

## **Proposal by the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) regarding modalities for the INB's fourth and fifth meetings, for consideration by the INB**

1. At its third meeting, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) decided that the Bureau, with support from the Secretariat, would prepare the zero draft of the WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (WHO CA+), based on the conceptual zero draft and input received during the third meeting of the INB (INB3), with legal provisions, for consideration by the INB at its fourth meeting (INB4), and as a proposed basis for commencing negotiations at INB4, it being understood that the zero draft will be without prejudice to the position of any delegation and following the principle that “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed”.
2. Further to that decision, the Bureau proposes the following modalities for INB4 and INB5, including consideration of the zero draft and subsequent draft(s). It is noted that, consistent with WHO practice, each INB meeting would commence with adoption of the agenda and programme of work, at which point these proposed modalities could be agreed, reviewed and/or revised as appropriate by Member States.

### **Integrated approach to INB4 and INB5**

3. Given the short time frame between INB4 and INB5, it is proposed to consider these two meetings as an integrated set, with both focusing on Member State discussions and negotiations, including through proposing additions, deletions and alterations to the zero draft.
4. It is proposed that the zero draft be addressed first through a first reading at INB4, in plenary and with participation of relevant stakeholders. In accordance with agreed practice, the plenary would also be webcast. This first reading is intended to allow speakers to make general comments on the zero draft and to enable Member States to confirm whether, as proposed at INB3, the zero draft is the basis for commencing negotiations during INB4. As such, it is not intended that textual proposals be introduced during the first reading.
5. Following the first reading in plenary, the INB would proceed to the drafting group, following the modalities agreed by the INB at its third meeting (as reflected in document A/INB/3/6).
6. In the drafting group, it is proposed that the zero draft be addressed sequentially, starting with the Vision, and proceeding to Chapter I and subsequent Chapters through INB4, and continuing in INB5.

This approach notwithstanding, the Bureau invites Member States to be prepared to discuss all Chapters of the zero draft at both INB4 and INB5.

7. As noted in the first footnote of the zero draft, the Bureau proposes that the preambular paragraphs be discussed at the appropriate point in the negotiations, which the Bureau expects would occur at a time as agreed by the INB.

8. During each meeting, it is proposed that, further to the drafting group modalities agreed at INB3, the drafting group proceed by having the text of each chapter displayed on screen, in the English language. Textual suggestions could follow the standard practice for live text editing. Such changes/suggestions could indicate the delegation making the proposal. Further, and in line with the above-referenced modalities, consensus text/compromise solutions (should they emerge in the drafting group), would also be displayed. The on-screen document reflecting the foregoing would then form a record for drafting group delegations.

9. In addition to the above-referenced modalities for the drafting group meetings, the Bureau proposes that Member States who so wish may provide written comments, on the following proposed understandings: the content and format of any such written comments reflect inputs that are made during the drafting group meetings (that is, proposed deletions, additions and/or alterations to specific sections of the zero draft); such written comments are provided in the English language, submitted to the Bureau through the Secretariat, no later than one week after the closure of INB4 and INB5, respectively, for matters discussed at each meeting; and written comments are provided to the Bureau on the understanding that they will be shared by the Bureau, through the Secretariat, with all drafting group participants, for transparency.

### **Progress report to the Health Assembly**

10. The INB is required to submit a progress report to the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly. This report could be of a procedural nature and addressed at INB5.

### **Briefing events on the zero draft**

11. The INB Bureau held two briefing events regarding the zero draft leading up to INB4, one, on 7 February 2023, focused on Member States, and one, on 15 February, focused on relevant stakeholders<sup>1</sup>. During the 15 February briefing, relevant stakeholders were provided with an opportunity to provide their comments on the zero draft. Member States were invited to listen to the discussions. As with the 7 February briefing, the 15 February briefing was webcast on the WHO website. The briefings followed the understanding, also applied in the informal, focused consultations, that nothing said in the course of the discussions in any way prejudices the positions of Member States or other participants.

### **First draft of the WHO CA+ and June drafting group meeting**

12. At the conclusion of INB5, the INB may wish to consider requesting the Bureau, with support from the Secretariat, to prepare the first draft of the WHO CA+, for consideration of and continued negotiation by the INB at the drafting group meeting of 12–16 June 2023.

---

<sup>1</sup> As reflected in document A/INB/3/5. In that regard, Member States are invited to submit any further proposals for inclusion in Annex D and/or Annex E of document A/INB/3/5 of relevant entities for consideration at INB4 in advance of the meeting, to facilitate consideration of those proposals at INB4.

13. It is proposed that the first draft: be based on comments and discussions received during INB4 and INB5; take into account the relevant stakeholder briefing(s); and include the Bureau’s best efforts at suggesting a consensus approach, where appropriate. The first draft would constitute a “Bureau text”, it being understood that it would not prejudice the position of any delegation and that it would be based on the principle that “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed”.

14. At the conclusion of the 12–16 June drafting group meeting, the INB could decide the next steps to continue and further negotiate the WHO CA+.

### Summary of key upcoming dates for the INB

15. The table below sets out the timetable for INB meetings (and related WHO governance dates) during 2023 (from February). Dates marked with an asterisk denote their provisional/notional nature; dates are subject to change per applicable modalities.

Date	INB meeting/event
<b>7 February</b>	Member State briefing on zero draft and proposed modalities for upcoming meetings
<b>15 February</b>	Briefing with relevant stakeholders on zero draft
<b>20–24 February</b>	WGIHR2
<b>27 February–3 March</b>	INB4
<b>3–6 April</b>	INB5
<b>21–30 May</b>	WHA76
<b>*Late May/early June</b>	Distribution of first draft of WHO CA+ to Member States
<b>12–16 June</b>	INB drafting group meeting
<b>17–21 July</b>	INB6
<b>*4–6 September</b>	Additional INB session and/or drafting group meeting
<b>6–10 November</b>	INB drafting group meeting
<b>4–6 December</b>	INB7

= = =