

**Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (“INB”)**

**Informal, focused consultation on Operationalizing and achieving equity**

**Concept Note**

At its second meeting, the INB decided that the INB Bureau would conduct informal, focused consultations (“IFCs”), open to all Member States<sup>1</sup> and relevant stakeholders, on selected key issues, including with experts, as invited by the Bureau. This Concept Note is for the IFC session on the topic of operationalizing and achieving equity.

**Key Information**

<b>Date:</b>	5 October 2022
<b>Time:</b>	12:00 – 15:00 (CET)
<b>Location, participation, and webcasting:</b>	<p>The IFC session will be fully <b>virtual</b>, with interpretation in WHO’s official languages.</p> <p>The WHO Secretariat will provide the connection details to all participants in advance of the session.</p> <p>In the interest of transparency, and mindful of the public’s interest in the work of the INB, the IFC session will be <b>publicly broadcast</b> on the WHO website (<a href="https://inb.who.int/home/informal-focused-consultations">https://inb.who.int/home/informal-focused-consultations</a>).</p>
<b>Topic details:</b>	<p>This IFC session will address <b>Operationalizing and achieving equity</b>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access to pandemic response products and delivery / distribution</li><li>• Access and benefit sharing, including genetic sequence data</li><li>• Strengthening health systems, including the importance of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Primary Health Care (PHC)</li></ul>
<b>Chairs:</b>	<p>Ms Precious Matsoso, INB Bureau Co-Chair Mr Roland Drieco, INB Bureau Co-Chair</p>
<b>Moderator:</b>	<p>Ms Emma Ross, Senior Research Fellow, Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, London.</p>
<b>Participating experts:</b>	Listed below.
<b>Submission of advance questions</b>	<p>Participants are encouraged to submit their questions <b>in advance</b> of the IFC session, by email to: <a href="mailto:governanceunit@who.int">governanceunit@who.int</a> with the subject line: “written question(s) for INB IFCs session two”. Member States and relevant stakeholders will also be able to submit questions during each IFC, by email to the same address, or through the</p>

<sup>1</sup> And associate members and regional economic integration organizations.

	chat feature of the virtual platform. The submission of advance questions will not preclude participants from taking the floor during the discussions.
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**Modalities**

The IFC sessions (including this session) will follow the modalities set out in the White Paper on the IFCs from the INB Bureau, which was provided in advance.

As stated in the White Paper, all IFCs will be moderated and conducted in two parts: 1) an interactive round table among independent experts (listed below), where the moderator will ask questions and stimulate discussion among the experts; and 2) a discussion and reflection session, for Member States and relevant stakeholders, where questions and reflections may be sent through email in advance of the session, or presented during the session, including through the “chat” function.

Reference is also made to the section of the White Paper entitled “*Disclaimer / understanding*” regarding participation in the IFCs, including by WHO Member States.

**Run of Show**

5 October 2022 (all times CET)

- 11:30-11:55            *Experts join the session and test their connection*
- 12:00-12:10            Welcome remarks by the INB Co-chairs and introduction of the moderator
- 12:10-13:35            ***Roundtable Discussion:*** Moderator introduces experts’ panel and moderates the presentations and experts’ discussion
- 13:35-13:40            ***Health break***
- 13:40-14:40            ***Discussion and reflection session:*** Moderated discussions and questions, involving audience and panelists
- 14:40-14:50            Wrap-up by the moderator
- 14:50-15:00            Outlining of main messages and closing remarks by the INB Co-chair

**Roundtable discussion structure**

Invited experts will be invited to provide a brief presentation of their topics, as outlined in the table below, from their specific lens of expertise, drawing on the [Working Draft](#), and the mandate of the INB.

