

Report of the meeting

1. The eighth meeting of the open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) on the WHO Pandemic Agreement was held from 14 to 18 September 2026 under the leadership of Ambassador Tovar da Silva Nunes of Brazil as Co-Chair, with Ambassador Vuyile Dlamini of the Kingdom of Eswatini, Dr Viroj Tangcharoensathien of the Kingdom of Thailand, and Dr Ahmed Bin Salem Al Mandhari of the Sultanate of Oman, who was elected during the session, as Vice-Chairs.
2. Following the adoption of the agenda and programme of work, the co-facilitators from Mexico, Norway, Spain and the United Republic of Tanzania reported on the outcomes of the informal meetings held during the intersessional period, covering discussions on the scope of pathogens with pandemic potential and conceptual architecture. The meeting expressed appreciation to the co-facilitators for their constructive work.
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. The discussion 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/4/3 Rev.1) and 4 (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 the Holy See and Palestine. Relevant stakeholders (Annexes A–E) were invited to join dedicated sessions where they were updated on progress and engaged in focused discussions. It was agreed that future dedicated sessions with Relevant Stakeholders would continue to be designed to facilitate active dialogue and exchange of views between IGWG members and Relevant Stakeholders.
4. Regarding agenda item 2 (Draft PABS Annex text), the meeting continued negotiations on selected provisions of the draft Annex, namely: Section II. Implementation of the PABS System, focusing on sub-section B. Access to PABS Materials and Sequence Information; Section I. Scope, objectives and use of terms, focusing on sub-section B. Use of terms; and Section III. Governance and review of the PABS System, focusing on sub-section A. Governance. Discussions to facilitate convergence on these items would continue.
5. The IGWG then discussed the proposed schedule of October informal meetings which were, as reflected in the timeline adopted by the IGWG at its seventh meeting, to be held from 5 to 9 October 2026, in advance of the ninth meeting of the IGWG scheduled from 2 to 13 November 2026, and agreed that the schedule would be circulated to all IGWG members in advance of the informal meetings. It was further agreed that the informal meetings would be organized by the Bureau and,

where appropriate, led by co-facilitators, and would be structured to facilitate understanding leading to convergence, with the aim of developing draft textual proposals for the consideration of the ninth meeting of the IGWG. During the informal meetings, an additional session would be dedicated to a discussion with laboratories, with further details to be provided by the Secretariat. In advance of the informal meetings, the Secretariat was requested to provide discussion draft papers on the WHO Coordinated Laboratory Network and approaches for possible WHO PABS-recognized sequence databases, to be circulated no later than 25 September 2026.

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/4/3 Rev.1), the IGWG agreed to a proposal from a Member State for an additional Relevant Stakeholder to be included in Annex E of document A/IGWG/4/3 Rev.1, on the understanding that the document continued to be a living document.

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