

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Review Committee regarding amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (in person)

9-13 January 2023, Geneva, Switzerland

The [Review Committee regarding amendments to the International Health Regulations \(2005\)](#) (IHR) (hereafter, the Review Committee, the Committee, or RC) met for its Sixth and last Meeting from 9 to 13 January 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland. The Committee met daily from 9:00 to 18:00 CET (GMT+1), with one evening session on 11 January 2023. In addition, on 12 January 2023, the Committee held a meeting with Member States, the United Nations and its specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in accordance with Article 51.2 of the IHR. The provisional agenda and list of participants are presented as annexes 1 and 2 at the end of this report.

The WHO Secretariat opened the meeting to welcome the Committee Members and addressed administrative and legal matters.

The meeting was then handed over to the Vice-Chair, H.E. Ambassador Juan José Gómez-Camacho, who reviewed the objectives of the meeting, which were:

1. To agree on the final report of the Review Committee.
2. To meet with WHO Member States / States Parties to the IHR, United Nations and its specialized agencies, and other relevant intergovernmental organizations or nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO.

The Committee also adopted the reports of its Fourth and Fifth Meetings, which are now available on the WHO web page as follows: [Report of the Fourth Meeting](#) and [Report of the Fifth Meeting](#).

The Committee then proceeded with the finalization of the report, which is now available [here](#). Based on drafts documents stored in a secured platform, and corresponding to the different sections and sub-sections of the Final RC Report, the Committee conducted a line-by-line review of those documents. On some occasions, the finalization of those documents required overnight re-drafting, followed by a collective line-by-line review. The Committee agreed on the final technical recommendations for each article or annex for which amendments were proposed, which constituted the main part of their report (Chapter 4).

On 12 January 2023, the Committee held a meeting with WHO Member States / States Parties to the IHR, United Nations and its specialized agencies, and other relevant intergovernmental organizations or nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO (hereafter, Open Meeting). This meeting was opened by the Director-General of WHO, who recognized the commitment of WHO Member States to the process to amend the IHR, as well as the tireless work of the Committee to contribute to that. The floor was then given to the Vice-Chair of the Committee, H.E. Ambassador Gómez-Camacho who, while noting the technical article/annex-by-article/annex analytical work of the Committee, also highlighted the highly political nature of certain proposals for amendments (e.g. those related to equity, benefits sharing, collaboration, and financing), as well as of the context in which WHO Member States will be considering them. Following the interventions of WHO Member States and stakeholders, the Committee responded to questions and provided clarifications as needed.

During the last day, the Committee reviewed the remaining sections of the report and agreed on the final content for: introduction; methods of work; general considerations in relation to key values underpinning the implementation of the IHR as they appear in the proposed amendments, in relation to main provisions for which amendments were proposed, and in relation to the context in which the amendment process is taking place.

Before adjourning the meeting, the Committee agreed on the next steps and the tight timeframe to finalize the Final RC Report for submission to the Director-General of WHO, with simultaneous dispatch for clearance for both the Committee and WHO internal clearance process, and discussed the organization of its meeting with the Bureau of the [Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations \(2005\)](#), scheduled on 24 January 2023.

Annex 1. Provisional Agenda

Provisional Agenda

International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) Review Committee regarding the Amendments to the IHR (RC)

Sixth Meeting

WHO headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland, 9-13 January 2023

Objectives of the meeting

1. To agree on the final report of the Review Committee.
2. To meet with WHO Member States / States Parties to the IHR, United Nations and its specialized agencies, and other relevant intergovernmental organizations or nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO.

