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**Update on the Director-General's proposals for strengthening the global architecture
of health emergency preparedness, response and resilience**

Update on the Director-General's proposals for strengthening the global architecture of health emergency preparedness, response and resilience

BACKGROUND

1. At the 150th session of the Executive Board in January 2022, in response to comments from Member States, the Director-General undertook to develop proposals, in consultation with Member States, on strengthening the global architecture for health emergency preparedness, response and resilience (HEPR), and present these to the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly in May 2022.¹

CONSULTATION PROCESS

2. The Director General's proposals were developed in consultation with Member States and partners as outlined below:

(a) 24 March 2022: a concept note including an outline of the Director-General's proposals for strengthening HEPR and details of the consultation process was published on the WHO website;² and

(b) 4 May 2022: a draft of Director-General's proposals for strengthening HEPR was published as a white paper for consultation with Member States.³

3. Member States provided their feedback on the Director-General's proposals via an online platform to encourage inclusivity and transparency. This was supplemented by other mechanisms to encourage dialogue, including: virtual Member State briefings; feedback through the Member States Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies; and consultation meetings with key stakeholders, including United Nations entities, and other partners engaged in HEPR.

¹ See the summary records of the Executive Board at its 150th session, twelfth meeting, section 5.

² Strengthening the global architecture for health emergency preparedness, response and resilience. Concept note for consultation process: 24 March 2022. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022 (<https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/strengthening-the-global-architecture-for-health-emergency-preparedness-response-and-resilience>, accessed 15 August 2022).

³ Strengthening the global architecture for health emergency preparedness, response and resilience. White paper for consultation: 4 May 2022. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022 (<https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/white-paper-consultation-strengthening-the-global-architecture-for-health-emergency-preparedness-response-and-resilience>, accessed 15 August 2022).

4. On 23 May 2022, the Director-General's report on strengthening the global architecture for HEPR, containing his proposals, was submitted to the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly.¹

PROPOSALS ON STRENGTHENING THE GLOBAL ARCHITECTURE FOR HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE

5. The proposals built on the many expert reviews of the HEPR architecture and the global response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which yielded more than 300 recommendations that have been analysed and discussed through multiple international processes. Under the aegis of a new overarching pandemic instrument that is currently under negotiation, the 10 proposals of the Director-General are outlined below.

1. Establish a Global Health Emergency Council and Committee on Health Emergencies of the World Health Assembly.
2. Make targeted amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005).
3. Scale-up Universal Health and Preparedness Reviews and strengthen independent monitoring.
4. Strengthen global health emergency alert and response teams that are trained to common standards, interoperable, rapidly deployable, scalable and equipped.
5. Strengthen health emergency coordination through standardized approaches to strategic planning, financing, operations and monitoring of health emergency preparedness and response.
6. Expand partnerships and strengthen networks for a whole-of-society approach to collaborative surveillance, community protection, clinical care and access to countermeasures.
7. Establish a coordinating platform for financing to promote domestic investment and direct existing and gap-filling international financing to where it is needed most.
8. Establish a financial intermediary fund for pandemic preparedness and response to provide catalytic and gap-filling funding.
9. Expand the WHO Contingency Fund for Emergencies to ensure rapidly scalable financing for response.
10. Strengthen WHO at the centre of the global HEPR architecture.

6. The Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly took note of the Director-General's report.² The Director-General welcomed the many positive responses to the report, while recognizing the need to ensure that the intergovernmental process was inclusive of all Member States, regardless of size or capacity.³

¹ Document A75/20.

² Document A75/20; see also the summary records of the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly, Committee A, third meeting, section 3, fourth meeting, section 2, and fifth meeting, section 1.

³ See the summary records of the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly, Committee A, fifth meeting, section 1.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL’S PROPOSALS

7. In June 2022, after the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly, an updated white paper for further consultation was published.¹ The Secretariat has continued to work through existing intergovernmental and independent expert processes to further develop the proposals, including but not limited to:

- (a) Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response;
- (b) Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005);
- (c) Technical Advisory Group for Universal Health and Preparedness Review;
- (d) G20 Joint Finance and Health Task Force Meeting to establish new financial mechanisms to address significant gaps in HEPR financing, including the establishment of a Financial Intermediary Fund for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response;
- (e) G20 Health Working Group to strengthen mechanisms for equitable access to pandemic countermeasures; and
- (f) G7 Pact for Pandemic Readiness to strengthen mechanisms for collaborative surveillance and predictable rapid response.

ACTION BY THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

8. The Regional Committee is invited to provide feedback on the Director-General’s proposals. In particular, the Committee is invited to consider the following questions:

- (a) Are there regional-specific initiatives that should be taken into account and integrated into the proposals?
- (b) What is the best way to engage with Member States within the region to further develop the proposals?

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¹ 10 proposals to build a safer world together – strengthening the global architecture for health emergency preparedness, response and resilience. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022 (<https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/10-proposals-to-build-a-safer-world-together---strengthening-the-global-architecture-for-health-emergency-preparedness--response-andresilience--white-paper-for-consultation--june-2022>, accessed 15 August 2022).