

Report of the meeting

Interim report of the meeting

1. The twelfth meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response was held from 4 to 15 November 2024 in a hybrid format, under the leadership of Ms Precious Matsoso of South Africa and Ambassador Anne-Claire Amprou of France as Co-Chairs, and: Ambassador Tovar da Silva Nunes of Brazil; Ambassador Amr Ramadan of Egypt; Dr Viroj Tangcharoensathien of Thailand; and Ms Fleur Davies of Australia as Vice-Chairs.
2. In line with previous practice in the work of the INB, agenda item 1 (Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda and programme of work), agenda item 4 (Report of the meeting) and 5 (Closure of the session) were publicly webcast with the participation of relevant stakeholders, while item 2 (Negotiation of and agreement on the proposed WHO Pandemic Agreement) in the drafting group¹ and item 3 (Next steps, including stocktake on progress) were held in closed sessions. In line with the practice at the eleventh meeting and as agreed in document A/INB/10/3 Rev.1, relevant stakeholders (Annexes A–E) joined for an open session at the beginning of each day where they were updated on progress and provided their views. The Bureau also circulated iterations of the texts under negotiation to all relevant stakeholders.
3. In his opening remarks, the Director-General thanked the Bureau for its leadership and hard work and expressed appreciation for the continued commitment of Member States to the INB process and global health security. He lauded Member States on the adoption of the amendments of the International Health Regulations (2005) at the Seventy-seventh Health Assembly and urged them to finalize the WHO Pandemic Agreement, particularly considering the ongoing public health emergencies of international concern and other health emergencies. He encouraged the INB to continue to work towards consensus and view the WHO Pandemic Agreement as a cohesive whole with three balancing pillars: prevention, preparedness, and robust, equitable and resilient response to pandemics. Finally, he underscored that the WHO Pandemic Agreement would not cede national sovereignty to WHO and encouraged delegations to continue to address misinformation and disinformation on the process and the agreement.

¹ As previously agreed by the INB, participation in meetings of the drafting group includes Member States, Associate Members, regional economic integration organizations, as appropriate, and the Observer delegations of Palestine and the Holy See.

4. The agenda and programme of work were adopted as amended with the deletion of the item on Proposals from Member States of entities to be included in Annex D and/or Annex E of document A/INB/11/3, as there were no proposals received under this item.

5. With respect to item 2, the INB drafting group progressed its negotiations on the following Articles: Article 1 (Use of terms); Article 3 (Principles and approaches); Article 4 (Pandemic prevention and surveillance); Article 5 (One Health approach for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response); Article 9 (Research and development); Article 10 (Sustainable and geographically diversified local production); Article 11 (Transfer of technology and know-how for the production of pandemic-related health products); Article 12 (Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing System); Article 13 (Supply chain and logistics); Article 13 bis (Procurement and distribution); Article 14 (Regulatory systems strengthening); Article 19 (International cooperation and support for implementation); Article 20 (Sustainable financing); Article 21 (Conference of the Parties); Article 22 (Right to vote); and Article 24 (Secretariat). Following a presentation by the Secretariat, the INB also discussed and provided initial comments on potential elements for a World Health Assembly resolution regarding the work of the INB.

6. Under agenda item 3 and regarding the determination of a process for the convening of a special session of the Health Assembly by the end of 2024, Member States acknowledged that additional time was required as there was insufficient progress and no convergence on convening such a special session. The overwhelming majority of Member States recognized the progress made and expressed heightened commitment and urgency to the finalization, as soon as possible, of the work of the INB. In that regard, the INB would continue its work with the aim of fulfilling its mandate by the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly in May 2025, in line with decision WHA77(20) (2024). The INB agreed to resume its twelfth meeting from 2 to 6 December 2024.

7. The INB considered the progress made during its twelfth meeting and requested the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, to provide the following: (i) a detailed programme of work for the resumed twelfth meeting of the INB, to be circulated as soon as possible, and (ii) proposed text by the Bureau, where appropriate, on outstanding provisions, to continue to support the negotiations. Informal consultations would continue with the aim to progress the work.

8. The meeting considered and approved its interim report, and the Co-Chairs suspended the session.

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