

# **Report of the Third 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 third inter-sessional meeting of the Review Committee took place at WHO headquarters in Geneva, 9-11 December 2015, with the following agenda:

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Reports from the Review Committee sub-groups
3. Interviews with informants
4. Review Committee deliberative sessions
5. Open Session via webcast and in-person

Members participating in the meeting are listed in Annex 1.

## **SUMMARY OF INTERVIEWS**

2. The Review Committee interviewed informants by telephone (except where indicated) on 9 December 2015 (see Annex 2 for names and affiliations of informants). Annex 2 also lists informants who were interviewed by members of the Review Committee during the inter-sessional period following its 9-13 November 2015 meeting.

## **SUMMARY OF DELIBERATIVE SESSIONS**

3. During its deliberative sessions, the Review Committee reviewed the findings of the three sub-groups which were tasked with developing draft recommendations based on eleven previously identified challenges to the implementation of the IHR. The Committee discussed and refined these recommendations into four major areas: 1) increasing awareness and institutionalisation of the IHR among all stakeholders; 2) improving global public health risk surveillance, assessment and response; 3) strengthening IHR core capacities, in all contexts, through prioritisation, cooperation, evaluation and accountability; and 4) strengthening the WHO Secretariat in its priority mission concerning IHR implementation and in its partnerships for reinforced global public health security. The Committee also continued its assessment of the effectiveness of the IHR as related to the Ebola outbreak and the status of implementation of recommendations of the previous Review Committee in 2011.

4. The Committee agreed on a plan for the drafting and review of its final report.

5. 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 fourth inter-sessional meeting to be held 10-12 February 2016 in Geneva. In the inter-sessional periods the Committee will continue its work through teleconference and electronic exchange.

6. A progress report will be presented to the Executive Board in January 2016. The Review Committee plans to present a final report to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly in May 2016.

## **OPEN SESSION**

7. An open session was held in-person and via webcast 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.

8. The Committee discussed and endorsed the meeting report.

**Members participating in the Third Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Review Committee  
on the Role of the International Health Regulations (2005)  
in the Ebola Outbreak and Response<sup>1</sup>**

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

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

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

Professor Babacar Ndoeye  
Expert-consultant and trainer in hospital hygiene, infection control and patient safety, Dakar,  
Senegal

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

Professor Samba O. Sow  
Director General of the Center for Vaccine Development, Ministry of Health, Mali

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<sup>1</sup> The following Review Committee members were unable to attend: Dr Salah T. Al Awaidey, 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; Mr John Lavery, Executive Director of Health Emergency Management British Columbia (HEMBC), Vancouver, Canada; Dr Brian McCloskey, Director of Global Health, Public Health England, London, UK; and Ms Karen Tan, Senior Director at the Ministry of Communications and Information, Singapore.

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

**Dr Päivi Sillanaukea**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and Chair, Global Health Security Agenda, Finland; **Ms Outi Kuivasniemi**, Focal Point, Global Health Security Agenda, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland (in-person); **Dr Theresa Tam**, Branch Head, Health Security Infrastructure Branch, Public Health Agency of Canada, Deputy Chief Public Health Officer of Canada and Assistant Deputy Minister and Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Branch, Canada; **Professor Larry Gostin**, Director, O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University; **Dr Steve Landry**, Director, Multilateral Partnerships, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; and **Dr Scott Dowell**, Deputy Director, Surveillance and Epidemiology, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

### **Interviews conducted during the inter-sessional period, November - December 2015**

**Professor David Heymann**, Head and Senior Fellow, Centre on Global Health Security, The Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House); Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Chairman, Public Health England, UK; **Professor Peter Piot**, Director and Professor of Global Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Chair, Independent Panel on the Global Response to Ebola; **Dr Mark Dybul**, Executive Director, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria; **Dr Julie Hall**, Director, Health and Care, International Federation of the Red Cross; **Dr Paul Spiegel**, Deputy Director of the Division of Programme Support and Management, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; **Dr Craig Stark**, Regional Medical Director, Government Services, Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa, International SOS.