

MINUTE TO THE A/G SECRETARY

To:	Michael Lye	
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International Travel Approval – Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations**Purpose**

To seek your approval for international travel for a delegation from the Department of Health and Aged Care to attend the 7th meeting of the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (WGIHR) to be held in Geneva, Switzerland from 5 – 9 February 2024.

Timing

Close of business, Friday, 19 January 2024.

Issues

The Department of Health and Aged Care leads Australian engagement in negotiations to reform the *International Health Regulations 2005* (IHR), with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) leading attendance at concurrent negotiations to develop a new pandemic instrument. Our attendance at WGIHR reflects our responsibility for this treaty-level agreement (see Background at **Attachment A**). These are intense meetings, often working late into the night. Given the high intensity workload, split of responsibilities with DFAT, and the mix of technical, international, and geopolitical engagement, we propose three Australia-based officials attend to actively advocate for our priorities at this stage of the negotiations. The delegation will also be supported by our locally engaged staff and members of ISB and HEMB who will coordinate responses to developments as they arise during the negotiations.

EC provided in-principle agreement to this trip at a total cost of \$30,000 for two delegates. We are proposing to increase the WGIHR delegation size to three delegates. We consider that increasing the delegation size for upcoming meetings (to May 2024) is important to better leverage resources to support negotiations. This includes preparing and delivering interventions, attending side meetings (some of which occur in parallel), attending night negotiation sessions (where scheduled) and engage with other delegations to prosecute Australia's position in these various fora. The pace of negotiations has also increased in the lead-up to the deadline to finalise a package of proposals by the 77th World Health Assembly in May 2024, and negotiations are becoming longer (WGIHR6 in December 2023, for example, held night negotiation sessions). An additional officer will enable adequate coverage to represent Australia's interests on the ground.

Noting the implications any amendments to the IHR will have on Australia's domestic policy and legislation, it is important for the delegation to be supported by technical expertise on Australia's current human biosecurity policies and legislation. Therefore, the delegation at this meeting would be comprised of staff from the International Strategy Branch and the Emergency Management Division.

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The total estimated cost for flights and accommodation for three officials is around \$42,857 (see a breakdown of costs at **Attachment C**). Due to the fluctuating nature of international travel costs, it is requested that you agree to a variation of around 10 per cent of the estimated travel costs – up to **\$47,142 (ex GST)**.

Consultation

Health Emergency Management Branch was consulted in the preparation of this Minute.

Recommendation

That you **APPROVE** international travel and related costs of up to **\$47,142 (GST exclusive)** for 3 staff to attend the 7th meeting of the WGIHR in Geneva, Switzerland from 5 – 9 February.

Approved / ~~Not Approved~~ / Please Discuss / Noted

Michael Lye
23 / 01 / 24

Copy to: Blair Exell; CMO Paul Kelly; Helen Grinbergs

Attachments:

- A: Background
- B: Flight itinerary
- C: Cost estimates

Contact officer:	s47E(c)
Phone:	s47E(c)
TRIM ref:	
Cleared by:	s47E(c)

ATTACHMENT A

VISIT BY OFFICIALS TO GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
5 - 9 FEBRUARY 2024
BACKGROUND

The *International Health Regulations (2005)* (IHR) are the overarching legal framework that defines countries' rights and obligations in handling public health events and emergencies that have the potential to cross borders. The WGIHR is a WHO-established working group of Member States and invited Non-State Actors to negotiate targeted amendments to the IHR.

The WGIHR has met six times to establish procedures and have substantive discussions on over 300 proposed amendments to the IHR, with the 7th meeting of the WGIHR to be held from 5 – 9 February 2024. Proposed amendments discussed to date include the development of a regional alert system for declaring a public health emergency of international concern, and enhanced obligations for developed countries to provide financial and technical support to the development of IHR core capacities in developing countries.

WGIHR7 will continue its consideration of proposed amendments to the IHR, with the aim of finalising a package of proposals for consideration by World Health Organization (WHO) Member States at the 77th World Health Assembly in May 2024.

