

Report of the meeting

1. The fourth 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 27 February to 3 March 2023 in a hybrid format, under the leadership of Ms Precious Matsoso of South Africa and Mr Roland Driecce of the Netherlands as Co-Chairs, with the following Vice-Chairs: Ambassador Tovar da Silva Nunes of Brazil; Mr Ahmed Soliman of Egypt; Mr Kazuho Taguchi of Japan; and Dr Viroj Tangcharoensathien of Thailand.
2. The Co-Facilitators of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response, Ambassador Gilad Erdan, Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, and Ambassador Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations, attended the first day of the meeting.
3. In line with previous practice and the promotion of transparency in the work of the INB regarding public webcasting and participation of relevant stakeholders, agenda items 1, 5 and 6, as well as the first reading under agenda item 3, were publicly webcast, whilst item 2, the drafting group meeting addressing item 3, as well as item 4, were closed.
4. Following the adoption of the agenda and programme of work, the INB agreed to the proposal by the Bureau regarding the modalities contained in document A/INB/4/4, including that the fourth and fifth meetings of the INB were considered as an integrated set, with both focusing on Member State discussions and negotiations. It was clarified that there would be a single deadline for textual proposals; no later than close of business on 14 April 2023. All inputs and additions to the zero draft should be available to drafting group participants. The INB agreed to the WHO zero draft CA+ as the basis for “first reading” and commencing negotiations, on the understanding that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed. The INB proceeded in a drafting group, holding a “first reading”, going through the draft article-by-article, and then commenced a textual discussion and proposed edits to the zero draft.
5. It was further agreed that the Bureau, with support from the Secretariat, would organize informal intersessional work between INB4 and INB5, with the participation of relevant stakeholders, on matters related to Article 1, Chapter III, Article 18, and Article 4.8, as appropriate, of the WHO zero draft CA+. The Bureaus of the INB and the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) will continue to coordinate, as appropriate.
6. The INB agreed to the proposals from Member States for additional relevant stakeholders to be included in Annex E of document A/INB/3/5, on the understanding that the document continued to be a living document.
7. The meeting considered and approved its report and the Co-Chair closed the session.