Definition and progress

What is the UHPR?

The Universal Health and Preparedness Review (UHPR) aims to establish a regular, intergovernmental dialogue between Member States regarding their respective capacities for health emergency preparedness. It aspires to build a game-changing platform to support collective actions at the national and global level that will make the world safer. The UHPR will provide an opportunity for all States to review actions and challenges to health emergency preparedness. Currently, no other mechanism of this kind exists.

What is the added value of the UHPR?

At the global level, the UHPR will drive cooperation and the sharing of best practices between Member States by facilitating a regular dialogue. At the national level it will strengthen country capacity in health emergency preparedness by engaging national leadership at the highest level, catalyzing pragmatic and specific actions based on best available information and a robust accountability framework, which will result in sustained focus and financing for preparedness.

What is the status of the UHPR?

Initially proposed by Central African Republic and Benin, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced the launch of the voluntary pilot phase of the UHPR in November 2020. In resolution WHA 74.7 (2021), Member States requested the Director-General to develop a detailed concept note for Member States’ consideration.

At WHA75 this year, WHO Member States noted the UHPR Concept Note¹.

¹ UHPR Concept Note, WHA document A75/21, 2022, Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies - Universal Health and Preparedness Review: concept note
Since WHA75, two ongoing intergovernmental processes are currently discussing the UHPR, namely the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body and IHR Working Group.

**How do countries express interest in undertaking a voluntary pilot?**

Interested Member States can express their interest through an official communication to WHO Director General, WHO Regional Director or WHO Representative.

**Will the UHPR be linked to the pandemic accord or the IHR amendment process?**

Two ongoing intergovernmental processes are currently discussing the UHPR, namely the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body and IHR Working Group. The work by the International Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (INB) is ongoing. In its Conceptual zero draft of November 2022, the INB is considering the establishment of a “global peer review mechanism to assess national, regional and global preparedness capacities and gaps”. Similarly, the IHR Working Group is also discussing this proposal. WHO is looking to Member States for their guidance on where to anchor the UHPR and will work to ensure the necessary alignment.

**What is its relation to the HEPRR process?**

At WHA75, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus presented his 10 proposals to strengthen the global architecture for Health Emergency Preparedness, Response and Resilience (HEPRR) which references the UHPR as a key mechanism to ensure mutual accountability.

In September 2022, WHO and the World Bank announced the establishment of a Financial Intermediary Fund that will provide a dedicated stream of additional, long-term financing to strengthen preparedness capabilities in low- and middle-income countries and address critical gaps through investments and technical support. WHO is working to ensure alignment between both processes. In this regard, the outcomes of the UHPR could be used to identify priority countries and activities to be supported by the Financial Intermediary Fund.

**Relation to existing monitoring and evaluation tools under the IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework**

**How is the UHPR different from existing mechanisms such as the JEEs?**

The UHPR will establish a global platform for dialogue between Member States regarding their respective preparedness capacities.
At the national level, the UHPR will be based around the drafting of a national report that will engage the highest level of government and line ministries. The JEE is a voluntary evaluation assessing a state’s capacity to prevent, detect and respond to public health emergencies and is mainly engaging technical subject matter experts. The JEEs will continue to play a critical role as part of the IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. WHO is working to ensure that all existing and new tools are aligned and complement each other to deliver optimal support to Member States.

Will the UHPR replace existing monitoring, evaluation, assessment, and capacity-building tools?

Existing tools under the IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework aim to assist Member States in developing, strengthening, and maintaining their preparedness capacities. WHO has developed updates to existing tools, including the State Party Assessment Report (SPAR) and the Joint External Evaluations (JEEs). These tools will continue to play an important role in assessing and establishing the preparedness status of a country. The UHPR shall not replace existing tools but will complement them by providing a process to elevate the technical results of existing tool to the highest level of government and engage Member States as part of an intergovernmental dialogue.

Process and approach of the national review phase

How will the national review phase be conducted?

The national review will be a country-led, whole-of-government and whole-of-society process. As part of this phase, the Member State undertaking the review shall draft a national report based on relevant data extracted from available sources, including the IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and the WHO’s General Programme of Work (GPW). The national report will be the result of an inclusive and broad-based consultation process. Member States are encouraged to involve relevant non-State actors in the conduct of the national review and the drafting of the national report. WHO has produced relevant guidance for Member States to undertake the national review phase.

How much time does it take to complete a national UHPR pilot?

WHO currently recommends Member States to take at least 12 weeks to undertake the necessary consultations and underlying technical work to draft the national report. Depending on the size of the country and number of stakeholders to be consulted, the Member State may take more time.
How will the global peer review be conducted?

The peer review shall be based on the interactive dialogue between on the Member State undertaking the review and a group of Member States. During this discussion any Member State can ask questions, make comments or recommendations to the States under review. An outcome report will summarize the dialogue between Member States. The working methods and procedures of this phase shall be subject to consultation with Member States.