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BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ATTACHMENT B

**VISIT BY OFFICIALS TO GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
5 - 9 FEBRUARY 2024
FLIGHT ITINERARY**

	Thursday 1 February 2024
2015	Depart Canberra on Emirates EK5221 s47E(c)
	Friday 2 February 2024
1515 1845	Depart Canberra on Qatar QR6301 s47E(c) Arrive Geneva on Emirates EK0083 s47E(c)
	Saturday 3 February 2024
1610 1315	Depart Canberra on Qantas QF1442 s47E(c) Arrive Geneva on Qatar QR099 s47E(c)
	Sunday 4 February 2024
1335	Arrive Geneva on Qatar QR099 s47E(c)
	Thursday 8 February 2024
2100	Depart Geneva on Emirates EK0084 s47E(c)
	Saturday 10 February 2024
1515	Depart Geneva on Qatar QR100 s47E(c)
	Tuesday 13 February 2024
1025	Depart Geneva on Qatar QR9749 s47E(c)

ATTACHMENT C

VISIT BY OFFICIALS TO GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
4 - 9 FEBRUARY 2024
COST ESTIMATES

ITEM	ESTIMATE (AUD)
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Air Fares - Commercial

s47E(c)

\$9,374.43

\$9,678.09

\$9,416.94

Accommodation***Geneva, Switzerland****Hotel D**

s47E(c)

5 nights]

\$2193.42

s47E(c)

7 nights]

\$2228.52

Hotel Le Montbrillant

s47E(c)

[9 nights]

\$2882

Melbourne, Australia**ParkRoyal, Melbourne Airport**

s47E(c)

[1 night]

\$234.27

*Accommodation quotes provided by CTM

Meals and incidentals

s47E(c)

\$1597.41

\$2052.06

\$2800

Ground transport

\$400

SUB-TOTAL

\$42,857.14

10% variation

\$4285

TOTAL**\$47,142**

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Ref.: C.L.42.2022

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to Member States and regional economic integration organizations, and has the honour to refer to decision WHA75(9) 2022, which revised the name of the Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies to the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (WGIHR) and revised the mandate to work exclusively on consideration of proposed targeted amendments to the IHR (2005), consistent with decision EB150(3) (2022), for consideration by the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly in 2024.

The Director-General has the honour to inform Member States that the first organizational meeting of the WGIHR will be held on 14–15 November 2022.

The meeting will be held in a hybrid format and will open at 10:00 (CET) on Monday, 14 November 2022.

Two persons per delegation can be physically present in the meeting room at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, with other members of the delegation participating through the virtual platform. To participate in person, INDICO registration will be required using the following link: s33(b) no later than 11 November 2022.

Following registration, a personalized link to access the virtual platform will be sent to delegates in the days preceding the meeting. Registrations sent after the deadline may cause a delay in the receipt of a link to participate in the meeting.

The provisional agenda and other documentation for the meeting will be published at the following link: <https://apps.who.int/gb/wgihhr/> as soon as available in the six official languages.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States and regional economic integration organizations the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 17 October 2022



Ref.: C.L.1.2023

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to Member States and regional economic integration organizations, and has the honour to refer to decision WHA75(9) 2022, which revised the name of the Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies to the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (WGIHR) and revised the mandate to work exclusively on the consideration of proposed targeted amendments to the IHR (2005), consistent with decision EB150(3) (2022), for consideration by the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly in 2024.

Member States are informed that the second meeting of the WGIHR will be held on 20–24 February 2023 in a hybrid format and will open at 10:00 (CET) on Monday, 20 February 2023.

Two persons per delegation can be physically present in the meeting room at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, with other members of the delegation participating through the virtual platform.

To participate in person, INDICO registration will be required using the following link: s33(b). Online registration can be initiated from Monday, 6 February and no later than Friday, 17 February 2023.

