

Note for the record

Joint meeting of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (INB) and the Bureau of the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (WGIHR) 1 December 2022

Participants

INB Bureau members

African Region – Ms Precious Matsoso (South Africa)
Region of the Americas – Ambassador Tovar da Silva Nunes (Brazil)
South-East Asia Region – Dr Viroj Tangcharoensathien (Thailand)
Eastern Mediterranean Region – Mr Ahmed Salama Soliman (Egypt)
Western Pacific Region – Mr Kazuho Taguchi (Japan)

WGIHR Bureau members

African Region – Dr Sultani Matendechemo (Kenya)
Region of the Americas – Mr Colin McIff (United States of America)
South-East Asia Region – Ambassador Grata Endah Werdaningtyas (Indonesia)
European Region – Ambassador François Rivasseau (France)
Eastern Mediterranean Region – Dr Abdullah Asiri (Saudi Arabia)
Western Pacific Region – Dr Ashely Bloomfield (New Zealand)

Secretariat

Dr Jaouad Mahjour, Assistant Director General, Emergency Preparedness
Ms Anne Huvos, Unit Head, Pandemic Influenza Preparedness
Dr Olla Shideed, Executive Officer, Emergency Preparedness
Dr Carmen Dolea, Unit Head, IHR Secretariat
Mr Steven Solomon, Principal Legal Officer
Mr Kenneth Piercy, Senior Legal Officer
Dr Claudia Nannini, Legal Officer
Mr Andrea Nannipieri, External Relations Officer, Governance Unit
Mrs Paidamoyo Takaenzana, External Relations Officer, Governance Unit
Ms Julia Keyworth, Technical Officer, Protocol Unit

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

- The INB and WGIHR Bureaus introduced themselves and discussed opportunities for collaboration in their respective areas of work. It was agreed that, while the mandate of the two bodies is different, they share commonalities as well as the objective of learning from the coronavirus disease pandemic and improving preparedness for and response to health emergencies and pandemics. It was agreed that regular and clear communication between the two Bureaus will help to ensure that deliverables are met in an efficient and effective manner. Bureau members are mindful of the number of meetings already scheduled for 2023 and will work with the Secretariat to plan accordingly.

Key points moving forward

- The Secretariat will prepare a joint Bureau workplan for consideration by both Bureaus. The joint Bureau workplan will serve as a living document, outlining the work of the two bodies

(per relevant Health Assembly resolutions) and highlighting their mandates and shared objectives. It will also flag strategic areas of work where the two Bureaus may wish to consult each other.

- The two Bureaus will continue to discuss their collaboration on a regular basis. The Secretariat will prepare a draft timeline to help plan meetings throughout 2023, including possible meetings between the Co-Chairs and of the two Bureaus.
- Bureau members expressed an interest in attending each other's working group meetings as observers.
- The Co-Chairs encouraged Bureau members to update their regions on the work of the two bodies, including updates for non-State actors and members of the public.
- It was noted that joint meetings of the two bodies may not be feasible; however, the two Bureaus could, if so decided, have joint meetings and update their respective bodies accordingly.

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