December 2021

Fifth and sixth meetings

10:00 and 14:00

Item 2 continued

Consideration of 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 a 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

- Documents SSA2/3, SSA2/CONF./1 Rev.1, SSA2/CONF./1 Rev.1 Add.1 and SSA2/INF./2

Item 3

Closure of the Health Assembly

Closing ceremony

2. Report of meetings

First meeting

In the Chair:

H.E. Professor Benjamin Hounkpatin (Benin)

First Vice-President of the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly

Item 1

Opening of the Health Assembly

H.E. Professor Benjamin Hounkpatin, acting in the capacity of the President of the Health Assembly, opened the special session of the World Health Assembly and invited H.E. Mr Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, (President of the Republic of Kazakhstan) to provide some opening remarks.

Opening ceremony

The Vice-President welcomed, on behalf of the Health Assembly and the World Health Organization, the special guests, H.E. Alain Berset, Federal Councillor, Head of the Federal Department of Home Affairs of the Swiss Confederation, H.E. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, H.E. Sebastian Pinera, President of the Republic of Chile, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.E. Lionel Rouwen Aingimea, President of the Republic of Nauru, H.E. Charles Michel, President of the European Council, H.E. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, Dr Richard Hatchett, Chief Executive Officer of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, and Professor Dale Fisher, President of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network and invited them to address the Health Assembly.

At the invitation of the Vice-President, the WHO Director-General addressed the Assembly.

The Vice-President provided brief opening remarks.

The Assembly was asked to consider the special procedures to regulate the conduct of the hybrid meetings of the Second special session of the World Health Assembly, as contained in the annex of document SSA2/2. The special procedures were adopted by the Assembly.

The Vice-President proposed that, as Dr Amelia Flores (Guatemala) was no longer in a position to serve as Vice-President, Dr Francisco José Coma Martín (Guatemala) be elected to serve in that capacity. The Assembly agreed with this proposal.

Item 1.1

Adoption of the agenda

One delegation took the floor to request that the European Union be invited to attend and participate without vote in the deliberations of the meetings, sub-committees, drafting groups or other subdivisions thereof, and addressing matters falling within the European Union competence in the Second special session of the World Health Assembly.

The Health Assembly adopted the agenda as contained in document SSA2/1.

Item 1.2

Credentials

The Vice-President proposed that the Committee on Credentials appointed by the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly be reappointed by the special session as constituted by the delegates of the following 12 Member States:

- Andorra
- Australia
- Cameroon
- Haiti
- Iceland
- Mali
- Monaco
- Namibia
- Panama
- Singapore
- Somalia
- Thailand

Item 2

Consideration of 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 a 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

The Assembly was asked to consider the report of the Member States Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies to the special session of the World Health Assembly, as contained in document SSA2/3. At the invitation of the Vice-President, the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on strengthening WHO preparedness and response to health emergencies introduced the report of the working group.

The Vice-President invited statements by delegations and asked the Secretariat to moderate the session. The delegate of Botswana (who spoke on behalf of the African Region), and the delegate of Iraq (who spoke on behalf of the Member States of the Eastern Mediterranean Region) addressed the Assembly. These speakers were followed by the delegates of Fiji (who spoke on behalf of the Western Pacific Region), Slovenia (who spoke on behalf of the European Union), Brazil (who spoke on behalf of MERCOSUR (Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay), Portugal, Slovenia, Kenya, and the Russian Federation (who spoke on behalf of the Union State of Russia and Belarus).

The meeting was adjourned.

Second meeting

In the Chair:

H.E. Professor Benjamin Hounkpatin (Benin)

First Vice-President of the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly

Item 2 continued

Consideration of 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 a 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

The Vice-President resumed consideration of item 2 and invited the first two speakers to address the Assembly: the delegate of Ecuador and the delegate of the United States of America. These speakers were followed by the delegates of South Africa (on behalf of the Group of Southern African countries), Peru, Pakistan, New Zealand, Austria, France, Ghana, Finland, Argentina, Egypt, Australia, Italy, Germany, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Algeria, Norway, Turkey, Poland, Burkina Faso, Brazil, Belgium, Spain, Maldives, Indonesia, Morocco, Botswana, Denmark, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Mozambique, South Africa, Lithuania, Mexico, Hungary, China, Cuba, Jamaica, Chile, El Salvador, Angola, Nigeria, Monaco and Malta.

