

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) 12–16 June 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 (Kingdom of the 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
Dr Olla Shideed, Executive Officer, Emergency Preparedness
Ms Anne Huvos, Unit Head, Pandemic Influenza Preparedness
Mr Steven Solomon, Principal Legal Officer
Mr Kenneth Piercy, Senior Legal Officer
Mrs Paidamoyo Takaenzana, External Relations Officer, Governance Unit
Ms Julia Keyworth, Technical Officer, Protocol Unit

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

- Bureau members met over the course of the resumed fifth meeting of the INB (INB5) and drafting group, held from 12–16 June 2023, to discuss meeting modalities, progress and next steps to continue to progress the work of the INB. Following general comments by the INB on the Bureau's text in the plenary session on the first day of the meeting, Bureau members welcomed that the INB considered the Bureau's text of the WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response to be a basis for further work, while acknowledging that the compilation text could continue to be referred to by the INB as appropriate.
- Bureau members discussed options for holding informal meetings of the drafting group to consider specific articles of the Bureau's text, and developed a proposal in that regard that was subsequently presented to the drafting group.
 - After piloting the informal meeting approach with Article 9, the Bureau met with the representatives of Mexico and Norway who had co-facilitated the informal meeting to discuss the effectiveness of the trial and options for holding further informal discussions on Article 9 during INB5.
 - The Bureau noted the utility of further informal meetings, including during the intersessional period between INB5 and the sixth meeting of the INB (INB6), on articles to be agreed to by the drafting group, and requested the Secretariat to prepare a schedule to that effect. The Secretariat advised that, as requested by the Bureau, two three-hour timeslots would ideally be set aside per week for the three weeks following INB5 as dedicated informal meetings,

while noting that drafting group members could also meet at other times and in other formats as they saw fit.

- The Bureau also discussed proposals of possible Member States to facilitate the informal meetings of the drafting group, which could be received through the regional coordinators.
- Bureau members discussed the draft report of the meeting to be considered by the INB under agenda item 5, including the proposal of specific articles for intersessional informal meetings to be held in advance of INB6 in July 2023, as outlined in the draft report.

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