

# **Report of the Second Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Review Committee on the Role of the International Health Regulations (2005) in the Ebola Outbreak and Response**

## **ORGANIZATION AND PROCESS OF THE MEETING**

1. The second inter-sessional meeting of the Review Committee took place at WHO headquarters in Geneva, 9-13 November 2015, with the following agenda:

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Reports from the Review Committee technical subcommittees
3. Interviews with informants
4. Review Committee deliberative sessions
5. Open Session via webcast

Members participating in the meeting are listed in Annex 1.

## **SUMMARY OF INTERVIEWS**

2. The Review Committee interviewed informants by telephone (except where indicated) during 10-13 November 2015 (see Annex 2 for names and affiliations of informants). Annex 2 also lists informants who were interviewed by members of the Review Committee's three technical subcommittees during the inter-sessional period following its 5-9 October 2015 meeting.

## **SUMMARY OF DELIBERATIVE SESSIONS**

3. During its deliberative sessions, the Review Committee discussed the findings of the three technical subcommittees which were tasked to conduct SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analyses to identify factors that promote or inhibit successful implementation of the International Health Regulations 2005 (IHR) and to identify desirable outcomes. The Committee also discussed its interviews with key informants as well as documentation related to the IHR and the Ebola virus disease outbreak which the Secretariat had prepared at its request.

4. The Committee began development of preliminary recommendations and discussed the organization and writing of its final report.

5. The Committee plans to contact States Parties, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and other relevant intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO to seek their input through an open consultation process. Specifically, the Committee is interested in their views on how compliance with the IHR can be improved and the support needed to effectively implement the IHR in countries and at all levels of the WHO.

6. The Chair proposed a schedule and plan of organization for the remainder of the Committee's work. The Committee will continue in deliberative sessions during a third inter-sessional meeting to be held 9-11 December 2015 in Geneva. Further interviews with key informants will be conducted by the Committee at that time. In the inter-sessional periods, the Committee and its technical subcommittees will continue their work through teleconference and electronic exchange.

7. A progress report will be presented to the Executive Board in January 2016 and a final report to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly in May 2016.

### **OPEN SESSION**

8. An open session via webcast was held on the afternoon of the final day of the meeting. The Chair of the Committee presented a summary of its current work and processes and outlined the direction of its future work. The Chair invited comments and questions from representatives of States Parties, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and other relevant intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO.

9. The Committee discussed and endorsed the meeting report.

**Members participating in the Second Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Review Committee  
on the Role of the International Health Regulations (2005)  
in the Ebola Outbreak and Response**

Dr Preben Aavitsland  
Chief Municipal Medical Officer of Arendal City, Norway

Dr Salah T. Al Awaidy  
Communicable Diseases Advisor in Health Affairs, Ministry of Health, Muscat, Oman

Dr Hanan Balkhy  
Executive Director of Infection Prevention and Control Department, Ministry of National Guard,  
King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Dr Marion Bullock DuCasse  
Chief Medical Officer of Jamaica

Professor Rupa Chanda  
Economics & Social Sciences Faculty, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB),  
Bangalore, India

Dr Supamit Chunsuttiwat  
Senior Medical Officer, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Nonthaburi,  
Thailand

Professor Thomas Cottier  
Emeritus Professor of European and International Economic Law, University of Bern, and Senior  
Research Fellow and Former Managing Director at the World Trade Institute, Switzerland

Mr Andrew Forsyth  
Team Leader, Public Health Legislation & Policy, Ministry of Health, New Zealand

Professor Didier Houssin  
President of the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety,  
Paris, France

Mr John Lavery  
Executive Director of Health Emergency Management British Columbia (HEMBC), Vancouver,  
Canada

Lieutenant-General Louis Lillywhite  
Senior Research Consultant at the Centre for Global Health Security, the Royal Institute of  
International Affairs (Chatham House), London, UK

Dr Brian McCloskey  
Director of Global Health, Public Health England, London, UK

Professor Helen Rees  
Executive Director of the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute of the University of  
Witwatersrand (Wits) in Johannesburg, South Africa

