

## **Report of the meeting**

1. The first extraordinary meeting of the Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (“the Standing Committee”) was held on 15 August 2024, in virtual format. The Chair of the Standing Committee, Dr Abdelkrim Meziane Bellefquih of Morocco, presided over the meeting.
2. The Director-General welcomed all participants and expressed his appreciation for the valuable insight and guidance provided by the Standing Committee.
3. Owing to the risk of international spread, and upon the advice of the Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations (2005) that took place on 14 August 2024, the Director-General determined that the upsurge in mpox cases constituted a public health emergency of international concern. Temporary recommendations with inputs from the Emergency Committee were under development and would be made available in the coming days.
4. The Secretariat presented a global overview of recent mpox cases as well as regional- and country-specific contexts, including on surveillance activities, laboratory support, case management and other response activities to address mpox as outlined in the *Strategic framework for enhancing prevention and control of mpox 2024–2027*.
5. During the ensuing discussion, the following main points were raised:
  - (a) the need to strengthen surveillance to better understand the mode of transmission, sequencing and sharing of information between countries;
  - (b) research coordination was key to advancing our understanding of the epidemiology, natural history and critical unknowns to have more precise tailoring of response activities;
  - (c) scale-up financial support for response activities to be presented in a joint response plan with all relevant stakeholders; and
  - (d) need for a coordinated approach for medical countermeasures through i-MCM-net (the interim medical countermeasures network of networks), including support for diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines, and supplies to support case management and surveillance.
6. The Members of the Standing Committee expressed their appreciation to the Secretariat and the Emergency Committee for the work done so far. They noted that it would be useful to hold further discussions once the temporary recommendations associated with the public health emergency of international concern had been issued by the Director-General and shared with States Parties to the International Health Regulations (2005).

7. The Standing Committee discussed how best to proceed following the meeting. The Secretariat would hold a Member State information session the following week to update on the newly released recommendations and would provide an additional update on the epidemiological situation at the next Standing Committee meeting on 3 and 4 September 2024.

8. The Standing Committee considered and adopted its meeting report. The Chair closed the meeting.

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