

Note for the record

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) 8 April 2022

Participants

Bureau members

AFR – Ms Precious Matsoso (South Africa)
AMR – Ambassador Tovar da Silva Nunes (Brazil)
EMR – Mr Ahmed Salama Soliman (Egypt)
EUR – Mr Roland Driec (the Netherlands)
SEAR – ABSENT
WPR – Mr Kazuho Taguchi (Japan)

Secretariat

Dr Jaouad Mahjour, Assistant Director General, Emergency Preparedness
Dr Timothy Armstrong, Director Governing Bodies
Mr Steven Solomon, Principal Legal Officer
Ms Gina Vea, Unit Head, Governance Unit
Dr Olla Shideed, Executive Officer, Emergency Preparedness
Ms Anne Huvos, Unit Head, Emergency Preparedness
Mr Kenneth Piercy, Senior Legal Officer
Mrs Paidamoyo Takaenzana, External Relations Officer, Governance Unit
Mr Laurent Constantin, Client Services Specialist, Application and Information Management

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

1. Briefing on Public hearings

- The Secretariat provided an overview on the preparations of the holding of the first set of Public Hearings on 12 and 13 April 2022. The relevant information is available on the INB Public Hearings page. The Secretariat had reached out to relevant sectors through formal invitations, informal channels as well as through social media disseminations. The first set of Public Hearings were focused on the guiding question “What substantive elements do you think should be included in a new international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response?”, the output of which would inform the deliberations of the INB. Some 200 slots were anticipated for the speaking component whilst written contributions could be submitted up to the end of the Public Hearings on Wednesday 13 April 2022. The Hearings were open to all interested stakeholders, which include the relevant stakeholders as per A/INB/1/7 Rev1 as well as all other entities and individuals with an interest and connection to pandemic preparedness and response. Safeguards had been put in place against written and spoken contributions that stray from the guiding question and that would violate standards of propriety and decency.
- For future sessions of the Public Hearings, the Secretariat was requested to consider accommodating other time zones.
- The Bureau discussed and understood that Member States’ participation in the Public Hearings was not intended. The Secretariat was requested to communicate this information to all Member States.

- It was noted that the first set of Public Hearings would provide valuable experience and inform the organization of the second set scheduled to be held in June 2022.

2. Regional processes and feedback from Regional Directors

- The Bureau members were encouraged to engage with the regional processes and meetings with Member States and other stakeholders that were planned.
- The Secretariat indicated that regular updates are provided to the Regional Directors through the Global Policy Group (GPG) as well as encouraging the mobilization of WHO Representatives where Member States request specific support to engage in the INB process.
- The WHO Regional Office for Africa had established a regional task force to support Member States in this process.
- An informal meeting of the Western Pacific Region Member States was envisioned in the beginning of May.
- Consultations were ongoing in the Americas region and more details would be provided.
- Meetings of the Eastern Mediterranean region and the regional office were also being planned.

3. Meeting between the WGPR and INB Bureaus

- The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on 28 April 2022, following which a joint meeting of the INB and WGPR Bureaus would take place on the same day.

4. AOB

- A request was made by the Bureau to view the submissions by Member States in the digital platform before its closure. The Secretariat undertook to revert to the Bureau on this possibility, noting the limitations of the online tool.
- A proposal was made for a session between the Bureau and the Secretariat, to listen to the technical guidance of the Secretariat as an important stakeholder in the INB process.
- 105 entities had so far accessed the online platform/tool launched on 25 March 2022, which included 30 stakeholders and 75 Member States. Only four had so far saved their submission, which was anticipated given the need for internal coordination and the timeframe before the deadline.
- The Bureau was requested to share their expectations of how the sub-groups would be conducted, perhaps through separation by themes and to identify possible chairs for each of the sub-groups.

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