Executive Summary: Key outcomes and actions

This meeting was convened to review and discuss 1) Acute events risk assessment and infectious diseases outbreaks and responses in 2018; 2) Disease prevention & control strategies and policy perspectives; and 3) Synergies and interactions with other global leaderships and technical groups within and beyond WHO.

1. Acute events risk assessment and infectious diseases outbreaks and responses in 2018
   - STAG-IH endorses the technical and acute-events reports presented and recommends that WHE continues the areas of work.
   - STAG-IH advocates optimizing preparedness financing mechanisms. STAG-IH emphasizes the need for WHO leadership, working closely with World Bank and other funding agencies, in securing sustainable funding to continue IHR Joint External Evaluations (JEEs) and to support National Action Plans (NAPs) to develop countries’ core capacities.

2. Disease prevention & control strategies and policy perspectives
   - STAG-IH advocates for a coordinated vector control program at WHO, for example for *Aedes*-transmitted YF, Zika, dengue, and Chikungunya.
   - STAG-IH will create two “Task Teams:”
     a) Pathogens and Genetic Sequence Data (GSD) Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in link with Nagoya protocol / IHR (Influenza as a priority) to propose solutions by looking into options. The Task Team considers the strategic, scientific, and technical implications for public health of implementation of the Nagoya Protocol as it relates to access and benefit sharing for pathogens and genetic sequence information, particularly of high-threat and new pathogens, in the context of public health emergencies.
     b) Comprehensive Research Agenda during and between epidemics addressing a series of pragmatic questions including non-product oriented research as opposed to R&D Blueprint, areas discussed for prioritization included: non-pharmaceutical/public health interventions; healthcare worker infection (behavior, vaccination and Infection Prevention and Control ); enhancing social science e.g. anthropology, health behaviors in the community; genomic epidemiology; ethics preparedness; focus on the human-animal-environmental (One Health) interface emphasizing vectors, reservoirs, and animal husbandry, with support from the tripartite WHO-OIE-FAO; and the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in forecasting and implementation.
   - The Secretariat will include a topic on Data Sharing, particularly during outbreaks, in the agenda of the next face-to-face meeting, which is expected to be held in June 2019.
   - The Secretariat will share the ‘Pandemic Preparedness Blueprint for Major Health Event’ (currently being drafted) with STAG-IH for their input.
3. **Synergies and interactions with other global leaderships and technical groups within and beyond WHO**

- STAG-IH to contribute to the existing technical advisory groups for coherence and harmonization purposes by assigning a STAG-IH member to participate in: 1) Health Security Interface Technical Advisory Group, and 2) Meningitis Expert Group.
- For the Pandemic Emergency Funding Facility (PEF), ongoing close collaboration with the World Bank should be continued to create and optimize the next PEF iteration: PEF 2.0.
- STAG-IH will create a new working group on Influenza Preparedness and Response. One STAG-IH member will be assigned as a member of the WG, potentially to serve as Chair.
- STAG-IH encourages the R&D Blueprint to hold an African regional workshop on emergency regulatory pathways for investigational products in an outbreak context with major regulators and countries to review obstacles and lessons learned.
- The Secretariat will conduct a global landscape analysis of partners and chart by categorization to satisfy STAG-IH objectives by bringing in appropriate expertise which are currently not fully covered.
- A closed session on the revised decision-making tool for IHR Emergency Committee was held. DDG noted the discussion outcome. STAG-IH agreed to hold this kind of closed discussion on an as-needed basis in the future.