To participate virtually, renewed online registration will not be required for the second meeting for Member States who have previously registered delegates for the first meeting of the WGIHR (14–15 November 2022). In that regard, WHO will view Member States' credentials submitted during the registration process for the first meeting as remaining valid for the purposes of registration for the second meeting, unless informed otherwise by email to s33(b) no later than Monday, 13 February 2023. Member States who did not register for the first meeting or who wish to revise their list of delegates may send an email with an indication of the Member State, the full name and email address of the delegate(s) that should be added or removed to s33(b) no later than Monday, 13 February 2023.

Following registration, a personalized link to access the virtual platform will be sent to all delegates in the days preceding the meeting. Registrations sent after the deadline may cause a delay in the receipt of a link to participate in the meeting.

The documentation for the meeting will be published at the following link: <https://apps.who.int/gb/wgihhr/> as soon as available in the six official languages.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States and regional economic integration organizations the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 16 January 2023

Ref.: C.L.9.2023

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to Member States and regional economic integration organizations, and has the honour to refer to decision WHA75(9) 2022, which revised the name of the Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies to the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (WGIHR) and revised the mandate to work exclusively on the consideration of proposed targeted amendments to the IHR (2005), consistent with decision EB150(3) (2022), for consideration by the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly in 2024.

Member States are informed that the third meeting of the WGIHR will be held on 17–21 April 2023 in a hybrid format and will open at 09:30 (CET) on Monday, 17 April 2023.

Two persons per delegation can be physically present in the meeting room at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, with other members of the delegation participating through the virtual platform. To participate in person, INDICO registration will be required using the following link: [s33\(b\)](#) no later than Thursday, 13 April 2023.

To participate virtually, renewed online registration will not be required for the third meeting for Member States who have previously registered delegates for the second meeting of the WGIHR (20–24 February 2023). In that regard, WHO will view Member States' credentials submitted during the registration process for the second meeting as remaining valid for the purposes of registration for the third meeting, unless informed otherwise by email to [s33\(b\)](#) no later than Thursday, 13 April 2023. Member States who did not register for the second meeting or who wish to revise their list of delegates may send an email with an indication of the Member State, the full name and email address of the delegate(s) that should be added or removed to [s33\(b\)](#) no later than Thursday, 13 April 2023.

Following registration, a personalized link to access the virtual platform will be sent to all delegates in the days preceding the meeting. Registrations sent after the deadline may cause a delay in the receipt of a link to participate in the meeting.

The documentation for the meeting will be published at the following link: <https://apps.who.int/gb/wgihhr/> as soon as available in the six official languages.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States and regional economic integration organizations the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 24 March 2023



Ref.: C.L.24.2023

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to Member States and regional economic integration organizations, and has the honour to refer to decision WHA75(9) 2022, which revised the name of the Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies to the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (WGIHR) and revised the mandate to work exclusively on the consideration of proposed targeted amendments to the IHR (2005), consistent with decision EB150(3) (2022), for consideration by the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly in 2024.

Member States are informed that the **fourth meeting** of the WGIHR will be held on 24–28 July 2023 in a hybrid format and will open at 14:00 (CEST) on Monday, 24 July 2023.

In addition, a **joint plenary meeting** will be held on 21 and 24 July 2023 between the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and the WGIHR. The plenary meeting will also be in a hybrid format and will take place at the following times:

- Friday, 21 July 2023, from 14:00 to 17:00 (CEST)
- Monday, 24 July 2023, from 9:00 to 12:00 (CEST)

Meeting registration and access

Two persons per delegation are invited to be physically present in the meeting room at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, with other members of the delegation participating through the virtual platform. **To participate in person, INDICO registration will be required using the following link: s33(b) no later than Monday, 17 July 2023.**

To participate virtually, renewed online registration will not be required for the fourth meeting for Member States who have previously registered delegates for the third meeting of the WGIHR (17–20 April 2023). In that regard, WHO will consider Member States' credentials submitted during the registration process for the third meeting as remaining valid for the purposes of registration for the fourth meeting, unless informed otherwise by email to s33(b) no later than **Monday, 17 July 2023.**

Member States who did not register for the third meeting or who wish to revise their list of delegates may send an email to s33(b) no later than Monday, 17 July 2023. To fast track the processing of requests, Member States are invited to list in the body of the email the delegate(s) who should be added or removed in the following format:

C.L.24.2023

email address, Member State, name (first name and surname of delegate). A note verbale is not required for the purposes of updating the delegation's list for virtual participation.

