

## **Proposed method of work**

### **Annotated version**

The table below shows the relevant provisions and practices on which the proposed method of work of the Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies is based.

<b>Relevant paragraph</b>	<b>Legal basis / rationale</b>
<p>4. The Working Group will consider the findings and recommendations of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response;</li> <li>- the Review Committee on the Functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) during the COVID-19 Response; and</li> <li>- the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme;</li> </ul> <p>taking into account relevant work of WHO, including that stemming from resolution WHA73.1 (2020) and decision EB148(12) (2021), as well as the work of Member States, other relevant bodies, organizations, non-State actors and any other relevant information. The Working Group will report on the above as provided in paragraph 13.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resolution WHA74.7 OP2 ("REQUESTS the Member States Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies to consider the findings and recommendations of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response, the IHR Review Committee and the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, taking into account relevant work of WHO, including that stemming from resolution WHA73.1 (2020) and decision EB148(12) (2020), as well as the work of other relevant bodies, organizations, non-State actors and any other relevant information;")</li> </ul>
<p>5. The Working Group will prioritize the assessment of the benefits of developing a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response, and report thereon as provided in paragraph 14.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decision WHA74(16) OP1 ("(1) to request the Member States Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies to prioritize the assessment of the benefits of developing a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response and to provide a report to be considered at the special session of the Health Assembly referred to in paragraph 2 of this decision;")</li> </ul>

<p>6. The Working Group will be open to all WHO Member States<sup>1</sup> and will work in an inclusive manner. Accordingly, and as needed, the Working Group may invite the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, non-State actors, individual experts and any other relevant stakeholders to attend meetings of the Working Group, or parts thereof, or to provide input, as appropriate, to the topics under discussion, in accordance with relevant WHO policies, practices and procedures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Resolution WHA74.7 OP1 and 5 (“DECIDES to establish a Member States Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies, which is open to all Member States;<sup>1</sup>”; “REQUESTS ALSO the Member States Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies to work in an inclusive manner”)</li> </ul>
<p>7. The Working Group will have a Bureau comprising six officers (two Co-Chairs and four Vice-Chairs), to be appointed at the first meeting, one from each WHO region. The Bureau will facilitate the work of the Working Group in close dialogue with its membership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Resolution WHA74.7 OP3 and 4 (“RECOMMENDS that, following regional consultations to be finalized by end of June 2021, the Member States Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies shall have a Bureau comprising six officers (two Co-Chairs and four Vice-Chairs, to be appointed at the first meeting), one from each WHO region”; “REQUESTS that the Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs shall facilitate the work of the Member States Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies in close dialogue with its membership;”)</li> </ul>
<p>8. The Working Group may establish one or more subsidiary working groups to consider and make recommendations to the Working Group on specific topics. Each subsidiary working group will have a Chair/Chairs selected from among the Bureau or Member States.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– In line with other intergovernmental processes, it may be useful to explicitly provide that the Working Group may, if it so wishes, establish sub-working groups to work make recommendations on specific topics.</li> </ul>
<p>9. The Working Group will conduct its business on the basis of consensus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– This provision reflects standard WHO practice.</li> </ul>
<p>10. The Working Group will hold its first meeting on 15 and 16 July 2021 and will meet thereafter at the request of the Bureau, as frequently as necessary.<sup>2</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Resolution WHA74.7 OP31(i) (“(i) convening its first meeting no later than 17 September 2021, announcing the date of that first meeting no later than 30 July 2021 and convening it thereafter at the request of the Member States Working Group Bureau as frequently as necessary;”)</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> And regional economic integration organizations as appropriate.

<sup>2</sup> Currently, dates have been proposed for three further meetings as follows: 1–3 September, 4–6 October and 1–3 November 2021.

<p>11. Meetings of the Working Group will be held either in person (at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland), in hybrid format or virtually, as appropriate.</p>	<p>– Considering the risk that circumstances may continue to preclude the holding of physical meetings, it seems important to provide for the possibility of holding fully virtual meetings of the Working Group.</p>
<p>12. The WHO Secretariat will provide support to the Working Group by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) convening its meetings at the request of the Bureau, as necessary;</li> <li>b) providing complete, relevant and timely information to the Working Group for its discussions;</li> <li>c) allocating the resources necessary for the Working Group to carry out its mandate; and</li> <li>d) providing information on anticipated cost and source of funding.</li> </ul>	<p>– Resolution WHA74.7, OP31(i)-(iii) (“(i) convening its first meeting no later than 17 September 2021, announcing the date of that first meeting no later than 30 July 2021 and convening it thereafter at the request of the Member States Working Group Bureau as frequently as necessary; (ii) providing complete, relevant and timely information to the Working Group for its discussions; (iii) allocating the necessary resources for the Working Group to carry out its mandate, and provide information on anticipated cost and source of funding;”)</p>
<p>13. The Working Group will submit a report on the matters referred to in paragraph 4, with proposed actions for the WHO Secretariat, Member States and non-State actors, as appropriate, for consideration by the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly through the Executive Board at its 150th session.</p>	<p>– Resolution WHA74.7 OP6 (“FURTHER REQUESTS the Member States Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies to submit a report with proposed actions for the WHO Secretariat, Member States, and non-State actors, as appropriate, for consideration by the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly through the Executive Board at its 150th session”)</p>
<p>14. The Working Group will provide a report on the matter referred to in paragraph 5 to the special session of the Health Assembly due to take place from Monday, 29 November 2021 to Wednesday, 1 December 2021.</p>	<p>– Decision WHA74(16) OP2 (“(2) to request the Director-General to convene a special session of the World Health Assembly in November 2021, and to include on the agenda of the special session only one item, dedicated to considering the benefits of developing a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response with a view towards the establishment of an intergovernmental process to draft and negotiate such a convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response, taking into account the report of the Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies referred to in paragraph 1”)</p>