
Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies

The Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly, having considered the report of the Member States Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies,¹

Decided:

- (1) to welcome the report;
- (2) with respect to targeted amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005):
 - (a) to continue the Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies, with a revised mandate, including as appropriate and if agreed within each region, the rotation of the Bureau, and name (the “Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005)” (WGIHR)) to work exclusively on consideration of proposed targeted amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005), consistent with decision EB150(3) (2022), for consideration by the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly in 2024;
 - (b) to request the Director-General to convene a Review Committee on the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR Review Committee), as early as possible but no later than 1 October 2022, in accordance with Part IX, Chapter III, of the International Health Regulations (2005), in particular Article 50, paragraphs 1(a) and 6, with particular attention to be paid to the fulfilment of the letter and spirit of Article 51, paragraph 2, to make technical recommendations on the proposed amendments referred to in subparagraph (c) below, with a view to informing the work of the WGIHR;
 - (c) to invite proposed amendments to be submitted by 30 September 2022, with all such proposed amendments being communicated by the Director-General to all States Parties without delay;
 - (d) to request the WGIHR to convene its organizational meeting no later than 15 November 2022, and to coordinate with the process of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, including through regular coordination between the two Bureaus and alignment of meeting schedules and workplans, as both the International Health Regulations (2005) and the new instrument are expected to play central roles in pandemic prevention, preparedness and response in the future;

¹ Document A75/17.

- (e) to request that the IHR Review Committee submit its report to the Director-General no later than 15 January 2023, with the Director-General communicating it without delay to the WGIHR;
 - (f) to request the WGIHR to establish a programme of work, consistent with decision EB150(3), and taking into consideration the report of the IHR Review Committee, to propose a package of targeted amendments, for consideration by the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly, in accordance with Article 55 of the International Health Regulations (2005);
- (3) to encourage Member States to continue to review and consider the possible actions contained in Appendix 3 of document A75/17, in relation to health emergency prevention, preparedness and response, including through relevant ongoing WHO governing bodies processes, while noting that those possible actions are complementary and additional to existing mandates already under implementation by the Secretariat;
- (4) to request the Director-General:
- (a) to submit a report to the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly, under a substantive agenda item, on:
 - (i) the Secretariat's progress to implement actions that have been previously mandated by WHO's governing bodies and that are related to the activities mentioned in paragraph 3, in accordance with existing reporting requirements;
 - (ii) as appropriate, views from the WHO Secretariat on possible modalities for carrying forward the activities mentioned in paragraph 3 that are not presently under implementation;
 - (b) to support the WGIHR, by:
 - (i) convening its first meeting no later than 15 November 2022, and subsequent meetings at the request of the co-chairs as frequently as necessary;
 - (ii) providing the WGIHR with the necessary services and facilities for the performance of its work, and complete, relevant and timely information and advice.

Seventh plenary meeting, 27 May 2022
A75/VR/7

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