

Newsletter of the INB Bureau (#3/2023)

May 2023

Foreword



We are pleased to share updates on the progress made since February 2023 by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (the INB). The INB Bureau has continued its work during the fourth and the fifth meetings of the INB (INB4 and INB5) held on 27 February-3 March 2023 and on 3-6 April 2023, respectively (noting that INB5 will be resumed in June 2023).

The INB reviewed the Zero Draft and discussed

the way forward. A multistakeholder hearing, convened in New York on 9 May 2023 by the President of the UN General Assembly and moderated by the INB Co-Chair Ms Precious Matsoso, has shown a strong mobilization of civil society towards the High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (HLM on PPPR) and their support for many of the key components of the Zero Draft. The Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly in May 2023 will be a key moment to maintain the momentum and galvanize political will towards our objective to deliver a pandemic accord to the World Health Assembly in May 2024: Co-Chair Roland Driece noted on this occasion: “Let us not forget what seemed so logical two years ago, establishing an instrument through which we collaborate in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to pandemics”. The work of the INB is a marathon with many sprints on the way to success. Much has been accomplished so far, and the coming months will be critical: we are committed, as a Bureau, to supporting and enabling your work as part of the INB. We are convinced that the outcome of our collective work will be as strong as the level of ambition we place in it.

How the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body works – formal and informal work

Whilst there is much visible progress during the formal meetings of the INB, there is a huge amount of less-visible enabling work going on every day. Our gratitude goes to each and every one of the stakeholders involved for their commitment:

- In addition to formal meetings, the INB regularly holds informal consultations with experts, including from the United Nations, with the [participation of relevant stakeholders](#), on specific topics to inform the work of the INB.
- Numerous coordination meetings and informal consultations take place among Member States and within each and every region of the WHO (i.e. African Region, Region of the Americas, Eastern Mediterranean Region, European Region, South-East Asia Region, and Western Pacific Region) to continue some of the discussions informally and help forge consensus. In addition, we appreciate the work that goes into developing common positions by Member States of several sub-regions, for example within the African Region, those in the

European Union as well as those from the Caribbean Forum and the Pacific Islands. Furthermore, a number of Member States are working together as part of the “Group of Friends of the Treaty”. Lastly, there are nation-wide processes of consultations taking place in many countries.

- INB relevant stakeholders, including civil society, are fully mobilized and continue to participate through the available channels, as well as by discussing issues of priority for them with their respective Member States, and by inviting us, as Bureau members, to join their meetings.

Status of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body process:

What we covered from February-April 2023 as part of [INB4](#) and [INB5](#)

The INB4 and INB5 (to be resumed in June 2023) formed an integrated set of meetings focusing on reviewing the [Zero Draft](#) (ZD). The INB reviewed in detail the ZD at INB4 and INB5, in February 2023 and April 2023 respectively, and provided additional textual proposals.

What remains to be done

During INB5, the drafting group participants agreed to provide textual proposals to the Zero Draft by close of business on 22 April 2023. It was also agreed that the INB Bureau then provide the drafting group with a compilation reflecting all the inputs received during INB4 and INB5, as well as written textual proposals received. Additionally, the INB Bureau was asked to provide, for consideration of the drafting group, a Bureau’s text, including options where feasible, based on all submissions received and included in the compilation document, in order to facilitate the work of the drafting group, on the continued understanding that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.

It was also decided to hold a joint plenary with the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (WGIHR) in order to discuss areas of overlap.

At the end of the 12-15 June 2023 drafting group meeting, the INB will resume its work as part of INB5, take stock of its progress and refine its next steps in preparation for the 17-21 July 2023 meeting.

What the informal intersessional work addressed

At [INB3](#), it was agreed to hold “informal intersessional work between INB4 and INB5, with the participation of relevant stakeholders, on matters related to Article 1, Chapter III (Articles 6-10), Article 18, and Article 4.8, as appropriate, of the WHO zero draft CA+”.

In this context, on 17 March 2023, a first [session](#) focused on Article 6, Predictable global supply chain and logistics network, and Article 18, One Health and the Quadripartite. On 20 March 2023, a second [session](#) focused on Article 7, Access to technology: promoting sustainable and equitably distributed production and transfer of technology and know-how. On 22 March, a third [session](#) discussed issues relating to Article 10, WHO Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing System, with the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework as an example. Additional sessions for remaining topics will be convened at an appropriate time.

Deepening Coordination with the WGIHR

Mindful of the mandates that the INB and the [WGIHR](#) have received to coordinate their work, the Bureaus of the INB and the WGIHR are continuing to coordinate regularly. Our discussion currently

focuses on planning the upcoming joint plenary meeting requested by the WHO Member States in June-July 2023 in order to address the issues that both processes are discussing.

Member States will meet on 5 June to prepare for the joint plenary meeting of the two processes.. A joint press briefing involving INB Co-Chair Ms Precious Matsoso and WGIHR Co-Chair Dr Ashley Bloomfield was held on 4 May 2023.

The aim is to organize similar press briefings regularly, and in different languages, to take advantage of the regional diversity of the respective Bureaux.

Deepening Coordination with the UNGA High-level Meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (HLM on PPPR)



The INB Bureau together with H.E. Mr. Gilad Erdan, Permanent Representative of Israel and H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Co-Facilitators of the HLM on PPPR.

