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) 15 November 2022

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
Ms Anne Huvos, Unit Head, Pandemic Influenza Preparedness
Dr Olla Shideed, Executive Officer, Emergency Preparedness
Mr Kenneth Piercy, Senior Legal Officer
Mrs Paidamoyo Takaenzana, External Relations Officer, Governance Unit

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

1. Preparations for the briefing of WHO Member States and relevant stakeholders on 18 November 2022 on the conceptual zero draft to be considered by the third meeting of the INB (INB3)

   • The Bureau members expressed their appreciation to the Secretariat for the presentation to be provided to Member States during the briefing on 18 November 2022 and provided their guidance and inputs.

   • The Bureau members exchanged views on possible questions that might be raised by Member States during the briefing on 18 November 2022 and how these should be addressed. The Bureau decided to keep the briefing focused on the introduction of the conceptual zero draft, including providing the rationale and methodology for its development. Substantive discussions and Member States’ positions on the document would be deferred until INB3.

   • Further, the Bureau members shared their expectations regarding the outcome of INB3 and agreed to emphasize, at the briefing on 18 November 2022, that Member States be invited to provide clear guidance to the Bureau during INB3 on how the conceptual zero draft could evolve into the zero draft.

   • Considering that the document had been provided to the INB in sufficient time and in order to be efficient, the Bureau decided to propose to the INB that all inputs on the conceptual zero draft be provided during INB3. The INB would be invited to mandate the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, to develop the zero draft on the basis of inputs provided at INB3, which would be shared in advance of the fourth meeting of the INB.
2. AOB

- In the context of their preparations for the upcoming INB3, the Bureau members concurred that it was of benefit for Bureau members to hold consultations with their respective regions and to encourage participation in the briefing on 18 November 2022. It was noted that consultations were planned to be held by the Bureau members from the African Region, the Region of the Americas and the Western Pacific Region with their respective constituencies. Other Bureau members would provide updates on planned consultations in their regions.

- Commenting on the ongoing meeting of the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (WGIHR), the Bureau members noted the timeline of proposed future meetings, including the possible joint meetings between the Bureaus of the two processes. Bureau members exchanged views regarding engagement in advance of INB3 to explore ways to address the areas of common work and relationships between the INB and WGIHR processes.

- The Bureau expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing the proposed communications materials for its consideration and decided to discuss the package at its next meeting, whilst emphasizing the need to finalize the communications materials ahead of INB3.

- The Secretariat provided a brief update on the preparations for the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response to be held during its seventy-eighth session (September 2023) in collaboration with WHO, including on the appointment of two co-facilitators by the President of the General Assembly and that the process was aimed at the adoption of a political declaration.

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