

---

## **Report of the third meeting of the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005)**

1. The third meeting of the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (WGIHR) was held from 17–20 April 2023 in a hybrid format under the leadership of Dr Abdullah Asiri of Saudi Arabia and Dr Ashley Bloomfield of New Zealand as Co-Chairs, with the following Vice-Chairs: Dr Sultani Matendehero of Kenya, Mr Colin McIff of the United States of America, Ambassador François Rivasseau of France and Ambassador Grata Endah Werdaningtyas of Indonesia.
2. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, addressed the Working Group,<sup>1</sup> commending the thorough and systematic approach that the Working Group has taken in its work so far and highlighting the importance of the work ahead to strengthen the International Health Regulations (2005).
3. In accordance with the Working Group's decision on webcasting and participation of relevant stakeholders, agenda items 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 were considered in open sessions that were webcast.<sup>2</sup> The first part of agenda item 4 included an 'open round' where relevant stakeholders had the opportunity to share their views on the proposed amendments to be considered during the meeting. The second part of agenda item 4 along with agenda item 5 were reserved for the drafting group and were considered in closed sessions.
4. Following the adoption of the agenda<sup>3</sup> and programme of work<sup>4</sup>, the Working Group Co-Chairs provided an update on coordination with the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (INB). The Co-Chairs reported that the INB and WGIHR Bureaus held a meeting on 23 March 2023 to continue to look at ways of collaboration and assistance, in line with the mandates of the two processes. During this meeting, the Bureaus discussed communications strategies to counter disinformation and misinformation on the WGIHR and INB processes and opportunities for communication activities to coincide with the upcoming meetings.

---

<sup>1</sup> WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the third meeting of the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) – 17 April 2023; 2023 ([https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-third-meeting-of-the-member-states-working-group-on-amendments-to-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-17-april-2023](https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-third-meeting-of-the-member-states-working-group-on-amendments-to-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-17-april-2023), accessed 24 April 2023).

<sup>2</sup> Document A/WGIHR/2/8 Rev.1.

<sup>3</sup> Document A/WGIHR/3/1.

<sup>4</sup> Document A/WGIHR/3/2.

5. The Working Group supported the proposal from the fifth meeting of the INB (INB5) to hold a joint plenary meeting of the two bodies, and to explore the possibility of holding this in advance of the INB drafting group meeting which will be held on 12–16 June 2023. Several Working Group members requested that the joint plenary meeting be held after the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly. The timing, agenda and approach to a joint plenary will be agreed between the two Bureaus and communicated to Member States in due course. The Working Group Co-Chairs and the Secretariat provided an update on the WGIHR intersessional meetings held in March and April 2023. The Secretariat provided a brief presentation on the two intersessional meetings, for the record.

6. Following an initial discussion on the proposed amendments held in open session, the Working Group transitioned into a drafting session and proceeded with a discussion on proposed amendments related to topics including: compliance and implementation; public health response and core capacities; and collaboration and assistance, and corresponding Articles (as outlined in Annex 1). Additional informal consultations were also held during a break in the drafting session to further consider the newly proposed Articles 53A, 53 bis-quater, and 54 bis, as well as amendments proposed to Article 54.

7. The Working Group agreed efforts should continue during the intersessional period as follows:

- Discussions between proponents of various proposed amendments, with a view to presentation of any outcomes for the consideration of the drafting group.
- Facilitated informal consultations, in a hybrid format with full interpretation, open to all drafting group members, at dates and times to be announced, covering Articles and Annexes discussed during the third meeting of the WGIHR. The outcomes of facilitated informal consultations are understood not to constitute agreed text, and will be translated and made available in advance of the next WGIHR meeting in July 2023.
- Information briefings on specific topics, open to all drafting group members and relevant stakeholders, including on financing and other topics to be proposed by the Bureau, at dates and times to be announced. These briefings may include technical input, including from National IHR Focal Points as appropriate.

8. The Bureau presented a proposal for the grouping of the proposed amendments in relevant clusters for the fourth and fifth WGIHR meetings (Annex 2). There was general support for the proposed groups of proposed amendments to be considered at the fourth and fifth meetings of the WGIHR with the understanding that the considerations of the groupings remain flexible.

9. The Working Group then considered proposals from Member States for entities to be included in Annex D and/or Annex E of document A/WGIHR/2/9. The Working Group was reminded that, ahead of the meeting, the Secretariat had invited Member States to put forward the names of additional entities to be included in these annexes. It was noted that no proposals for additional entities had been shared with the Secretariat by the deadline. The list of relevant stakeholders will remain a living document, to be updated as necessary.

10. The Working Group considered and approved its meeting report, and the Co-Chairs closed the session.

## ANNEX 1

### **Compliance and implementation**

- Article 53A – Establishment of an Implementation Committee
- NEW Chapter IV (Article 53 bis-quater): The Compliance Committee
  - Article 53 bis Terms of reference and composition
  - Article 53 ter. Conduct of business
  - Article 53 quater Reports
- Article 54 Reporting and review
- New Article 54 bis – Implementation

### **Public health response and core capacities**

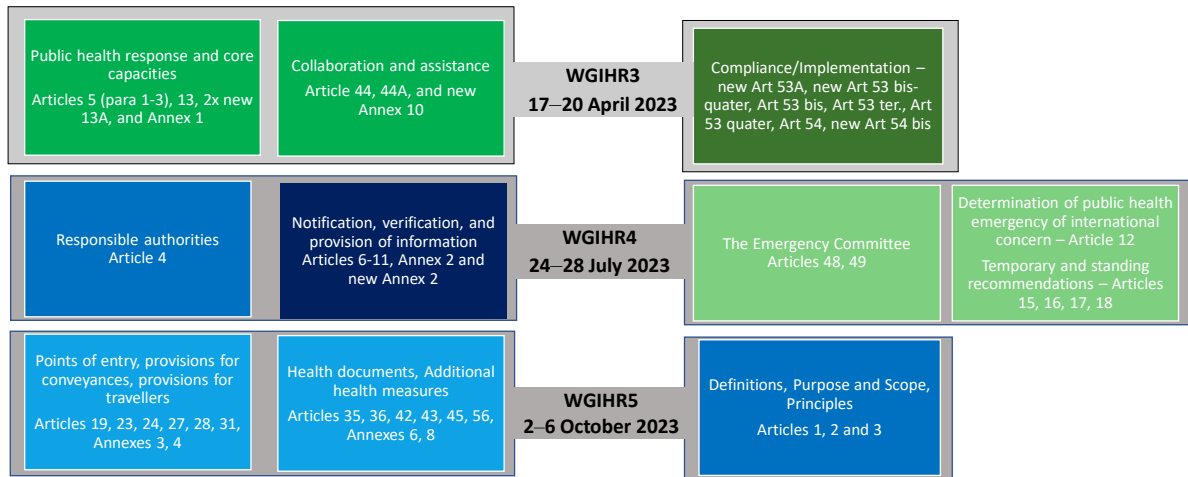
- Article 5 Surveillance (except paragraphs 4 and new 4, and the three new paragraphs 5, to be taken together with Articles 6–11 in another grouping)
- Article 13 Public health response
- NEW Article 13A WHO Led International Public Health Response
- New Article 13A: Access to Health Products, Technologies and Know-How for Public Health Response
- ANNEX 1 A. CORE CAPACITY REQUIREMENTS FOR SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE
- ANNEX 1 B. CORE CAPACITY REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNATED AIRPORTS, PORTS AND GROUND CROSSINGS
- NEW ANNEX 10 OBLIGATIONS OF DUTY TO COOPERATE

### **Collaboration and assistance**

- Article 44 Collaboration and assistance
- New Article 44A – Financial Mechanism for Equity in Health Emergency Preparedness and Response

ANNEX 2

**WGIHR BUREAU'S PROPOSAL FOR POTENTIAL GROUPINGS  
OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**



= = =