Following registration, a personalized link to access the WGIHR meeting will be sent to all delegates in the days preceding the meeting. An additional link to access the joint INB–WGIHR plenary meeting will be sent via email separately to all the delegates who are registered for the WGIHR meeting.

Registrations sent after the deadline may cause a delay in the receipt of the links to participate in the meetings.

The documentation for the meetings will be published at the following link:
<https://apps.who.int/gb/wgihr/> as soon as available in the six official languages.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States and regional economic integration organizations the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 29 June 2023

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BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



Ref.: C.L.32.2023

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to Member States and regional economic integration organizations, and has the honour to refer to decision WHA75(9) 2022, which revised the name of the Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies to the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (WGIHR) and revised the mandate to work exclusively on the consideration of proposed targeted amendments to the IHR (2005), consistent with decision EB150(3) (2022), for consideration by the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly in 2024.

Member States are informed that the fifth meeting of the WGIHR will be held on 2–6 October 2023 in a hybrid format and will open at 09:30 (CEST) on Monday, 2 October 2023.

Two persons per delegation may be physically present in the meeting room at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, with other members of the delegation participating through the virtual platform. **To participate in person, INDICO registration will be required using the following link: s33(b) no later than 28 September 2023.**

To participate virtually renewed online registration will not be required for Member States who have previously registered for the fourth meeting of the WGIHR (24–28 July 2023). In that regard, WHO will view Member States' credentials submitted during the registration process for the fourth meeting as remaining valid for the purposes of registration for the fifth meeting, unless informed otherwise by email to s33(b) no later than 28 September 2023.

Member States who did not register for the fourth meeting or who wish to revise their list of delegates for virtual participation may send an email to s33(b) no later than 28 September 2023. To fast track the processing of requests, Member States are invited to list in the body of the email the delegate(s) who should be added or removed in the following format: email address, Member State, name (first name, and surname of the delegate). A note verbale is not required for the purposes of updating the list of delegates for virtual participation.

Following registration, a personalized link to access the virtual platform will be sent to all delegates in the days preceding the meeting.

Registrations sent after the deadline may cause a delay in the receipt of a link to participate in the meeting.

C.L.32.23

The documentation for the meeting will be published at the following link:
<https://apps.who.int/gb/wgih/> as soon as available in the six official languages.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States and regional economic integration organizations the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 30 August 2023

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BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



Ref.: C.L.42.2023

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to Member States and regional economic integration organizations, and has the honour to refer to decision WHA75(9) 2022, which revised the name of the Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies to the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (WGIHR) and revised the mandate to work exclusively on the consideration of proposed targeted amendments to the IHR (2005), consistent with decision EB150(3) (2022), for consideration by the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly in 2024.

Member States are informed that the sixth meeting of the WGIHR will be held on 7–8 December 2023 in a hybrid format and will open at 09:00 (CET) on Thursday, 7 December 2023.

Two persons per delegation may be physically present in the meeting room at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, with other members of the delegation participating through the virtual platform. **To participate in person, INDICO registration will be required using the following link: s33(b) no later than 30 November 2023.**

To participate virtually renewed online registration will not be required for Member States who have previously registered for the fifth meeting of the WGIHR (2–6 October 2023). In that regard, WHO will view Member States' credentials submitted during the registration process for the fifth meeting as remaining valid for the purposes of registration for the sixth meeting, unless informed otherwise by email to s33(b) no later than 30 November 2023.

Member States who did not register for the fifth meeting or who wish to revise their list of delegates for virtual participation may send an email to s33(b) no later than 30 November 2023. To fast track the processing of requests, Member States are invited to list in the body of the email the delegate(s) who should be added or removed in the following format: email address, Member State, name (first name, and surname of the delegate). A note verbale is not required for the purposes of updating the list of delegates for virtual participation.

