

Report of the meeting

Interim report of the meeting

1. The open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) on the WHO Pandemic Agreement held its fourth meeting from 1 to 5 December 2025 under the leadership of Ambassador Tovar da Silva Nunes of Brazil and Mr Matthew Harpur of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as Co-Chairs, with Ambassador Vuyile Dlamini of the Kingdom of Eswatini, Dr Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari of the State of Qatar, Dr Viroj Tangcharoensathien of the Kingdom of Thailand and Ms Madeleine Heyward of Australia as Vice-Chairs.
2. In his opening remarks, the Director-General reiterated the urgency of the work of the IGWG to submit the PABS Annex to the Health Assembly in May 2026, in line with its mandate. Recognizing the limited time, the Director-General encouraged the IGWG to find solutions, move towards convergence and forge a compromise text. He expressed confidence in the IGWG members and emphasized that the world could not afford to miss the opportunity or risk being underprepared for the next pandemic.
3. Discussions on agenda items 1 (Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda and programme of work); 5 (Report of the meeting); and 6 (Closure of the session) were publicly webcast with the participation of Relevant Stakeholders (Annexes A–E). The discussions on agenda items 2 (Draft PABS Annex text); 3 (Proposals from Member States of entities to be included in Annex D and/or Annex E of document A/IGWG/2/4 (if any)); and 4 (Next steps) were held with the participation of IGWG members (namely Member States, Associate Members and regional economic integration organizations) and the Observer delegations of Palestine and the Holy See. Relevant Stakeholders (Annexes A–E) were invited to join for open sessions each day where they were updated on progress and provided their views. An extended session was also held with Relevant Stakeholders to discuss key matters.
4. In relation to agenda item 2 (Draft PABS Annex text), the IGWG members continued negotiations and discussions on the draft PABS Annex text, on the basis of the on-screen text from the third meeting of the IGWG. Initial convergence was found on certain parts of the text. The IGWG also discussed submissions from IGWG members, including on scope and use of terms, modalities of access and benefit-sharing, governance of the PABS System and a possible PABS advisory group, and proposals for draft contracts for the PABS System. In view of the mandate of the IGWG to submit its outcome regarding the PABS Annex to the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly, the IGWG decided to hold a resumed session of the fourth meeting of the IGWG to be held from 20 to 22 January 2026. In addition, the Bureau was requested to continue to facilitate

informal focused discussions with all IGWG members during the intersessional period as well as the resumed session, including through inclusive regional and cross regional discussions, to support the IGWG in working towards convergence. The IGWG further requested the Bureau to present proposals for sections of texts for a draft PABS Annex, in advance of the resumed session of the fourth meeting of the IGWG, building upon the on-screen text and inputs provided by IGWG members.

5. The IGWG requested the Secretariat to provide technical information on: interactions between the International Health Regulations (2005) and the PABS System; WHO-coordinated laboratory network structure and terms of reference; and approaches for possible WHO-recognized sequence databases.

6. With respect to agenda item 3 (Proposals from Member States of entities to be included in Annex D and/or Annex E of document A/IGWG/2/4 (if any)), the IGWG agreed to reflect the change of names of two entities listed under Annex E and requested the Secretariat to reflect those changes in document A/IGWG/2/4.

7. The IGWG adopted its interim report and the Co-Chairs suspended the meeting.
