

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 July 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 Paidamoyo Takaenzana, External Relations Officer, Governance Unit
Mrs Mouna Mcharek, External Relations Officer, Governance Unit

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

1. Reflections from the second meeting of the INB:

- The Bureau members shared their reflections on the proceedings and outcome of the second meeting of the INB held from 18 to 21 July 2022. They expressed appreciation for the constructive discussions with the Member States and the positive outcome of the meeting in terms of reaching an important milestone in moving the INB process forward through the identification of the provision of the WHO Constitution under which the instrument should be adopted as well as the approval of the list of relevant stakeholders set forth in Annex E. They agreed on the need to maintain momentum in the preparations for the third meeting of the INB, scheduled to be held from 5 to 7 December 2022.
- The Bureau members further expressed their appreciation for the confidence and trust placed by the Member States in the Bureau in leading the work of the INB and stressed the importance of consolidating that trust during the intersessional period and investing in increased transparency and communication.

2. Preparations for the informal focused consultations

- The Secretariat provided a detailed presentation of an initial draft concept note on the informal focused consultations to be conducted by the INB Bureau on selected key issues in September and October 2022, including possible structure, modalities and participation. The Secretariat outlined four broad topics previously proposed by the Bureau on the basis of the elements of the working draft, as well as the proposed modalities for the conduct of the informal consultations and engaging Member States, relevant stakeholders and both WHO and external experts.

- The Bureau expressed support for the proposed framing around the informal focused consultations and discussed various proposals to improve the draft concept note. It was agreed that separate concept notes would be prepared for each of the four sessions, outlining in more detail the expected substance and scope of the discussions. In addition, the Bureau agreed to provide their written comments and proposals to the Secretariat with a view to update and restructure the draft concept note, and thereafter share it with Member States.

3. Possible brief description of the conceptual zero draft

- As a follow-up to the outcome of the second meeting of the INB, the Bureau exchanged views on the vision and process towards the development of a conceptual zero draft to be presented for the consideration of the third meeting of the INB. It was noted that the document was perceived as a bridge between the working draft considered by the second meeting and the zero draft, and that the structure of the conceptual zero draft would remain in its current form, as agreed by the second meeting of the INB in its consideration of the working draft.
- It was also recalled that the conceptual zero draft would be developed on the basis of the consolidated comments from the second meeting of the INB, the written inputs from Member States and relevant stakeholders, the input from regional consultations, and the outcomes from the public hearings and informal focused consultations, as reflected in the annex of the report of the second meeting of the INB. In that regard, the Bureau agreed to send out an email inviting Member States and relevant stakeholders to provide written submissions on the working draft by 15 September 2022.

4. Preparations for the regional committee discussions

- The Bureau welcomed the feedback from the WHO regional offices in relation to the scheduling of INB discussions in the margins of the regional committee meetings. It was noted that the inputs and guidance received from the high political levels of the regions and the specific outcomes from each regional committee meeting would be important elements in shaping the work of the INB moving forward.
- The Bureau noted the importance of each Bureau member's physical participation, where possible, in their respective region's meeting and that the regional offices awaited the Bureau's confirmation regarding the details of such participation. In that context, the Bureau members provided updates regarding their expected participation in the regional committees.
- The Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare a background document for use during the forthcoming regional meetings and expressed appreciation for the availability and support of the Secretariat.

5. Scheduling future Bureau meetings:

- The Bureau welcomed the proposed schedule of Bureau meetings as well as INB-related meetings until December 2022, and committed to providing written comments in order to ensure that the intersessional period was well organized.

= = =