Time GMT +2	Monday 9 January 2023 Salle V
08:30-09:00	Connection to the meeting via Zoom (for those Members and WHO staff unable to attend in person)
09:00-09:10	Convening / opening of meeting (DG or designee)
09:10-09:30	Administrative matters <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Background on IHR, the RC and its mandate, organization and operations, obligations (WHO/LEG)- Institutional requirements such as the role and status of Members and Advisers and issues in relation to Declarations of Interests and Confidentiality Undertaking (WHO/CRE) Handover to Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Presentation of the objectives of the meeting- Adoption of the Report of the fourth and fifth meetings
09:30-10:30	Review draft sections of the report Part I – Articles 1-4 Part II – Articles 5-13, Annexes 1 and 2
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:30	Review draft sections of the report Part II – Articles 5-13, Annexes 1 and 2 (continued)
12:30-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:30	Review draft sections of the report Part II – Articles 5-13, Annexes 1 and 2 (continued)
15:30-15:45	Coffee break

15:45-17:30	Review draft sections of the report Part III – Articles 15-18 Part IV – Articles 19-22
17:30	Adjourn

Time GMT +2	Tuesday, 10 January 2023 Salle V
08:30-09:00	Connection to the meeting via Zoom (for those Members and WHO staff unable to attend in person)
09:00-10:30	Review Draft sections of the Report Part V – Articles 23 -34 Part VI – Articles 35-39, Annexes 3, 6, and 8
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:30	Review Draft sections of the Report Part VIII – Articles 42-46, new Annex 10
12:30-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:30	Review Draft sections of the Report Part IX – Articles 47-53
15:30-15:45	Coffee break
15:45-17:30	Review Draft sections of the Report Part X – Articles 54-66
17:30	Adjourn

Time GMT +2	Wednesday, 11 January 2023 Salle V
08:30-09:00	Connection to the meeting via Zoom (for those Members unable to attend in person)
09:00-10:30	Review Draft sections of the Report Part A of the report – general considerations
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:30	Review Draft sections of the Report Part A of the report – general considerations (continued)
12:30-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:30	Review Draft sections of the Report Part A of the report – general considerations (continued)
15:30-15:45	Coffee break
15:45-17:30	Preparation for the meeting with WHO Member States / States Parties to the IHR, United Nations and its specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in official relations with WHO
17:30	Adjourn

Time GMT +2	Thursday, 12 January 2023
	Meeting with WHO Member States / States Parties to the IHR, United Nations and its specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in official relations with WHO WHO headquarters Auditorium Z1/Z2
09:00-09:30	Connection to the meeting via Zoom (for those Members and WHO staff unable to attend in person)
09:30-09:40	Convening / opening of meeting (DG or designee)
09:40-10:00	Updates on the Review Committee work - Presentation by the Chair of the Review Committee on IHR amendments
10:00-11:30	Questions and answers (moderated by the Secretariat)

Time GMT +2	Thursday, 12 January 2023
	Closed meeting of the Review Committee, Salle V
11:30-12:30	Review Draft sections of the Report - continued
12:30-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:30	Review Draft sections of the Report – continued
15:30-15:45	Coffee break
15:45-17:30	Review Draft sections of the Report – continued
17:30	Adjourn

Time GMT +2	Friday, 13 January 2023
	Salle V
08:30-09:00	Connection to the meeting via Zoom (for those Members and WHO staff unable to attend in person)
09:00-10:30	Review Draft sections of the Report – continued
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:30	Review Draft sections of the Report – continued
12:30-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:30	Review Draft sections of the Report – continued
15:30-15:45	Coffee break
15:45-16:45	Review Draft sections of the Report – continued
16:45-17:00	Closing of the meeting

Annex 2. List of Participants

List of Participants

International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) Review Committee regarding the Amendments to the IHR (RC)

Sixth Meeting

WHO headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland, 9-13 January 2023

