

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) 28 April 2022

Participants

Bureau members

AFR – Ms Precious Matsoso (South Africa)
AMR – Ambassador Tovar da Silva Nunes (Brazil)
EMR – Mr Ahmed Salama Soliman (Egypt)
EUR – Mr Roland Driec (the Netherlands)
SEAR – Dr Viroj Tangcharoensathien (Thailand)
WPR – Mr Kazuho Taguchi (Japan)

Secretariat

Dr Jaouad Mahjour, Assistant Director General, Emergency Preparedness
Dr Timothy Armstrong, Director Governing Bodies
Dr Olla Shideed, Executive Officer, Emergency Preparedness
Ms Anne Huvos, Unit Head, Emergency Preparedness
Mr Kenneth Piercy, Senior Legal Officer
Mrs Paidamoyo Takaenzana, External Relations Officer, Governance Unit
Dr Munjoo Park, Technical Officer, Office of the Director General

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

1. Briefing from the Secretariat on the input received to date through the digital platform to support the process to identify the substantive elements of the instrument

- The Secretariat provided an update on the submissions that have been received through the digital platform, comprised of an **online tool** and a section for **open-ended written submissions**. 489 entities had been invited to participate in the online tool (197 Member States and Associate Members, and 292 stakeholders). 103 Member States and 88 stakeholders has accessed the link. With one day before the deadline for the submission of substantive elements, 31 entities (13 MS and 18 stakeholders) had submitted a response, resulting in a 6% overall response rate. The Secretariat also provided a briefing on the dashboard which was made available to Bureau members to view the submissions before the closure of the online tool.
- In appreciating the briefing and the dashboard, the Bureau noted that it would only be necessary to share the results from dashboard with Member States. The Secretariat was requested to articulate how the analysis of the open-ended submissions would be done as well as the software to be used. In addition, the Secretariat was requested to check if there are any new proposed items/issues in the written submissions that are not included in the list of potential substantive elements and ensure that these are brought to the attention of the Bureau for consideration.
- Noting that some countries had requested that their inputs not be made publicly available, the Bureau agreed that the same countries should also not be able to access the inputs from other countries.

- The Secretariat suggested different versions of the dashboard, namely, for the Bureau, for Member States and for the public. The Bureau was requested to guide the Secretariat on the level of detail they would prefer for the analysis, noting the lessons from the WGPR survey.
- The Secretariat also provided a briefing on the submissions from the Public hearings held on 12 and 13 April 2022. 122 speakers took the floor during the two days. 36 294 written submissions were received. An initial review of the written submissions showed that many appeared similar in content and wording, and many also appeared not to conform with the terms of participation. The Secretariat will submit a report to the INB on the first round of public hearings. With regards to the second round of public hearings scheduled for mid-June, it was noted that the same approach may not be useful in obtaining new inputs. Internal discussions are ongoing on how to improve the process, including, potentially, providing for longer oral statements and more engagement between speakers.

2. Possible extension of submissions to digital platform

- Noting the response rate and requests from some Member States, the Bureau suggested to extend the online platform by two weeks. After that extension, it would need to be clarified whether the Bureau would continue to accept inputs, recognizing that late inputs may not be correctly articulated in the final report. The Secretariat was requested to prepare, on behalf of the Bureau, a written silence procedure approach and send to Member States for the extension of the online tool, as well as a request to all Member States and relevant stakeholders to consider completing their submissions within the new deadline.

3. Establishment of subgroups

- Per the INB's method of work (A/INB/1/3 Rev. 1), the INB may set up a limited number of subgroups. The Bureau provided preliminary suggestions on the modalities for the sub-groups, which may include: reviewing specific substantive elements and determining whether the submissions are logical; the Vice Chairs to chair selected sub-groups; and reviewing selected parts of the working draft document, in line with the inputs from the online platform and the public hearings.

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