
Report of the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response

1. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (INB) met on 24 February 2022 and elected Mr Roland Driecé of the Netherlands and Ms Precious Matsoso of South Africa as co-chairs, with the following vice-chairs: Ambassador Tovar da Silva Nunes of Brazil, Mr Ahmed Soliman of Egypt, Dr Viroj Tangcharoensathien of Thailand and Mr Kazuho Taguchi of Japan. The meeting was held virtually, while the Bureau participated in person. The INB was established by the second special session of the World Health Assembly through decision SSA2(5) (2021) in order to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, with a view to adoption under Article 19, or under other provisions of the WHO Constitution as may be deemed appropriate by the INB.

2. In his opening remarks, the Director-General congratulated the elected Bureau members and proposed for consideration by Member States five ways to bring about a world better prepared to prevent and respond to pandemic threats. These were building national, regional and global capacities based on a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach; establishing global access and benefit sharing for all pathogens, including their genetic sequence data; determining a global policy for the equitable production and distribution of countermeasures; establishing robust systems and tools for pandemic preparedness and response; and establishing a long-term plan for sustainable financing to ensure support for global health threat management and response systems.

3. Following the adoption of the agenda, the meeting considered and adopted the proposed method of work contained in document A/INB/1/3, with amendments.¹ In their interventions, Member States expressed their commitment and solidarity for a transparent, inclusive, efficient and Member State led process, which takes into account the input of diverse stakeholders, in line with the relevant Rules of Procedure and resolutions and decisions of the World Health Assembly, including the WHO Framework for engagement with Non-State actors. Member States also called for synergy and coherence with other WHO related workstreams including the Working Group on Strengthening WHO's Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies and the possible amendments to the International Health Regulations

¹ See document A/INB/1/3 Rev.1.

(2005). Member States also proposed various elements to be included in the instrument and requested the Bureau to outline a predictable and consultative process for the collection of substantive elements for the preparation of the working draft for the second meeting of the INB.

4. The INB agreed to hold a resumed session of its first meeting on 14 and 15 March 2022. In addition to the invitations for Member States, the Secretariat will also send invitations to United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations in effective relations with WHO, traditional Observers and non-State actors in official relations with WHO. During the resumed session, the Bureau will provide an opportunity for discussions regarding subgroups and their associated timelines.

5. In advance of the resumed session, the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, will prepare documentation, to be distributed to all Member States, on the following:

- the participation of relevant stakeholders in the INB, on the basis of the process established in the Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies, as set out in document A/WGPR/1/6;
- a proposal regarding the process to identify the substantive elements of the instrument, in furtherance of the Bureau's mandate in this regard;
- an updated timeline including deliverables, based on the draft annex presented at the first meeting; and
- a paper by the Secretariat regarding the holding of public hearings to inform the deliberations of the INB, pursuant to the Director-General's mandate in operative paragraph 2(2) of decision SSA2(5).

6. The co-chairs suspended the first meeting of the INB.

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