

Proposed workplan, meeting schedule and updates, as appropriate, to the method of work

BACKGROUND

1. In December 2021, the World Health Assembly, at its Second special session, decided through decision SSA2(5) to establish an intergovernmental negotiating body (INB) open to all Member States and Associate Members 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. Further and pursuant to that decision, the Health Assembly mandated the INB to submit its outcome for consideration by the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly, with a progress report to the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly.
2. Through decision WHA77(20) (2024), the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly subsequently decided to extend the mandate of the INB to finish its work as soon as possible, and submit its outcome for consideration by the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly in 2025, or earlier by a special session of the World Health Assembly if possible in 2024 with only one agenda item dedicated to this outcome.
3. In addition, the Health Assembly decided that the next meeting of the INB shall be held in July 2024, in hybrid mode with interpretation, in order to consider and agree on its workplan and meeting schedule and consider, as appropriate, updates to its method of work, consistent with decision WHA77(20) and decision SSA2(5).

PROPOSED WORKPLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE

4. This document sets out a draft workplan and meeting schedule for the consideration and agreement of the INB, building upon documents A/INB/1/3/ Rev.1, A/INB/1/6 Rev.1 and A/INB/3/4, as well as the relevant procedural reports from previous INB meetings, and in light of decision WHA77(20) according to which the INB is to finish its work as soon as possible, and submit its outcome for consideration at the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly in 2025, or earlier through a special session of the World Health Assembly, if possible, in 2024 with only one agenda item dedicated to this outcome.
5. The proposed workplan and meeting schedule recognizes the progress that has been achieved by the INB, and the initial agreement reached on many provisions of the proposed WHO Pandemic Agreement, and that further work needs to be done on the remaining elements.

6. The INB will continue its negotiations on the text of the proposal for the WHO Pandemic Agreement contained in the Appendix to document A77/10, building upon the provisional agreement on the text highlighted in green, and focusing on text for which initial convergence was reached and is highlighted in yellow, as well as on all outstanding elements, in a prioritized manner. On relevant matters, the INB will refer to and cross-reference, as appropriate, the amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) as adopted by the Health Assembly through resolution WHA77.17 (2024).

7. The proposed workplan and meeting schedule covers primarily the period of July through November 2024, in recognition of the progress achieved to date, and on the understanding that the INB at its proposed twelfth meeting in November 2024 may consider updating the workplan and convening further meetings, as appropriate. The schedule further provides potential dates for possible thirteenth and fourteenth meetings of the INB, if necessary to finalize the work in advance of the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly in May 2025.

PROPOSED UPDATES TO THE METHOD OF WORK

8. In decision WHA77(20), the Health Assembly also tasked the INB to consider, at its tenth meeting, as appropriate, updates to the INB's method of work, consistent with that decision and decision SSA2(5). In that regard, the following updates are proposed to be viewed together with document A/INB/1/3 Rev.1.

9. For each meeting of the INB and its drafting group, the Bureau will work with the Secretariat to provide a programme of work enabling sufficient time for structured informal meetings and/or working groups as needed to progress the work, open to all members of the drafting group, with no more than two meetings at the same time. Such informal meetings shall be chaired by members of the Bureau, who may also conduct smaller informal sessions as may be appropriate.

Participation of relevant stakeholders

10. In accordance with document A/INB/1/3 Rev.1, relevant stakeholders¹ will continue to attend open sessions of the INB and provide inputs as requested. To facilitate predictable and meaningful engagement, the Bureau will circulate iterations of the texts under negotiation, without Member State attributions, to all relevant stakeholders after each meeting. In line with past practice, relevant stakeholders will also be invited to provide written inputs relating to the articles under negotiation at that session, to be posted on the INB site for the reference of the INB drafting group. The Bureau will continue to hold regular briefings with relevant stakeholders to provide updates on the status of work of the INB. In advance of the proposed eleventh and twelfth meetings, the Bureau will also organize a one-day sessions on key topics to provide additional opportunity for relevant stakeholders to discuss with Member States and provide their inputs.

11. It is proposed that relevant stakeholders (Annexes A–E) be invited to observe closed sessions of the INB, including meetings of the drafting group, unless otherwise decided by the INB. The observance of relevant stakeholders will enable them to provide informed views/inputs to better support the process.

¹ See document A/INB/9/6 for modalities of engagement for relevant stakeholders.

UPDATED TIMELINE AND DELIVERABLES

Timeline	Meetings and expected deliverables
16–17 July 2024	Tenth meeting of the INB (INB10) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Rotation of the Bureau, as appropriate and if agreed within each region – Consideration of, and agreement on, the proposed workplan, meeting schedule and updates, as appropriate, to the method of work
26–30 August 2024	Regional Committee for Africa: seventy-fourth session
3–4 September 2024	Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response: fifth meeting
9–20 September 2024	Eleventh meeting of the INB (INB11) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Negotiation of and agreement on the proposed WHO Pandemic Agreement (focusing on Article 12 with the following Articles also to be discussed: 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 13bis, 14 and relevant sections of Article 1)¹ – Discussion on the relationship between the WHO Pandemic Agreement and its legal instruments
22–28 September	United Nations General Assembly High Level week
30 September – 4 October 2024	Regional Committee for the Americas: seventy-sixth session
7–10 October 2024	Regional Committee for South-East Asia: seventy-seventh session
14–17 October 2024	Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean: seventy-seventh session
21–25 October 2024	Regional Committee for the Western Pacific: seventy-fifth session
29–31 October 2024	Regional Committee for Europe: seventy-fourth session
4–15 November 2024	Twelfth meeting of the INB (INB12) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Negotiation of and agreement on the proposed WHO Pandemic Agreement (focusing on the Preamble, relevant sections of Article 1, Articles 3, 19, 20, 21, 24, 26, 31, 32, 33 and 34) – Negotiation and agreement on an updated draft resolution to adopt the proposed WHO Pandemic Agreement and work to be undertaken following adoption (including IGWG and expert preparatory work for additional instruments) – Determination of process for the convening, as appropriate, of a special session of the Health Assembly, provided that agreement is reached on the draft WHO Pandemic Agreement <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consideration and agreement on an updated workplan and meeting schedule, depending on progress made <p><i>(NOTE: 15 November deadline for calling for a special session of the Health Assembly)</i></p>
Week of 19 November	Thirteenth meeting of the Member State mechanism on substandard and falsified medical products
Last week of November	In the event of an agreement to call for the convening of a special session of the Health Assembly, a one-day special session of the Executive Board could be convened during this week
Week of 16 December	Possible convening of a one-day special session of the Health Assembly

¹ The listing of the proposed focusing on Articles is to provide some predictability and planning, on the understanding that the INB may discuss any other Articles as may be deemed necessary by the INB.

**Options for possible dates, if necessary, beyond the 15 November deadline
for the calling of a special session of the Health Assembly**

Potential updated timeline	Meetings and expected deliverables
2–6 December 2024	Thirteenth meeting of the INB (INB13) Deliverables to be determined in accordance with the progress of the INB
24–28 February 2025	Fourteenth meeting of the INB (INB14) Deliverables to be determined in accordance with the progress of the INB

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