

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) 9 February 2023

Participants

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)
European Region – Mr Roland Driece (Netherlands)
Eastern Mediterranean Region – Mr Ahmed Salama Soliman (Egypt)
Western Pacific Region – Mr Kazuho Taguchi (Japan)

Secretariat

Dr Jaouad Mahjour, Assistant Director General, Emergency Preparedness
Mr Steven Solomon, Principal Legal Officer
Mr Kenneth Piercy, Senior Legal Officer
Mrs Paidamoyo Takaenzana, External Relations Officer, Governance Unit
Ms Violaine Messager, External Relations Officer, Protocol Unit
Ms Julia Keyworth, Technical Officer, Protocol Unit

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

- Bureau members provided an update on communications work that is underway, including two op-ed articles expected to be published in journals, including The British Medical Journal, prior to the fourth and fifth meetings of the INB (INB4 and INB5), on the development process and contents of the zero draft.
- The Bureau considered the feedback that was received from Member States during the informal Member State briefing on 7 February 2023, particularly noting Member States' emphasis on ensuring that they are provided with enough time to thoroughly consider the zero draft and the nested grouping of chapters.
- Bureau members discussed the Bureau's note on modalities for INB4 and INB5 and agreed to revise the note to propose to the INB that:
 - Following a first reading of the zero draft during INB4 and pending confirmation from the INB that the zero draft will be the basis for commencing negotiations on the text, the zero draft be considered chronologically by the drafting group.
 - During drafting group sessions, Member States be permitted to suggest specific text amendments, or alternatively provide higher-level feedback on a particular section if they do not yet have specific legal text amendments to propose.
 - Member States also be given the opportunity to propose specific text amendments in writing up to one week after the conclusion of INB4 and INB5.

- It was agreed that the Bureau's note will be revised by the Secretariat in line with feedback from the Bureau and prepared as a formal paper to be presented to INB4. An advanced version in English only will also be circulated to Member States on 10 February 2023 to support Member States' preparations for INB4.
- Bureau members also discussed working hours for INB4 and INB5 and the possibility of undertaking intersessional work between INB4 and INB5 if needed and/or night sessions, depending on the most cost-effective option.
- The Secretariat advised that it is, as requested by the Bureau, preparing a short background paper for consideration by the INB Bureau and the Bureau of the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) regarding points for consideration relating to the scope of both processes.
- The Secretariat also noted it is, as requested by the Bureau, preparing a background paper for the INB Bureau on supply chain matters relating to the work of the INB.

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