Following registration, a personalized link to access the virtual platform will be sent to all delegates in the days preceding the meeting.

Registrations sent after the deadline may cause a delay in the receipt of a link to participate in the meeting.

C.L.42.23

The documentation for the meeting will be published at the following link:
<https://apps.who.int/gb/wgih/> as soon as available in the six official languages.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States and regional economic integration organizations the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 6 November 2023

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Ref.: C.L.1.2024

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to Member States and regional economic integration organizations, and has the honour to refer to decision WHA75(9) 2022, which revised the name of the Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies to the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (WGIHR) and revised the mandate to work exclusively on the consideration of proposed targeted amendments to the IHR (2005), consistent with decision EB150(3) (2022), for consideration by the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly in 2024.

Member States are informed that the seventh meeting of the WGIHR will be held on 5–9 February 2024 in a hybrid format and will open at 09:30 (CET) on Monday, 5 February 2024.

Two persons per delegation may be physically present in the meeting room at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, with other members of the delegation participating through the virtual platform. **To participate in person, INDICO registration will be required using the following link: s33(b) no later than 2 February 2024.**

To participate virtually renewed online registration will not be required for Member States who have previously registered for the sixth meeting of the WGIHR (7–8 December 2023). In that regard, WHO will view Member States' credentials submitted during the registration process for the sixth meeting as remaining valid for the purposes of registration for the seventh meeting, unless informed otherwise by email to s33(b) no later than 2 February 2024.

Member States who did not register for the sixth meeting or who wish to revise their list of delegates for virtual participation may send an email to s33(b) no later than 2 February 2024. To fast track the processing of requests, Member States are invited to list in the body of the email the delegate(s) who should be added or removed in the following format: email address, Member State, name (first name, and surname of the delegate). A note verbale is not required for the purposes of updating the list of delegates for virtual participation.

Following registration, a personalized link to access the virtual platform will be sent to all delegates in the days preceding the meeting.

Registrations sent after the deadline may cause a delay in the receipt of a link to participate in the meeting.

C.L.1.2024

The documentation for the meeting will be published at the following link:
<https://apps.who.int/gb/wgih/> as soon as available in the six official languages.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States and regional economic integration organizations the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 9 January 2024

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Ref.: C.L.44.2022

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to States Parties to the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR or Regulations) and has the honour to refer to decision WHA75(9) (2022) in which the World Health Assembly requests the Director-General to establish a Review Committee under the International Health Regulations (2005) by no later than 1 October 2022 to make technical recommendations on the proposed amendments to the Regulations submitted by States Parties by 30 September 2022.

The Review Committee has been convened and held its first meeting (virtual) on Thursday, 6 October 2022. The second meeting will be in-person and will take place from 24 to 28 October 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland.

In this connection, and in accordance with article 51, paragraph 2 of the IHR, the Director-General has the honour to invite States Parties to designate two representatives to attend a dedicated session taking place on Thursday, 27 October 2022, from 9:30 to 12:30 CEST/GMT+2 at WHO headquarters in Geneva (in-person or virtually). During that session, States Parties will be briefed by the Committee on its methods of work.

The name and email address of the representatives designated should be sent to s33(b) by 24 October 2022. To participate in person, INDICO registration will be required using the following link: s33(b). Connection details will be communicated ahead of the meeting to the email addresses of the representative(s) provided.

States Parties that proposed amendments to the Regulations will be offered the opportunity to present the rationale and respond to Committee Members' requests for clarifications. States Parties wishing to present the rationale of their proposed amendments are invited to confirm to the Secretariat their intention ahead of the meeting, via an email to s33(b).

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to States Parties to the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR or Regulations) the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 20 October 2022



Ref.: C.L.50.2022

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to States Parties to the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR or Regulations) and has the honour to refer to decision WHA75(9) (2022) in which the World Health Assembly requests the Director-General to establish a Review Committee under the International Health Regulations (2005) by no later than 1 October 2022 to make technical recommendations on the proposed amendments to the Regulations submitted by States Parties by 30 September 2022.