**WHO Informal, focused consultation 2 – Operationalizing and achieving equity**

Proposed focus areas for expert presentations during the round table component: The topics below aim to elicit from the experts the broadest range of perspectives that can inform operationalizing and achieving equity through a WHO convention or agreement “WHO CA+”<sup>2</sup>. In the interest of coherence and to avoid duplication of contributions, the topics have been grouped and reference has been made to the [Working Draft](#) to ensure that all relevant issues are addressed. In addition, given the complementarity with the IFC on “Intellectual property, production and transfer of technology and know-how” some topics will be covered in that IFC.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Expert(s)</b>	<b>Potential areas for expert focus<sup>3</sup></b>
<b><i>Access to pandemic response products and delivery / distribution</i></b>	<p><b>Ahmed Al-Mandhari</b>, Regional Director, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean</p> <p><b>Ayoade Olatunbosun-Alakija</b>, Co-Chair, African Vaccine Delivery Alliance</p> <p><b>Strive Masiyiwa</b>, African Union Special Envoy on COVID-19 (TBC)</p>	<p>The expert(s) are invited to provide specific input in addressing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mechanisms that could be put in place in advance of the next pandemic to ensure timely, fair and equitable <b>access</b> to pandemic response products.</li> <li>• Mechanisms that ensure fair and equitable <b>allocation</b> of pandemic response products based on public health risk and need.</li> <li>• Mechanisms that recipient countries could consider to enhance speedy/timely <b>distribution</b> of pandemic response products to priority populations based on national pandemic preparedness plans.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Access and benefit sharing, including genetic sequence data</i></b>	<p><b>Didier Houssin</b>, President, Assistance Publique – Hopitaux de Paris International and former Chair, Advisory Group of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Network, and Chair, IHR Emergency Committee for COVID-19</p> <p><b>Rajinder Kumar Suri</b>, CEO, Developing Country Vaccine Manufacturers Network (DCVMN)</p>	<p>The expert(s) are invited to provide specific input in addressing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mechanisms or systems that cover both rapid, regular and timely sharing of pathogens and genetic sequences, and fair and equitable benefit sharing.</li> <li>• What benefit sharing arrangements could be considered, including innovative approaches?</li> </ul>
<b><i>Strengthening health systems, including the importance of UHC and PHC</i></b>	<p><b>Patricia Garcia</b>, Former Health Minister, Professor and former Dean, School of Public Health, Cayetano Heredia University</p>	<p>The expert(s) are invited to provide specific input in addressing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening surveillance, outbreak investigation and control, early warning, information sharing, and capacities for genetic sequencing in order to inform risk assessment of and trigger rapid response.</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> WHO CA+: At its second meeting in July 2022, the INB identified that Article 19 of the WHO Constitution is the comprehensive provision under which the instrument should be adopted, without prejudice to also considering, as work progresses the suitability of Article 21.

<sup>3</sup> These sub-areas and topics are proposed for participating experts’ consideration, as they see fit, in the spirit of fostering a robust discussion. They are in no way intended to limit the experts’ presentations or discussions, and the WHO Secretariat is very flexible in framing all experts’ contributions in a way that synergizes with their scholarship.

Topic	Expert(s)	Potential areas for expert focus <sup>3</sup>
	<b>Mohga Kamal-Yanni</b> , Senior Health Policy Advisor, UNAIDs and the People Vaccine Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using equitable and affordable access to health technologies, to strengthen national health systems and mitigate social inequalities.</li> </ul>

## **Background**

The mandate of the INB was established by the World Health Assembly in decision [WHASS2\(5\)](#), pursuant to which the INB is to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, with a view to adoption under Article 19, or under other provisions of the WHO Constitution as may be deemed appropriate by the INB.

Pursuant to that mandate, at its [second meeting](#) the INB “agreed that the instrument should be legally binding and contain both legally binding as well as non-legally binding elements. In that regard, the INB identified that Article 19 of the WHO Constitution is the comprehensive provision under which the instrument should be adopted, without prejudice to also considering, as work progresses, the suitability of Article 21. This identification is made mindful that the decision will be made by the World Health Assembly.”

Further information and documentation regarding the INB, including from past meetings, is available on the WHO website (<https://apps.who.int/gb/inb/>), including the [Working Draft, presented on the basis of progress achieved, for the consideration of the INB at its second meeting](#) and the [paper](#) entitled “Background information related to the identification by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body of the provision of the WHO Constitution under which the instrument should be adopted”, prepared by the WHO Secretariat for the second meeting of the INB.

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