## Interviews conducted during the Second Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Review Committee on the Role of the International Health Regulations (2005) in the Ebola Outbreak and Response

**Professor Dr. Lothar H. Wieler**, President, Robert Koch Institute (RKI), Germany; **Dr Lars Schaade**, Vice-President and Head, Centre for Biological Threats and Special Pathogens, RKI; **Dr Rudolf Adlung**, Retired Senior Economist, Trade Services Division, World Trade Organization (WTO); **Ms Gretchen Stanton**, Senior Counsellor, Agriculture and Commodities Division, WTO; **Ms Rosa Crestani**, Emergency Coordinator, Médecins Sans Frontières, Brussels, Belgium; **Dr Edward Kelley**, Director, Department of Service Delivery and Safety, World Health Organization (WHO) (in-person interview); **Ms Sophie Van Zaelen**, Manager, Health, Safety and Environment, Brussels Airlines; **Mr Dennis Brodie**, President of DRBC Consulting, Ontario, Canada; **Dr Osman Zaher**, Health Department, International Committee of the Red Cross; **Dr Arlene King**, Adjunct Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto and Former Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario, Canada; **Dr Abdullah M Asiri**, Assistant Deputy Minister of Health for Preventive Health and IHR National Focal Point, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA); **Dr Ezzedine Mohsni**, Acting WHO Representative, WHO Country Office, KSA; Ms Dalia Samhour, IHR, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO); **Ms Anne Huvos**, Head, Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework Secretariat, WHO (in-person interview); **Dr Brian McCloskey**, Director of Global Health, Public Health England, London, United Kingdom; **Dr Ties Boerma**, Director, Department of Information, Evidence and Research, WHO (in-person interview); **Dr Alain Poirier**, Associate-expert, Institut National de Santé Publique du Québec (INSPQ), former Public Health National Director, Québec, Canada; **Mr Gregory Härtl**, Coordinator, Media Team, Department of Communications, WHO (in-person interview); **Mr Daniel Epstein**, Consultant to the Department of Communications, WHO (in-person interview); **Dr Ala Alwan**, Regional Director, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) (in-person interview); Dr Jaouad Mahjour, Director, Programme Management, EMRO (in-person interview); **Dr Claude Thibeault**, Medical Advisor, International Air Transport Association (IATA); **Dr David Nabarro**, United Nations Secretary-General Special Envoy on Ebola and Chair, Advisory Group on Reform of WHO's Work in Outbreaks and Emergencies with Health and Humanitarian Consequences (in-person interview); **Dr Bruce Aylward**, Executive Director *ad interim*, Cluster for Outbreaks and Health Emergencies and WHO Director-General Special Representative for the Ebola Response, WHO (in-person interview); **Dr Daniel Kertesz**, WHO Representative in Mozambique, seconded to the Office of the WHO Director-General, Geneva (in-person interview); **Dr. Hamid Jafari**, Director *ad interim*, Global Polio Eradication and Research, WHO (in-person interview); **Dr Matshidiso Rebecca Moeti**, Regional Director, WHO Regional Office for Africa (in-person interview); **Dr Kashef Ijaz**, Principal Deputy Director, Division of Global Health Protection, Center for Global Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

## Interviews conducted during the inter-sessional period, October – November 2015

**Dr Denis Coulombier**, Head of Unit, Surveillance and Response Support, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Stockholm, Sweden; **Mr Michiel Vreedenburgh**, Chief, Aviation Safety International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); **Dr Elizabeth Wilkinson**, Head of Health Services, British Airways; **Dr Carlos Brito**, Director, Department for Disease and Epidemic Control, West Africa Health Organization; **Mr Thomas Peter**, Head of the Secretariat, Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); **Ms Ingrid Nordström-Ho**, Head, Policy and Planning Unit, Civil-Military Coordination Section, OCHA; **Mr Sharif Georges**, Head, Quality Assurance Unit/Aviation Service, World Food Programme; **Dr Teresa Zakaria**, Head of Unit, Migration Health Emergency Operations, International Organization for Migration (IOM); **Dr Kolitha Wickramage**, Health Officer, IOM; **Mr Brendan Shaw**, Assistant Director-General, International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations.