

Report of the Third Meeting of the Review Committee on the Functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) in Relation to Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

ORGANIZATION AND PROCESS OF THE MEETING

The Third Meeting of the Committee took place at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, 27–29 September 2010, with the following provisional agenda:

1. Welcome, introduction and remarks by the Chair
2. Statements by States Parties and invited organizations
3. Interviews by the Review Committee
4. Review Committee deliberative sessions
5. Discussion and adoption of the Report of the Third Meeting of the Review Committee

As at the previous two sessions in April and June 2010, the following observers were invited to the meeting: representatives of States Parties to the IHR, the United Nations and its specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental organizations or nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO. Representatives of the media were invited to audit the plenary sessions.

SUMMARY OF STATES PARTIES' INTERVENTIONS

Belgium on behalf of the European Union and Finland made interventions. The Chair also invited States Parties and other observers to submit statements for the Committee's consideration.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEWS

On the first day, interviews were conducted in person (except where indicated) with the following individuals: Professor John Mackenzie, Emergency Committee Chair, Professor of Tropical Infectious Diseases, Division of Health Sciences, Curtin University, Australia; Dr Claude Thibeault, Consultant in Aviation Medicine and Occupational Health and Medical Advisor, International Air Transport Association (IATA); Dr Aboubacry Fall, Public Health Specialist, Health Economist, Director of Prevention at the Ministry of Health, Prevention and Public Hygiene, Senegal; Dr Philip Muthoka, National IHR Focal Point Officer, Ministry of Health, Kenya; Dr Vagif Abdullayev, Alternate National IHR Focal Point, Deputy Director-General of the Republican Center of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Azerbaijan; Dr Liudmila Naroichyk, Deputy Chief Doctor on Epidemiology, Republican Centre for Hygiene, Epidemiology and Public Health, Belarus; Dr Anthony Evans, Chief, Aviation Medicine Section, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Montreal, Canada; Dr Dang Quang Tan, Chief of Border Health Quarantine Division, Department of Preventive Medicine, Ministry of Health, Viet Nam; Dr Jacques Berger, President, Sanofi Pasteur, France; Dr Atika Abelin, Director, Global Immunisation Policy, Sanofi Pasteur; Dr Patricia Leung-Tack, Director Industrial Operations Flu, Influenza Pandemic & Pneumo, Sanofi Pasteur; Dr Mike Osterholm, Director, Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, University of Minnesota (CIDRAP) (by videoconference); Dr Samir Abdel Aziz El Rafie, Executive Director Surveillance Unit, Ministry of Health, Egypt; Dr Babiker Magboul, Director of Epidemiology Department, Federal Ministry of Health, Sudan; Dr Kamel Abusal, National IHR Focal Point and Community Medicine Specialist, Head, Diarrheal Disease Sector, Ministry of Health, Jordan; Ms Maritza Garcia, Registered Nurse, Epidemiologist, Chief, Epidemiological Surveillance System, Ministry of Health, Chile; Dr Karina Balbuena, Coordinator of Early Response Team, Secretariat of Prevention Programmes and Health Promotion, Ministry of Health, Argentina; Dr Geela Ali, Permanent Secretary of Health, Maldives; Dr Garib Das Thakur, Director and National IHR Focal Point, Epidemiology and Disease Control Division, Department of Health Services, Nepal.

The second day began with another round of interviews by video conference of the following individuals: Ms Mary Murnane, Deputy Secretary, Professor Jim Bishop, Chief Medical Officer, and Ms Jennifer Bryant, First Assistant Secretary, Office of Health Protection, from the Department of Health and Ageing, Australia. Dr Gary Grohmann, Director, Immunobiology Section, Monitoring and Compliance Group, Therapeutic Goods Administration, Australia attended in person. Dr Jean Damascène Khouilla, Director General Public Health, Gabon was interviewed in the afternoon.

Interviews then continued in person with Dr Marc Sprenger (Director) and Professor Angus Nicoll from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). The final interviews were conducted with the WHO Delegation, led by the Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan including Dr Anarfi Asomoa-Baah, Deputy Director-General, Dr Keiji Fukuda, Assistant Director-General, Health Security and Environment, Mr Gian Luca Burci, Legal Counsel, Ms Christine Feig, Director, Department of Communications, Director-General's Office, Dr Sylvie Briand, Head, Global Influenza Programme, Dr Marie-Paule Kieny, Director, Initiative for Vaccine Research, Dr Mike Ryan, Director, Global Alert and Response, Dr Max Hardiman, Medical Officer, Regulation, Procedures and Information, International Health Regulations Coordination Department, Dr Ailan Li, Medical Officer, International Health Regulations, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Dr Jaouad Mahjour, Director, Division of Communicable Disease Control and Acting WHO Representative for Lebanon,

WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Dr Florimond Tshioko Kweteminga, IHR Regional Advisor, WHO Regional Office for Africa.

SUMMARY OF DELIBERATIVE SESSIONS

The Committee held its first deliberative session on the afternoon of the second day. During this session, they discussed the outline for the Final Report, as well as the breakdown and potential structure and content of each chapter. These discussions continued through the deliberative sessions on the morning and early afternoon of the third day.

The Chair proposed a schedule for the remainder of the Committee's work. Most members of the Committee would remain in Geneva for an additional two days following the meeting to continue the work of writing the report. The Committee will continue in deliberative sessions in early November 2010 in Geneva. Further interviews may be conducted by the Committee over the coming weeks and months. The Committee continues to welcome written submissions from States Parties and from the United Nations and its specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental or nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO. A report on the progress of the Committee is expected to be posted on the WHO website in late November or December 2010. It is also anticipated that the Committee will assemble in January 2011 to hold a final plenary session. A completed report is expected to be presented to the Sixty-fourth World Health Assembly in May 2011.

The Committee discussed and endorsed the Chair's proposed meeting report.

Appendix

Members participating in the Third Meeting of the Review Committee on the functioning of the IHR (2005) and assessment of the international preparedness and response to the pandemic influenza A (H1N1) 2009

Dr Preben Aavitsland, Department Director/State Epidemiologist, Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Oslo, Norway

Professor Tjandra Y. Aditama, Director General of Disease Control and Environmental Health, Ministry of Health, Jakarta, Indonesia

Dr Silvia Bino, Associate Professor of Infectious Diseases, Head, Control of Infectious Diseases Department, Institute of Public Health, Tirana, Albania

Dr Yuri Fedorov, Deputy Director, Federal Centre on Plague Control, Federal Service for Surveillance of Consumer Rights Protection and Human Well-being, Moscow, Russian Federation

Dr Harvey V. Fineberg, President, The Institute of Medicine, Washington D.C., USA

Mr Andrew Forsyth, Team Leader, Public Health Legislation and Policy, Office of the Director of Public Health, Health and Disability Systems Strategy Directorate, Ministry of Health, Wellington, New Zealand

Psychologist Claudia Gonzalez, EPI-Sur Consultores, Santiago, Chile.

Dr Mohammad Mehdi Gouya, Director-General, Centre for Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Teheran, Iran

Dr Amr Mohamed Kandeel, Undersecretary for Preventive Affairs, Ministry of Health, Cairo, Egypt

Dr Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Professor Abdulsalami Nasidi, Former Director, Public Health, Federal Ministry of Health, Abuja, Nigeria

Professor Paul Odehouri-Koudou, Director, National Institute of Public Hygiene, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Dr Nobuhiko Okabe, Director of Infectious Disease Surveillance Center, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Tokyo, Japan

Dr Palliri Ravindran, Director, Emergency Medical Relief, Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health, New Delhi, India

Professor Dr Mahmudur Rahman, Director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) & National Influenza Centre (NIC), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Professor José Ignacio Santos, Professor and Head of the Infectious Diseases Unit, Department of Experimental Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico

Mrs Palanitina Tupuimatagi Toelupe, Director General of Health, Ministry of Health, Motootua, Samoa

Professor Patricia Ann Troop, Independent, Former Chief Executive, Health Protection Agency, London, United Kingdom

Dr Kumnuan Ungchusak, Senior Expert in Preventive Medicine, Bureau of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Bangkok, Thailand

Professor Kuku Voyi, Chairperson, School of Health Systems and Public Health, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa

Professor Wang Yu, Director-General of Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Beijing, China

Dr Sam Zaramba, Senior Consultant Surgeon, Former Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health, Kampala, Uganda

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