

Report of the meeting

Interim report of the meeting

1. The ninth 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 18 to 28 March 2024 in a hybrid format, under the leadership of Ms Precious Matsoso of South Africa and Mr Roland Driecé of the Kingdom of the Netherlands as Co-Chairs, with the following Vice-Chairs: Ambassador Tovar da Silva Nunes of Brazil; Ambassador Amr Ramadan of Egypt; Dr Viroj Tangcharoensathien of Thailand; and Ambassador Honsei Kozo of Japan.
2. In his remarks, the Director-General noted that the efforts of Member States to find common ground were progressing on many aspects. He cautioned against allowing the cycle of panic and neglect to repeat and urged delegations not to miss a generational opportunity to shape a future where pandemics are met with decisive action and communities are protected. He expressed his commitment and that of the WHO Secretariat to continue to support the INB in its work.
3. In line with previous practice and the promotion of transparency in the work of the INB, agenda item 1 (Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda and programme of work), the open session on agenda item 2 (Negotiation of the WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response: Revised draft of the negotiating text of the WHO Pandemic Agreement) and agenda items 5 (Report of the meeting) and 6 (Closure of the session) were webcast, while the drafting group sessions on items 2 (Negotiation of the WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response: Revised draft of the negotiating text of the WHO Pandemic Agreement), 3 (Next steps) and 4 (Proposals from Member States of entities to be included in Annex D and/or Annex E of document A/INB/8/5) were held in closed sessions. Furthermore, the INB Bureau held two briefings with relevant stakeholders to provide progress updates on the work of the INB drafting group and seek their views.
4. With respect to item 2, the INB drafting group completed a detailed review of the revised draft of the negotiating text and delegations provided textual inputs. It was recognized that intensified work is necessary for the INB to deliver on its mandate to the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly in May 2024.
5. Therefore, as a way forward, the INB requested the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, to develop a proposed draft WHO Pandemic Agreement for negotiation at the resumed session of the ninth meeting of the INB. In furtherance of the mandate of the INB, the text should be focused, building on potential areas of consensus already identified, operationalizing equity and addressing the critical aspects of pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. An advance unedited English version of

the text will be distributed to Member States and relevant stakeholders no later than 18 April 2024, and the translated versions made available as soon as possible thereafter. The resumed session of the ninth meeting of the INB will be held from 29 April to 10 May 2024. The INB will work to finalize substantive negotiations on the text of the proposed WHO Pandemic Agreement by 5 May 2024 and will plan to take stock of progress on 3 May 2024 in order to determine the way forward for the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly.

6. Regarding intersessional work, Member States were requested to provide the Bureau with any convergence text resulting from informal consultations as soon as possible. The Bureau will continue to engage with Member States, including by convening regional and/or group discussions, prior to the finalization of the text, with the dates of the discussions to be confirmed by the Secretariat in consultation with the regional coordinators, as appropriate. Prior to the resumed session of the INB, the Bureau will organize a briefing for Member States and relevant stakeholders. The Bureaus of the INB and the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) will continue to coordinate on relevant matters to support the work of the two processes. The Secretariat, on behalf of the Bureau, will circulate a schedule for fully inclusive intersessional work, including with inputs from interested delegations.

7. The INB agreed that, at the resumed session of its ninth meeting, the INB would work to find common ground and consensus, respecting the right of Member States to propose modifications to the text for the consideration of the INB. The drafting group would focus on agreeing text *ad referendum*. The Bureau will provide a programme of work for the resumed session of the ninth meeting that enables sufficient time for structured informal meetings and/or working groups, as needed to progress the work, with no more than two meetings at the same time. Bureau members may also conduct informal sessions as appropriate.

8. The Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, will develop and share in advance of the resumed session of the INB, a draft Health Assembly resolution for consideration.

9. The INB considered a proposal from a Member State for one relevant stakeholder to be included in Annex E of document A/INB/8/5 and decided to defer the consideration of the entity to a later date, pending further considerations, on the understanding that the document continues to be a living document.

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

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