

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) 27 June 2022

Participants

Bureau members

African Region – Ms Precious Matsoso (South Africa)
Region of the Americas – Ambassador Tovar da Silva Nunes (Brazil)
Eastern Mediterranean Region – Mr Ahmed Salama Soliman (Egypt)
European Region – Mr Roland Driece (Netherlands)
South-East Asia Region – Dr Viroj Tangcharoensathien (Thailand)
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
Dr Carmen Savelli, External Relations Officer, Governance Unit
Mrs Mouna Mcharek, External Relations Officer, Governance Unit

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

- The Bureau members focused their discussions on preparations for the second meeting of the INB, scheduled to be held from 18 to 22 July 2022, with a view to making progress on the development of the documents to be considered during that meeting.

1. Presentation by Secretariat on written submissions

- The Bureau asked the Secretariat to provide an overview of the written submissions received from Member States and relevant stakeholders by the deadline of 24 June 2022 on the draft annotated outline of a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. Overall, the written input received from Member States (and regional economic integration organizations) stood at around 25 submissions, with one submission from the Member States of the African Region (47 Member States), one from the European Union (27 Member States), and other submissions from more than 20 other stakeholders. The written inputs were shared with Bureau members for their consideration and would be collated by the Secretariat to inform the drafting of a revised version of the working draft.

2. Process of developing a working draft

- The Secretariat presented the progress made in developing the working draft to date, which reflected the inputs by Member States and relevant stakeholders and was informed by other international conventions, agreements and instruments, including those adopted under the WHO Constitution. The draft presented included the first part of the outline (vision, preamble, scope and objectives), with the understanding that additional sections would be developed following further guidance by the Bureau – for discussion during the next Bureau meeting scheduled for 30 June 2022.
- While expressing appreciation for the presentations and work of the Secretariat and the progress in developing the working draft so far, the Bureau reiterated the importance of ensuring that all comments received from Member States were reflected in the document. In addition, other aspects related to the working draft were discussed by the Bureau, such as the structure based on the strategic pillars or cross-cutting categories, the nature of the document, and provisions that cross-referenced other international instruments. It was noted that certain themes appeared across multiple submissions. They related to intellectual property, principles of affordability, equity and recovery, and human rights-related issues. The Bureau agreed on the need to avoid duplication in the working draft and to include an annex to provide a source and cross-reference. The Bureau further agreed to share any specific comments and proposals with the Secretariat in writing to facilitate further revision of the draft document.

3. Provision of the WHO constitution under which the instrument could be adopted

- The Secretariat gave a presentation recalling the specific mandate of the second meeting of the INB, namely to identify the provision of the WHO Constitution under which the instrument should be adopted as set out in decision SSA2(5) (2021). The Bureau stressed the need to allow for an open debate among Member States on the most appropriate way forward and agreed on the benefit of informing the debate through a background document containing an overview of the various views received related to the mandate.

4. Next meetings of the Bureau

- The Bureau agreed to hold additional meetings during the week of 4 July 2022 to further prepare for the second INB meeting.

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