In accordance with Rule 57 of the Rules of Procedure, the delegations of the United States of America and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela exercised the right of reply.

The Vice-President announced that, due to time constraints, delegations who had requested to speak would be given the floor at the beginning of the next session, when discussion of this item would continue.

The meeting was adjourned.

Committee on Credentials

The Committee on Credentials held its first meeting and elected the following officers in accordance with Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure: H.E. Carole Lanteri (Monaco), Chair; and Dr Lyn James (Singapore), Vice-Chair.

The Committee found the credentials of the 170 Members listed in the Annex to its Report to be in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly, and proposed that the World Health Assembly recognize their validity. A recommendation concerning the representation of Myanmar is also contained in the Report of the Committee.

3. Arrangement for the conduct of discussion in meetings

Member States, Associate Members, Observers, invited representatives of the United Nations and of other participating intergovernmental organizations and non-State actors in official relations will be provided with the opportunity to take the floor under agenda item 2.

Verbal statements

Member State delegations are asked to observe the time limit for verbal statements during the virtual sessions: individual statements by Member States and Associate Members will be limited to three minutes (330 words). Regional and group statements will be limited to four minutes (440 words). Delegations providing group statements are discouraged from taking the floor subsequently to provide a national statement. In addition, delegations on whose behalf a group statement is provided, are discouraged from subsequently taking the floor except to provide any brief additional comments that were not covered by the group statement.

Statements by Observers, invited representatives of the United Nations and of other participating intergovernmental organizations will be limited to two minutes (220 words) and statements by non-State actors in official relations with the Organization will be limited to one minute.

To ensure that statements are interpreted as clearly as possible, delegates are requested to submit a copy of their statements at least **one hour** in advance by email to interpret@who.int, to close windows to reduce background noise and to use high quality headsets with echo cancelling microphones.

Written statements

Member States and Associate Members are invited to submit written statements for posting on the website in the language of submission in accordance with the guidelines for written statements in decision EB146(17).

Observers, invited representatives of the United Nations and of other participating and intergovernmental organizations are also invited to submit written statements in accordance with those guidelines. Non-State actors are invited to submit written statements as per the practical information for representatives of non-State actors in official relations with WHO.

In accordance with the guidelines, statements may be provided in any of the six WHO official languages and should be limited to 500 words for individual statements and 800 words for group statements. They should be submitted to statements@who.int, clearly indicating the relevant agenda item or sub-item in the subject line.

Video statements

Pre-recorded statements will be played in lieu of live interventions as per the speakers list. Video statements will be included in the live streaming and therefore will be included in the official records.

4. Announcements

Hybrid meeting format for the Health Assembly

As decided by the Executive Board, up to two delegates per Member State or Associate Member will be given physical access to the meeting room.

The Zoom platform will be used for delegates joining the Health Assembly virtually. In order to ensure good sound quality on the virtual platform, please ensure that when taking the floor to deliver a statement, you select the language on the interpretation channel in which you are planning to speak and use high-quality headsets with echo cancelling microphones and webcam. We recommend that you use a personal computer, rather than a smartphone or tablet, and download the latest version of the Zoom software. Please deliver your statement at a moderate speed that allows for its interpretation and ensures your message is conveyed clearly and accurately.

Support

For support related to physical access to the meeting room, please contact INDICO@who.int. For support related to the virtual platform, please send an email to GBS-IT-Support@who.int.

Video streaming

The sessions will be webcast in the six UN languages. The webcasts can be viewed on Mac and PCs, as well as all mobile devices including iPhone, iPad, Android and Windows-enabled phones.

Arabic:	https://player.4am.ch/who/20211129-1201_WHA74/player.html?lang=ar
Chinese:	https://player.4am.ch/who/20211129-1201_WHA74/player.html?lang=zh
English:	https://player.4am.ch/who/20211129-1201_WHA74/player.html?lang=en
French:	https://player.4am.ch/who/20211129-1201_WHA74/player.html?lang=fr
Russian:	https://player.4am.ch/who/20211129-1201_WHA74/player.html?lang=ru
Spanish:	https://player.4am.ch/who/20211129-1201_WHA74/player.html?lang=es

5. Provisional list of speakers

Delegates can view the speaker's list at any given time:

<https://extranet.who.int/dataformv3/index.php/reporting/module/267452>

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