

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) 16 September 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 Steven Solomon, Principal Legal Officer
Mr Kenneth Piercy, Senior Legal Officer
Mrs Paidamoyo Takaenzana, External Relations Officer, Governance Unit

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

1. Discussions on the preparations for the informal, focused consultations

- The Secretariat provided an overview of the preparations for the four informal, focused consultations to be conducted by the INB Bureau, and confirmation of the proposed moderator. The Secretariat also provided an update on the progress regarding the first informal, focused consultation on legal matters, scheduled for 21 September 2022, including the status of confirmed experts and coordination with the moderator.
- The Bureau members expressed their views on the proposed modalities and structure of the discussion and suggested improvements aimed at enhancing interaction between experts, Member States and relevant stakeholders. This would be done through the discussion and reflection session with Member States and relevant stakeholders, as well as the provision of written questions ahead of the meeting. The Secretariat was requested to send out the draft concept note for the session on legal matters.

2. Update on written submissions/comments on the working draft

- As of 15 September, the Secretariat had received written inputs from individual Member States (26 submissions), groups of countries (3 submissions) and relevant stakeholders (32 submissions), ranging from detailed edits to the text to overall comments on the working draft. In addition, the Secretariat noted that one Member State had requested an extension of the deadline to submit an input.
- The Bureau appreciated the level of engagement from different regions and recognized that in addition to the written inputs, there were multiple opportunities for Member States to provide input to the working draft, including by way of statements during the second meeting of the INB, the second round of public hearings, regional consultations and the informal, focused

consultations. The Bureau welcomed the discipline exercised by those who had worked hard to meet the deadline and discussed the impact of a possible extension of written input, which would negatively affect the agreed timeline leading to the third meeting of the INB, as well as progress towards the development of the conceptional zero draft. Mindful of the foregoing, whilst recognizing the importance of inclusivity, the Bureau decided not to extend the deadline for written inputs, noting the multiple opportunities for further engagement of Member States and relevant stakeholders.

3. Update on preparations for the second round of public hearings

- The Secretariat provided a presentation on the preparations for the second round of public hearings scheduled to be held on 29 and 30 September 2022, outlining the innovative structure consisting of video submissions received through a dedicated platform. The Secretariat also highlighted the outreach and communications put in place to promote the event, including through the WHO website, press reports and social media, with the support, among others, of WHO partners and champions. With regard to the outcome of the public hearings, the Secretariat recalled that, as agreed at the second meeting of the INB, a summary report of the public hearings will be prepared, and that the outcomes of the public hearings will inform the development of the conceptual zero draft.

4. Other matters related to the work of the INB

- The Bureau discussed recent developments at the global multilateral level in relation to the work of the INB and referred, in that context, to the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution to hold a high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, as well as oral updates by the United Nations Office for Human Rights during the 51st session of the Human Rights Council.

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