

## **Proposed method of work**

### **BACKGROUND**

1. In May 2021, by resolution WHA74.7(2021), the Health Assembly established the Member States Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies (the “Working Group”).
2. Structurally, the Working Group will operate as a subdivision of the Health Assembly.<sup>1</sup> As such, it will consider and make recommendations to the Health Assembly on the matters specifically assigned to it by the latter, namely those indicated in resolution WHA74.7(2021) and decision WHA74(16)(2021).
3. The method of work of the Working Group will be defined and agreed upon by the Working Group itself, as requested by the Health Assembly. A proposed approach to working methods is provided below for consideration. It is based on the relevant provisions of resolution WHA74.7 and decision WHA74(16) that address aspects of the Working Group’s operation, and on the practices developed in connection with other WHO intergovernmental processes.

### **PROPOSED METHOD OF WORK**

#### **Objectives**

4. The Working Group will consider the findings and recommendations of:
  - the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response;
  - the Review Committee on the Functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) during the COVID-19 Response; and
  - the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme;

taking into account relevant work of WHO, including that stemming from resolution WHA73.1(2020) and decision EB148(12)(2021), as well as the work of Member States, other relevant bodies, organizations, non-State actors and any other relevant information. The Working Group will report on the above as provided in paragraph 13.

---

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Rule 41 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly.

5. The Working Group will prioritize the assessment of the benefits of developing a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response, and report thereon as provided in paragraph 14.

## **Participation**

6. The Working Group will be open to all WHO Member States<sup>1</sup> and will work in an inclusive manner. Accordingly, and as needed, the Working Group may invite the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, non-State actors, individual experts and any other relevant stakeholders to attend meetings of the Working Group, or parts thereof, or to provide input, as appropriate, to the topics under discussion, in accordance with relevant WHO policies, practices and procedures.

## **Structure and conduct of business**

7. The Working Group will have a Bureau comprising six officers (two Co-Chairs and four Vice-Chairs), to be appointed at the first meeting, one from each WHO region. The Bureau will facilitate the work of the Working Group in close dialogue with its membership.

8. The Working Group may establish one or more subsidiary working groups to consider and make recommendations to the Working Group on specific topics. Each subsidiary working group will have a Chair/Chairs selected from among the Bureau or Member States.

9. The Working Group will conduct its business on the basis of consensus.

## **Meetings**

10. The Working Group will hold its first meeting on 15–16 July 2021 and will meet thereafter at the request of the Bureau, as frequently as necessary.<sup>2</sup>

11. Meetings of the Working Group will be held either in person (at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland), in hybrid format or virtually, as appropriate.

## **Support from the WHO Secretariat**

12. The WHO Secretariat will provide support to the Working Group by:

- (a) convening its meetings at the request of the Bureau, as necessary;
- (b) providing complete, relevant and timely information to the Working Group for its discussions;
- (c) allocating the resources necessary for the Working Group to carry out its mandate; and
- (d) providing information on anticipated cost and source of funding.

---

<sup>1</sup> And regional economic integration organizations as appropriate.

<sup>2</sup> Currently, dates have been proposed for three further meetings as follows: 1–3 September, 4–6 October and 1–3 November 2021.

## **Reporting**

13. The Working Group will submit a report on the matters referred to in paragraph 4, with proposed actions for the WHO Secretariat, Member States and non-State actors, as appropriate, for consideration by the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly through the Executive Board at its 150th session.

14. The Working Group will provide a report on the matter referred to in paragraph 5 to the special session of the Health Assembly due to take place from Monday, 29 November 2021 to Wednesday, 1 December 2021.

= = =