WHO Expert Group on ethics & governance of infectious disease outbreaks and other emergencies

Terms of Reference

26 April 2023

The WHO Expert Group on the ethics & governance of infectious disease outbreaks and other emergencies of public health importance aims to examine and produce guidance with respect to the ethical considerations and dimensions associated with preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from such events. In particular, the objectives of the Expert Group are:

➢ **Objective 1:** Develop and revise WHO guidance on ethics and governance matters and related tools for infectious disease outbreaks, including on research, public health measures, and equitable allocation;

➢ **Objective 2:** Discuss and advise on ethical and governance aspects of preparedness for emergencies of public health importance and infectious disease outbreaks, as needed;

➢ **Objective 3:** Where needed, help to facilitate the implementation of related WHO ethical and governance guidance documents into policy and practice;

➢ **Objective 4:** Support WHO and Member States in responding to ethical and governance issues as they arise in terms of preparedness and response for emergencies of public health importance and infectious disease outbreaks.

The plenary meetings of the WG will normally take place quarterly, with additional meetings when needed but particularly in response to technical queries from WHO HQ departments or Regional and Country Offices. Sub-working groups will be formed to work on specific areas and additional expertise shall be co-opted to these, as required.

The Experts are expected to regularly attend the scheduled meetings, contribute to the assigned sub-WGs, and review and comment on draft materials.

The Working Group’s mandate and constitution will be reviewed at the beginning of 2024.

The Secretariat will facilitate linkages with other relevant WHO working groups, as well as external partners. Additional expertise may also be sought to supplement the main group, where considered necessary.