

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) 30 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
Mr. Paul Garwood, Unit Head, Department of Communications
Dr Carmen Savelli, External Relations Officer, Governance Unit
Mrs Mouna Mcharek, External Relations Officer, Governance Unit

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

- The Bureau members continued their discussions on the preparations for the second meeting of the INB, scheduled to be held from 18 to 22 July 2022.

1. Development of a working draft

- The Secretariat provided an update of its progress in developing a working draft of a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, on the basis of the guidance provided by the Bureau during its last meeting.
- The structure of the draft was discussed. Views were exchanged on the pillars and the principles that would guide the development of the text, in line with the views expressed by Member States and relevant stakeholders as well as previous discussions of the Bureau members and the Secretariat. The Bureau agreed to submit written feedback to the Secretariat by 12:00 on 1 July 2022 such that the Secretariat could further revise the document for consideration by the Bureau at its meeting on 4 July 2022, with a view to agreeing on a final draft that would be processed for the second meeting of the INB.

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

- Following guidance from the Bureau of the INB, the Secretariat had prepared a paper regarding relevant provisions of the WHO Constitution, to support the INB's identification of the provision of the WHO Constitution under which the instrument should be adopted.

- The Bureau expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing the document, and agreed on its finalization with a minor amendment to the title to read: Background information related to the identification by the INB of the provision of the WHO Constitution under which the instrument should be adopted

3. Proposals by Member States of entities to be included under Annex E

- The Bureau recalled that the second resumed session of the first meeting of the INB had agreed to an initial two-week extension to receive further proposals from Member States regarding which entities to be included in Annex E of document A/INB/1/7 Rev.1. In that regard, the Bureau agreed to provide additional guidance to Member States and to suggest that the proposed entities for the Annex E list of relevant stakeholders:
 - are international in character or focus (“focus” in the sense of addressing global health issues, such as WHO collaborating centres);
 - have a publicly accessible normative basis (such as their foundational documentation, by-laws, terms of reference, incorporation, or otherwise, are publicly available), have a publicly available address of record, and have publicly available and up-to-date leadership and/or membership; and
 - are not entities of a largely national or subnational nature, or entities that serve national authorities on health matters (such entities may be more appropriately considered in terms of domestic engagement and/or national delegation composition; examples include domestic entities that focus on national health policy and/or support national health authorities, such as national centres for disease control. Again such entities may be engaged nationally to inform their respective delegations).
- It was agreed that the Secretariat would communicate the information to Member States immediately and invite them to provide or update their submissions as they deemed appropriate by 14 July 2022.

4. Communication strategy to counter misinformation and disinformation on the pandemic instrument process

- Consistent with the Bureau’s previous request to continue monitoring the matter, the Secretariat provided an update on its work to address the misinformation and disinformation that had been spreading in different media in relation to the work of the INB. The update highlighted various ongoing efforts and activities by the WHO Communications Department.
- The Bureau expressed appreciation for the briefing and for the Secretariat’s ongoing efforts and invited the Secretariat to provide regular updates during its upcoming Bureau meetings.

5. Provisional agenda and draft programme of work for the second meeting of the INB

- The Bureau discussed and agreed that the draft provisional agenda and the programme of work for the second meeting of the INB as presented could be sent for processing.

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