

Report of the meeting

1. The seventh meeting of the open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) on the WHO Pandemic Agreement was held from 6 to 17 July 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. The Director-General, in his opening remarks, while noting that negotiations on the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) Annex had not been completed in time for adoption at the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly, commended IGWG members for continuing negotiations and demonstrating that multilateral cooperation and consensus-building remained possible. He urged delegates to maintain momentum towards an agreement that enabled the rapid sharing of pathogens with pandemic potential and information while ensuring equitable access to resulting benefits, emphasizing that unresolved differences could be bridged through dialogue and compromise. Highlighting ongoing health threats, including the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and a recently contained hantavirus outbreak, he stressed that every delay in finalizing the PABS Annex left the world less prepared for future pandemics. He called for urgent, collaborative action over the coming two weeks.
3. The IGWG adopted its agenda with the deletion of agenda item 4 (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. The IGWG then adopted its Programme of Work with the removal of the Saturday 11 July formal sessions and on the understanding that the programme was indicative and changes would be communicated to IGWG members.
4. The IGWG expressed appreciation for the work conducted during the informal hybrid meetings held from 22 June to 3 July 2026, organized by the Bureau with the support of the Secretariat pursuant to paragraph 5 of document A/IGWG/6/4, focusing on access, benefit-sharing, contracts, and core terms of reference for the WHO Coordinated Laboratory Network and possible WHO PABS-recognized sequence databases.
5. Discussions on agenda items 1 (Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda and programme of work); 6 (Report of the meeting); and 7 (Closure of the session) were publicly webcast, with the participation of relevant stakeholders. The discussion on agenda item 2 (Working modalities and updated timeline and deliverables of the open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group) was held in the presence of relevant stakeholders without being publicly webcast.

Discussions on agenda items 3 (Draft PABS Annex text) and 5 (Next steps) were held in closed session with the participation of IGWG members only (namely Member States, Associate Members and regional economic integration organizations, as appropriate) 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 provided their views.

6. In relation to agenda item 2 (Working modalities and updated timeline and deliverables of the open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group), the IGWG considered and adopted, with amendments, its timeline and deliverables as contained in document A/IGWG/7/3 Rev.1. The IGWG also discussed its working modalities and continued to express appreciation for the inputs of relevant stakeholders.

7. Regarding agenda item 3 (Draft PABS Annex text), the meeting continued negotiations on Section II Implementation of the PABS System, focusing on sub-sections B. Access to PABS Materials and Sequence Information and C. PABS System Benefit-Sharing and Contracts. Delegations also presented and discussed different conceptual approaches to the architecture of the PABS System, including federated and hybrid models, which were welcomed as contributing to the options before the IGWG. In advance of its eighth meeting scheduled for 14–18 September 2026, the IGWG decided to request the Bureau to organize, with support from the Secretariat, focused informal hybrid sessions on the scope of pathogens with pandemic potential and conceptual architecture. The IGWG discussed its programme for the next meeting, which would focus on building conceptual understanding to advance the drafting process with dedicated time for informal discussion, where appropriate led by co-facilitators.

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