

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) 31 August 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
Mrs Paidamoyo Takaenzana, External Relations Officer, Governance Unit

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

- The Bureau discussed the preparations for the informal focused consultations, based on an earlier submission by the Secretariat and comments from the Bureau members. In response to a request, the Secretariat briefly shared the experience used for the deep dives held by the Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies on specific topics to support its work, which were considered a good reference in preparing for the informal focused consultations.
- With regards to the **format, dates and times** of the informal focused consultations, it was agreed that four informal focused consultations would be held virtually on 21 September, 7 October, 14 October and on another date in October to be identified by the Secretariat. It was agreed that the informal consultations would start between 12:00 and 14:00 and would run for three hours each. In an effort to ensure transparency and broad outreach, the Bureau decided that the informal focused consultations would be publicly webcast on the WHO website.
- The Bureau agreed that the **four topics for the informal focused consultations** would include: (i) legal matters; (ii) operationalizing and achieving equity; (iii) intellectual property and access to pandemic response products; and (iv) One Health, antimicrobial resistance, climate and zoonosis. In terms of structure, the informal focused consultations would be facilitated by a moderator and would consist of a 90-minute round table of discussions among experts, as well as another 90-minute open session with Member States and other relevant stakeholders to engage with the experts. It was noted that an appropriate disclaimer would be provided for all participants to explain that the discussions with experts were without prejudice to and would not imply a particular position of speakers. The Secretariat was requested to develop a white paper with an overview of all the informal focused consultations as well as separate concept notes for each of the topics.

- The Bureau also considered an initial list of experts as proposed by Bureau members and the Secretariat. The need to ensure broad views, as well as gender balance and geographical distribution was stressed.
- As a way forward, the Secretariat was requested to provide to the Bureau for its consideration a white paper to be shared with Member States and relevant stakeholders on the informal focused consultations; a concept note for the first informal focused consultation on legal matters, as well as a potential list of experts for the first informal focused consultation. It was agreed that the three papers would be submitted to the Bureau by 5 September and that the Bureau would provide its comments by 7 September.
- The Bureau also briefly discussed its preparations for the remaining regional committee meeting discussions and expected attendance by the Bureau members, either in person or virtually.

= = =