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

1. The fourth meeting of the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (WGIHR) was held on 24–28 July 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 McLiff of the United States of America, Ambassador François Rivasseau of France and Ambassador Grata Endah Werdaningtyas of Indonesia.

2. In accordance with the Working Group's decision on webcasting and participation of relevant stakeholders, agenda items 1, 2, 5 and 6, and the first part of agenda item 3, were considered in open sessions that were webcast.<sup>1</sup> The first part of agenda item 3 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 3 along with agenda item 4 were reserved for the drafting group and were considered in closed sessions.

3. Following the adoption of the agenda<sup>2</sup> and programme of work,<sup>3</sup> the Co-Chairs provided an update on articles considered at the third meeting of the WGIHR and during the intersessional period. During this period, three WGIHR information briefings and two facilitated informal consultations were held. The first briefing covered the proposed grouping of the proposed amendments and was held on 10 May 2023. The second briefing covered the Pandemic Fund and other financial mechanisms and was held on 23 June 2023. The third briefing focused on preparations for the fourth meeting of the WGIHR and was held on 29 June 2023.

4. Regarding the facilitated informal consultations, the Co-Chairs noted that the first of these was led by the Africa Group and Bangladesh to discuss their proposed combined text related to Article 13A on 30 June 2023. The second facilitated informal consultation was led by Saudi Arabia to help refine the package of proposed amendments related to Articles 44 and 44A and was held on 3 July 2023. In addition to the facilitators of the above-mentioned facilitated informal consultations that took place during the intersessional period, the Africa Group, the European Union and the United States of America provided an update related to new Article 53A, Article 53 bis-quarter, Article 54 and new Article 54 bis, which had been reviewed during a facilitated informal consultation held during the third meeting of the WGIHR.

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

<sup>2</sup> Document A/WGIHR/4/1.

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

5. The 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). They reported that the INB and WGIHR Bureaus had met four times since the third meeting of the WGIHR, with key topics of discussion including the list of topics of common interest to both processes and preparations for the joint INB and WGIHR plenary meeting held on 21 and 24 July 2023. 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 the following topics:

- Responsible authorities – Article 4
- Notification, Verification, and Provision of Information – Article 5 (paragraph 4 and new paragraphs 5), Articles 6–11, Annex 2 and new Annex 2
- Determination of a public health emergency of international concern – Article 12
- The Emergency Committee – Articles 48 and 49
- Temporary and standing recommendations – Articles 15–18.

6. The Working Group agreed that efforts should continue during the intersessional period, including as follows:

- Discussions between proponents of various proposed amendments, with a view to presentation of any outcomes for the consideration of the drafting group.
- Intersessional briefings and facilitated informal consultations, in a hybrid format, open to all drafting group members, as well as joint intersessional work with the INB, at dates and times to be announced, covering articles and annexes discussed during the fourth meeting of the WGIHR, including those that have been the subject of intersessional work. The outcomes of the facilitated informal consultations are understood not to constitute agreed text, and will be translated and made available in advance of the next meeting of the WGIHR in October 2023.

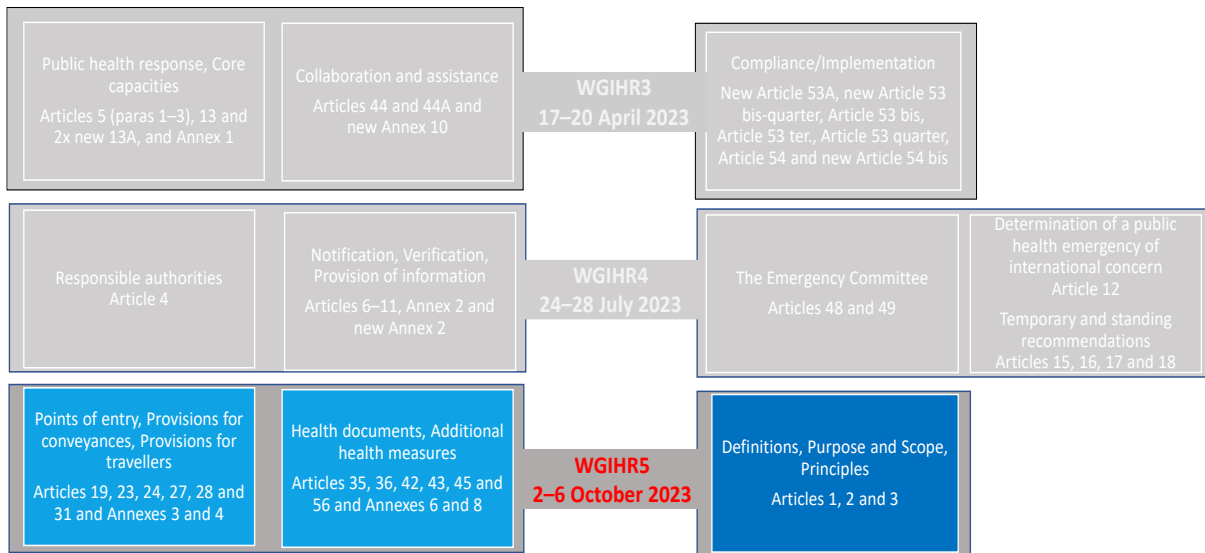
7. The Bureau presented a proposal for the grouping of the proposed amendments in relevant clusters for the fifth meeting of the WGIHR (Annex). There was general support for the group of proposed amendments to be considered at the fifth meeting of the WGIHR with the understanding that the grouping remains flexible. The agenda will also allow time to discuss progress on specific articles covered at previous WGIHR meetings, intersessional briefings and facilitated informal consultations.

8. 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.

9. The Working Group agreed to elect His Excellency Ambassador-designate Achsanul Habib, Deputy Permanent Representative of Indonesia, to replace Ambassador Grata Endah Werdaningtyas of Indonesia, whose term in Geneva was coming to an end, and expressed appreciation for her work.
10. The Working Group considered and approved its meeting report, and the Co-Chairs closed the session.

ANNEX

**WGIHR BUREAU’S PROPOSAL FOR  
POTENTIAL GROUPINGS OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS<sup>1</sup>**



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<sup>1</sup> Tiles coloured grey indicate groupings of proposed amendments discussed at previous WGIHR meetings. Tiles in blue indicate groupings of proposed amendments that will be discussed at the fifth meeting of the WGIHR.