

Report of the resumed session of the seventh meeting of the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005)

1. The resumed session of the seventh meeting of the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (WGIHR) was held on 8 March 2024 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 Achsanul Habib of Indonesia.
2. In accordance with the Working Group's decision on webcasting and participation of relevant stakeholders, agenda item 3 was reserved for the drafting group and was considered in closed session. Agenda items 5 and 6 were considered in open sessions that were webcast.¹
3. Further to the Interim Report of the seventh meeting of the WGIHR,² the Co-Chairs noted the work that had been conducted since the first session of the seventh meeting of the WGIHR in February 2024. They thanked Member States for the additional feedback that they had shared on the Bureau's draft text proposals. The Secretariat is consolidating the feedback and it will be used to prepare for the eighth meeting of the WGIHR.
4. Regarding the joint plenary session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (INB) with the WGIHR, held on 23 February 2024, the Co-Chairs welcomed the progress that Member States had made to coordinate on issues of common interest to both processes, particularly in relation to the public health alert – PHEIC – pandemic continuum and public health surveillance, which will be primarily addressed through the WGIHR. The WGIHR and INB Bureaus will continue to work closely to progress in these matters and other matters of common interest to ensure coherence and complementarity.
5. The drafting group considered the Bureau's proposed text on Articles 13A and 44A which had been developed at the request of proponent Member States.

¹ Document A/WGIHR/2/8 Rev.1.

² Document A/WGIHR/7/3.

6. The drafting group provided constructive feedback on the Bureau's text proposals. It underscored the need to continue working on the Bureau's text proposals for all the Articles and Annexes so that a package of amendments could be agreed upon and finalized ahead of the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly. The Bureau's text proposals on Articles 13A and 44A will remain open for written feedback from State Parties until the end of the day (Central European Time) on Friday 15 March 2024.

7. The Working Group agreed that efforts should continue during the intersessional period, supported by the Bureau and the Secretariat, including, where appropriate, as follows:

- discussions among the proponents of various proposed amendments, with a view to the presentation of any outcomes for the consideration of the drafting group, in particular those related to Articles 2, 3, 53A, 53bis-quater, 54 and 54bis;
- discussions with relevant subgroups of INB on issues of common interest;
- intersessional briefings and facilitated intersessional consultations, in a hybrid format and open to all drafting group members, as well as joint intersessional work with the INB at dates and times to be announced, covering articles, annexes and topics discussed during the seventh and previous meetings of the WGIHR, including those that had been the subject of intersessional work. The outcomes of facilitated intersessional consultations are understood not to constitute agreed text and would be made available in advance of the eighth meeting of the WGIHR in April 2024; and
- preparation, as relevant, by the Bureau, with the assistance of the Secretariat, of text proposals based on the discussions so far, for consideration by the Working Group at its eighth meeting, without prejudice to the status of the proposed amendments by States Parties.

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

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