

**Briefing Session Pandemic Accord
Monday, September 30, 2024
(Washington DC)**

**Reflections on Meaningful
Participation of Member
States in the Americas**

Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB)



World Health Organization
WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION
Agenda item 2

SSA2(5)
1 December 2021

The World Together: Establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating body to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response

The Second special session of the World Health Assembly,

Mandate: 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 INB.

The INB Bureau consists of two co-chairs and four vice-chairs, one from each of the six WHO regions:

- AFR – Ms Precious Matsoso (South Africa), co-chair
- EUR – Ambassador Anne-Claire Amprou (France), co-chair
- **AMR – Ambassador Tovar da Silva Nunes (Brazil), vice-chair**
- EMR – Ambassador Amr Ramadan (Egypt), vice-chair
- SEAR – Dr Viroj Tangcharoensathien (Thailand), vice-chair
- WPR – Ms Fleur Davies (Australia), vice-chair



PAHO's support for the INB negotiations

- Briefing at the Pan American Sanitary Conference, Sept 2022
- Briefing session for the Ministers of Health of the Caribbean
- Briefing sessions with Chief Medical Officers of the Caribbean
- Four Regional Meetings of delegates from Ministries of Health and Foreign Affairs, and from Permanent Missions in Geneva and Washington D.C.
- Briefing at the 60th PAHO Directing Council
- Information sessions on the Draft Negotiating Text, Revised Negotiating Text, and Draft Pandemic Agreement
- Briefings for GRUA during the 77th WHA
- Fact sheets and analysis delivered by PAHO experts on specific articles

Member States participation in the INB negotiations

- Regional Statements
- Member States of the Americas as co-facilitators: Canada, Colombia, Mexico and USA.
- Member States of the Americas as volunteer text editors
Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, and USA
- Meetings of the Group of the Americas in Geneva
- Meetings on subgroups and on specific articles

77th World Health Assembly



World Health
Organization

SEVENTY-SEVENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
Provisional agenda item 13.4

A77/10
27 May 2024

Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response

Report by the Director-General

1. The Director-General has the honour to transmit to the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly the outcome of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (see Annex), in line with decision SSA2(5) (2021).

ACTION BY THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY



World Health
Organization

SEVENTY-SEVENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
Agenda item 13.4

A77/A/CONF./15
1 June 2024

Intergovernmental Negotiating Body

The Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly,

(PP1) Recalling decision SSA2(5) (2021), entitled “The World Together: Establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating body to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response”, which established the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) 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;

(PP2) Recalling that the INB agreed, at its second session, that the instrument should be legally binding and contain both legally binding as well as non-legally binding elements, and 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;

Decided:

(1) to extend the mandate of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response to finish its work as soon as possible, and submit its outcome for consideration by the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly in 2025, or earlier by a special session of the World Health Assembly if possible in 2024 with only one agenda item dedicated to this outcome;

The 11th INB meeting was held in Geneva from 9 to 20 September 2024

A/INB/11



Intergovernmental Negotiating Body

9–20 September 2024

[A/INB/11/1](#)

Provisional agenda

[A/INB/11/2](#)

Draft programme of work

[A/INB/11/2 Rev.1](#)

Updated programme of work: Week 2

[A/INB/11/INF.1](#)

Information document on the legal architecture of the proposal for the WHO Pandemic Agreement

[A/INB/11/INF.2](#)

Information document on complementarity and coherence between the amended International Health Regulations (2005) adopted by the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly, and the proposal for the WHO Pandemic Agreement

[A77/10](#)

Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response



Strategies to enhance the participation of Member States.

Collective Responsibility



Regional Collaboration

Coordinated efforts between PAHO/WHO, and Member States towards a unified approach.



Health Equity

Ensuring equitable access to vaccines, healthcare resources, and technology for all especially vulnerable populations in the Region.



Strengthening Health Surveillance, early alert and response

Building regional capacity to alert and respond to public health emergencies.

Challenges To Meaningful Participation of Member States from in the Americas in Pandemic Negotiations

Time Zone Differences

Negotiations begin at 9am Geneva, 3am or earlier in most countries

Resource Constraints

Many permanent missions from the Americas face limited personnel

Communication Challenges

Maintaining effective communication between missions and capitals

Participation Asymmetry

These factors hinder the ability of countries in the Americas to advocate effectively for their needs.

Strategies to enhance the participation of Member States.

Procedural Approaches



Information Sessions

Including public sector, civil society, Industry, relevant stakeholders and interactive dialogues with experts



Structured Decision-Making

A procedural framework to allow Member States to propose text editing and review key articles systematically.



Technical Working Groups

Provide a forum for in-depth informal discussions on critical topics.

Consideration of face-to-face meetings, expert involvement, and procedural approaches.

Important Elements in Pandemic Accord Negotiations



In-Person Discussions

Face-to-face meetings have been essential to approach complex issues



Expert Contributions

Technical experts from WHO and PAHO provided essential insights



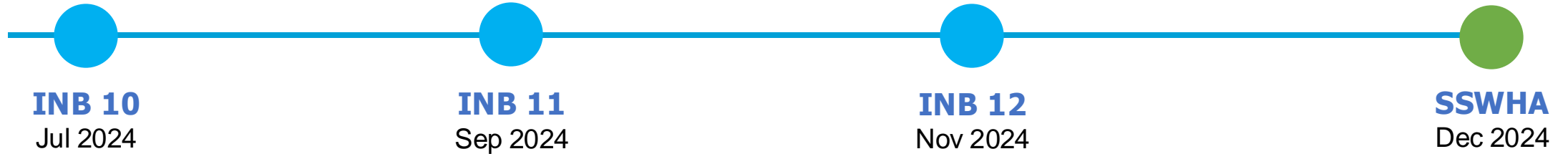
Regional Coordination

In-person GRUA meetings helped align national policies and strategies with regional objectives for the Americas.

INB



INB



INB timeline meetings options for possible dates, if necessary, beyond the 15 November deadline for the calling of a special session of the Health Assembly



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