The Review Committee has been convened three times, on 6 October 2022, 24 to 28 October 2022, and 16 and 17 November 2022, respectively. The fourth meeting will be held from 28 November to 2 December 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland.

In this connection, and in accordance with article 51, paragraph 2 of the IHR, the Director-General has the honour to invite States Parties **to designate two representatives to attend (in-person or virtually) a dedicated session of the Committee taking place on Thursday, 1 December 2022, from 9:30 to 12:30 CET at WHO headquarters in Geneva.** During that session, participants will be briefed by the Committee on its progress towards reviewing the Member States' proposed amendments and providing technical analysis based on the criteria described in the Terms of Reference.

The name and email address of the representatives designated should be sent to s33(b) by 28 November 2022. To participate in person, INDICO registration will be required using the following link: s33(b). Connection details will be communicated ahead of the meeting to the email addresses of the representative(s) provided.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to States Parties to the International Health Regulations (2005) the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 22 November 2022



Ref.: C.L.54.2022

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to States Parties to the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR or Regulations) and has the honour to refer to decision WHA75(9) (2022) in which the World Health Assembly requests the Director-General to establish a Review Committee under the International Health Regulations (2005) by no later than 1 October 2022 to make technical recommendations on the proposed amendments to the Regulations submitted by States Parties by 30 September 2022.

The Review Committee convened five meetings and will hold its sixth and final meeting from 9 to 13 January 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. The reports of the meetings are available on the following website: [https://www.who.int/teams/ihr/ihr-review-committees/review-committee-regarding-amendments-to-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)](https://www.who.int/teams/ihr/ihr-review-committees/review-committee-regarding-amendments-to-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)).

In this connection, and in accordance with article 51, paragraph 2 of the IHR, the Director-General of the WHO has the honour to invite States Parties **to designate two representatives to attend (in person or virtually) a dedicated session of the Committee taking place on Thursday, 12 January 2023, from 9:30 to 12:30 CEST at WHO headquarters in Geneva.** During that session, participants will be provided with an overview of the progress made by the Review Committee on assessing proposed amendments. The committee will submit its final report to the Director-General by 15 January 2023.

The name and email address of the representatives designated should be sent to s33(b) by 5 January 2023. To participate in person, INDICO registration will be required using the following link: s33(b). Connection details will be communicated ahead of the meeting to the email addresses of the representative(s) provided.

The Director-General of the WHO takes this opportunity to renew to States Parties to the International Health Regulations (2005) the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 21 December 2022

OFFICIAL



Australian Government

Department of Health and Aged Care

Ministerial Submission – Standard

MS22-001209

Version (1)

Date sent to MO: 4 May 2023

RECEIVED

09 MAY 2023

Parliamentary Section

To: Minister Butler

Subject: Domestic implementation of amendments to Article 59 of the *International Health Regulations (2005)* (IHR) and IHR reform process

Critical date: N/A

Recommendation/s:

1. s47E(c)

2.

Signature

Date: 8 / 5 / 2023

Media Release required? NO

Comments:

Contact
Officer:

s47E(c)

Clearance
Officer:

Blair Exell

Deputy Secretary, Strategy
Evidence and Research Group

Ph: (02) 6289 1016

Issues:

s47E(c)

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s47E(c)



WHO Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005)

10. A process was established at the WHA in May 2022 to consider amendments to the IHR, and involves two key steps:
 - a. WHO Member States submitting proposed amendments by 30 September 2022 for review by an IHR Review Committee
 - b. A Working Group on Amendments to the IHR (WGIHR) comprising IHR States Parties was established to consider and finalise a package of IHR amendments to be submitted to the 77th WHA in 2024 for consideration. New Zealand co-chairs the WGIHR.
11. Australia did not provide a submission to the IHR Review Committee. This positions us to respond to amendments proposed by other Member States without having to defend our own amendments. It also aligns with our position that implementation of the IHR during COVID-19 was a more significant concern than the content of the IHR.
 - a. Australia will support amendments that align with Australia's priorities for strengthening domestic and global health security and foreign policy objectives.
12. The WGIHR has met three times and is scheduled to meet again from 24-28 July 2023.