The President of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) organized a multi-stakeholder [hearing](#) on 9 May 2023 in New York in preparation for the HLM on PPPR to be held on 20 September

2023. The hearing aimed to seek the input of relevant stakeholders, including UN specialized agencies, parliamentarians, civil society, philanthropic foundations, academia, medical associations, the private sector and broader communities. During the [opening session](#), the President of the UNGA recalled the opportunity offered by the HLM to mobilize the highest political support for PPPR, encouraging stakeholders to actively take part in the process. The panels on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and investing in pandemic prevention, preparedness and response were moderated by Ms. Precious Matsoso, Co-Chair of the INB and Professor Zeid bin Ra'ad al Hussein, President and CEO of the International Peace Institute. The panels aimed to elicit feedback from stakeholders about the issues that they would like Member States to consider when negotiating the Political Declaration, based on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as in light of investments that need to be made in the future.

A significant number of the [contributions and interventions](#) highlighted the gaps that need to be addressed in pandemic prevention, preparedness and response to ensure that the world is better prepared for the next pandemic, including: political leadership at the highest level, equitable and timely access to pandemic-related products, the promotion of human rights based and inclusive approaches, the need for whole-of-society and innovative, multi-sectoral approaches for PPPR, protection of persons in vulnerable situations, including health and frontline workers, community leadership and engagement, strengthening capacities at the national level, fostering trust and transparency, and sustainable and predictable investments.

At the invitation of the two co-facilitators, INB Co-Chair Precious Matsoso also took part in a Member-State briefing for the Permanent Missions in New York. During this session, Ms Matsoso provided an update on the INB process and the next steps. The Permanent Representatives that took part in the briefing reiterated their support for the INB process in Geneva and highlighted the importance of ensuring complementarity between the two processes.

The Co-Facilitator of the HLM will participate as a panelist in the WHA76 strategic roundtable “*The World Together: Member State-led processes to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response*”, that takes place on 22 May 2023.

INB Bureau’s outreach

In the light of our mandate, as a Bureau, we continue to invest much energy to reach you through:

- Op-ed articles submitted to international peer-reviewed journals to inform the global scientific communities on the progress made by the INB to-date:
 - o [Negotiating a pandemic accord: a promising start | The BMJ](#)
 - o [A WHO pandemic instrument: substantive provisions required to address global shortcomings - The Lancet](#)
- the multi-stakeholder hearing for the HLM on PPPR on 9 May 2023,



- an exciting programme at the upcoming WHA: at the WHA76, in addition to the [progress report](#) of the INB to the WHA, a strategic roundtable entitled “[The World Together: Member State-led processes to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response](#)” was held on 22 May 2023, bringing together Mr Roland Driece, Co-Chair of the INB, Dr Abdullah Assiri, Co-Chair of the WGIHR, and H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco, Co-Facilitator of the HLM on PPPR, to discuss the complementarities of their mandates, with

participation of senior representatives from Member States, as well as representation from civil society. It is available for viewing on the [WHO website](#).

- In addition, a number of WHA76 [side events](#) will address some of the issues under consideration at the INB.

What is the plan of upcoming [events](#)¹?

The INB has a heavy schedule, as indicated in the progress report of the INB to the WHA contained in document [A/INB/5/3](#): “In the period leading up to the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly in May 2024, the INB will, pursuant to its agreed timeline and deliverables, hold four additional sessions (including two “two-week marathon” sessions) in first quarter of 2024, as well as two additional sessions of the drafting group in 2023. The INB may, if it finds appropriate, supplement its working sessions, in order to meet the ambitious deadline established by the Health Assembly for the INB’s work.”

Every step of the process is to be agreed by the INB depending on progress made. The timeline is dynamic and may evolve further if so decided by the INB, including a joint plenary of the INB and the WGIHR envisioned in June-July 2023.

Date	Meeting	Deliverables
21-30 May 2023	Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly	Submission of progress report
12–15 June 2023	Continuation of the drafting group	– Progress towards a consensus text of the WHO CA+

¹ The schedule of [upcoming INB meetings](#) was agreed by the INB at its third meeting, on 5-7 December 2022

16 June 2023	Resumed session of the fifth meeting of the INB	– Progress towards a consensus text of the WHO CA+
17-21 July 2023	Sixth meeting of the INB and continuation of drafting group meetings	– Review of the work of the drafting group – Progress towards a consensus text of the WHO CA+
End August to end October	Regional Committees	
4-6 September 2023	Additional INB session and/or Drafting Group meetings	Progress towards a consensus text of the WHO CA+
6-10 November 2023	Continuation of drafting group	Progress towards a consensus text of the WHO CA+
4-10 December 2023	Seventh meeting of the INB	– Progress towards a consensus text of the WHO CA+ – Outline of the final report for the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly
19 February-1 March 2024	Eighth meeting of the INB and continuation of the drafting group	– Progress towards a consensus text of the WHO CA+ – Preparation of the final report for the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly
8–29 March 2024	Ninth meeting of the INB and continuation of the drafting group	– Consensus text of the WHO CA+ – Finalization of the report for the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly
May 2024	Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly	

How can stakeholders be engaged in the future?

As part of its commitment to doing its utmost to share regular updates and to make available new information whenever sufficient progress has been achieved, the INB Bureau is working to organize more regular informational briefing sessions open to all members of the INB, including Member States and relevant stakeholders. Therefore, please stay tuned and watch out for more invitations to contribute.

Additionally, you may want to check regularly the following key resources:

- [WHO | Intergovernmental Negotiating Body](#)
- [Intergovernmental Negotiating Body \(INB\) \(who.int\)](#)
- Questions and Answers about the [Pandemic prevention, preparedness and response accord \(who.int\)](#)
- [Webpage of the Working Group on Amendments to the IHR](#)

Next newsletter:

We plan on issuing the next Newsletter in July 2023, and we look forward to sharing our progress with you. We will be pleased to work with the WGIHR Bureau to deliver a joint newsletter on the occasion of our upcoming joint meeting.