Fifth meeting of the open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the WHO Pandemic Agreement (resolution WHA78.1)

Agenda item 5 A/IGWG/5/3

19 February 2026

Report of the meeting

1. The open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) on the WHO Pandemic Agreement held its fifth meeting from 9 to 14 February 2026 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. Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu (Executive Director, Health Emergencies, Preparedness and Response) conveyed the greetings of the Director-General and expressed appreciation to the Bureau for its leadership, relevant stakeholders for their active engagement and all IGWG members for their commitment and dedication to an equitable, safer, fairer and healthier world for all. He encouraged IGWG members to focus on resolving the remaining areas that were critical for an operational pathogen access and benefit-sharing (PABS) system, in the spirit of collaboration and consensus.

3. The IGWG adopted its agenda with the deletion of agenda item 3 (Proposals from Member States of entities to be included in Annex D and/or Annex E of document A/IGWG/4/3 Rev.1 (if any)), as there had been no proposals received under that item.

4. 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. The discussions on agenda Items 2 (Draft PABS Annex text) and 4 (Next steps) were held in closed session 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 dedicated sessions where they were updated on progress and could provide their views.

5. The IGWG continued negotiations on the basis of the onscreen text from the resumed session of the fourth meeting. IGWG members also held initial informal discussions regarding a proposal for the terms of reference for the Coordinating Financial Mechanism.

6. With regards to next steps, and in view of the mandate of the IGWG to submit its outcome regarding the PABS Annex to the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly, IGWG members agreed to continue informal discussions during the intersessional period, including discussions focusing on elements to ensure legal certainty, including the consideration of contracts, with a view to finding common understanding. The IGWG requested the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, to continue to facilitate informal, focused discussions with all IGWG members and to present

proposals for sections of texts for the draft PABS Annex as soon as possible in advance of the sixth meeting of the IGWG, building upon the onscreen text and discussions at the fifth meeting of the IGWG. The IGWG also requested the Secretariat to provide further technical information, and to prepare draft terms of reference for the WHO-Coordinated Laboratory Network and possible WHO PABS-recognized databases and to propose viable approaches for possible recognition of such databases.

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