Members of the Review Committee

Name and Nationality(ies)	Affiliation
Mohammad ABDELFATTAH Egypt	Undersecretary for Preventive Affairs, Preventive Medicine Sector, Ministry of Health and Population, Cairo, Egypt
Obijiofor AGINAM Nigeria	Principal Visiting Fellow, United Nations University, International Institute for Global Health, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Adjunct Research Professor of Law and Legal Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada Visiting Research Fellow, United Nations University, Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies, Bruges, Belgium
Mohannad AL-NSOUR Jordan	Executive Director, Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET), Amman, Jordan
Gian Luca BURCI Italy, Switzerland	Adjunct Professor of international law and Academic Adviser in the Global Health Centre, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland Director of the joint LLM on Global Health Law and Governance, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland, and Georgetown Law School, Washington DC, United States of America
Andrew FORSYTH New Zealand	Manager, Public Health Strategy, Ministry of Health, New Zealand
H.E.Ambassador Juan José GÓMEZ-CAMACHO (Vice-Chair) Mexico	Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Institute, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, Washington DC, United States of America
Lawrence GOSTIN United States of America	Professor, Founding O'Neill Chair in Global Health Law, and Faculty Director, O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University, Washington DC, United States of America

Roojin HABIBI Canada	Research Fellow, Global Strategy Lab, York University, Toronto, Canada Fellow, Canadian International Council Lecturer, Lincoln Alexander School of Law, Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, Canada
George HARINGHUIZEN The Netherlands	Chief Legal Officer, Centre for Infectious Disease Control, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), Bilthoven, The Netherlands
Hani JOKHDAR Saudi Arabia	Deputy Minister for Public Health, Ministry of Health, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Yang LIU China	Assistant Professor, Law School, and Director of the Center for Global Law and Strategy, Law and Technology Institute, Renmin University of China, Beijing, China
Rana SAFDAR Pakistan	Chief, Field Epidemiology & Disease Surveillance Division, National Institute of Health, Islamabad, Pakistan
Aalisha SAHUKHAN Fiji	Head of Health Protection, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Suva, Fiji
Sandhya Dilhani SAMARASEKERA Sri Lanka	Consultant Community Physician, Quarantine Unit, Ministry of Health, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Vyacheslav SMOLENSKIY Russian Federation	Deputy Head, Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing (Rospotrebnadzor), Moscow, Russian Federation
Sunita SREEDHARAN (remotely) India	Lawyer and Registered Patent Agent, New Delhi, India
Clare WENHAM (Rapporteur) United Kingdom	Associate Professor of Global Health Policy, Department of Health Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science, London, United Kingdom

WHO Global Secretariat

Name	Affiliation
Mike Ryan	Executive Director, WHO Health Emergencies Program, WHO Headquarters (WHO/HQ)
Jaouad MAHJOUR	Former Assistant Director-General, WHO Health Emergencies Preparedness (WEP/WHE), WHO headquarters (WHO/HQ)
Steven SOLOMON	Principal Legal Officer, International, Constitutional, and Global Health Law, WHO headquarters (WHO/HQ)
Carmen DOLEA	Unit Head IHR Secretariat, WHO headquarters (WHO/HQ)
Roberta ANDRAGHETTI	Technical Officer, IHR Secretariat, WHO headquarters (WHO/HQ)
Fernando GONZALEZ-MARTIN	Technical Officer, IHR Secretariat, WHO headquarters (WHO/HQ)
Magdalen RABINI	Technical Officer, IHR Secretariat, WHO headquarters (WHO/HQ)
Jasmin DIAN	Assistant to Unit, IHR Secretariat, WHO headquarters (WHO/HQ)
Mary STEPHEN	Technical officer, IHR an emergency preparedness, WHO Regional Office for Africa (WHO/AFRO)
Tamara MANCERO	Adviser, IHR, Regional Office for the Americas (WHO/AMRO) / Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
Dalia SAMHOURI (remotely)	Program Area Manager, Country Health Emergency Preparedness & IHR, Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (WHO/EMRO)
Tanja SCHMIDT	Technical Officer, Health Security, Country Health Emergency Preparedness and IHR, Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO)
Maung Maung HTIKE	Technical Officer, Country Health emergency preparedness and IHR, Regional Office for South-East Asia (WHO/SEARO)
Nam Phuon NGUYEN (remotely)	Technical Officer, Pandemic Preparedness, Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WHO/WPRO)
Claudia NANNINI	Legal Officer, International, Constitutional, and Global Health Law, WHO headquarters (WHO/HQ)