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Australian Government

Department of Health and Aged Care

Ministerial Submission – Standard

MS24-000239

Version (1)

Date sent to MO: **Click or tap to enter a date.**

To: Minister Butler

Subject: Update on Global Health Reforms progressing through the World Health Organization

Critical date: Friday, 15 March 2024

Recommendation/s:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Note the status of concurrent negotiations to develop a new international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and amend the <i>International Health Regulations 2005</i>.</p> | <p>1. Noted/ Not Noted/ Please Discuss</p> |
| <p>2. Note further advice will be provided prior to the 9th meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body, commencing 18 March 2024.</p> | <p>2. Noted/ Not Noted/ Please discuss</p> |

Signature

Date: / /

Comments:

Contact Officer:	s33(b)		
Clearance Officer:	Blair Exell	Deputy Secretary, Health Strategy, First Nations and Sport Group	Ph: (02) 62891016 s33(b)

Issues:

s33(b)

[Redacted text block containing multiple lines of information]

s33(b)

3. The Department, working in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), continues to engage across Government and with domestic stakeholders, including states and territories.
 - a. Public consultation was held 7 August – 24 September 2023 (MS23-000743 refers), with the Department publishing an outcomes report and Government response on its website (reviewed by your Office ahead of publication).

s33(b)

5. There remain contentious core policy issues across both instruments which will be challenging to land, including access and benefits sharing, financing, and pro-access and transparency provisions. These issues coalesce around the need to enhance equitable access to pandemic response products and build Member State core capacities necessary to respond to future health emergencies. Negotiations are at various stages of maturity, and a summary of the contentious core policy issues is at **Attachments A and B**. We will shortly engage with Australian pharmaceutical industry representatives to understand their views on various provisions in the pandemic instrument specifically, which will engage the interests of the sector.

s33(b)

Pathway to agreement and adoption

7. If there is agreement by May 2024, both the pandemic instrument and amended IHR will be presented to the 77th World Health Assembly for adoption, which requires two thirds majority support of World Health Organisation (WHO) Member States.
8. If adopted, the Australian Government will then begin a comprehensive assessment process of the agreed texts to determine the impact on Australia and whether binding treaty action should be taken or reservations lodged.
 - a. To prepare for this assessment, the Department and DFAT are working with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to undertake a Preliminary Impact Assessment. This will inform our assessment of the policy, financial and practical implications of the instruments, as well as the appropriate Commonwealth decision-making authority to consider adoption into Australian law.
 - b. The pandemic instrument will not be legally binding on Australia until it has gone through Australia's domestic treaty making process. Amendments to the IHR will be binding on Australia after 12 months of notification, unless Australia wishes to lodge reservation or rejection of the Amendments. Both will be subject to parliamentary scrutiny and consideration by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCOT). Any

changes to Australian law will require legislative change passed by both Houses of Parliament.

Background:

s33(b)

The Department and DFAT are representing Australia's interests in meetings of the INB on the pandemic instrument and the Working Group on Amendments to the IHR (WGIHR). While both are technically separate negotiating processes, they are being managed in parallel and in a complementary manner.

s33(b)

Attachments:

s33(b)

Budget/Financial Implications:

s33(b)

Sensitivities:

s33(b)

Consultations:

s33(b)

The interim Centre for Disease Control has been consulted throughout negotiations and in the development of this Ministerial Submission.

The Department has engaged in domestic stakeholder consultations, including regular senior official Interdepartmental Committees, meetings with State and Territory officials, and discussions with expert stakeholders on key topics.

Minister	Choose an item.
PDR Number	MS24-000239
Subject	Update on Global Health Reforms progressing through the World Health Organization
Critical Date	Friday, 15 March 2024
Contact Officer	s33(b) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Clearance Officer	Blair Exell (02) 6289 1016 s33(b)
Division/Branch	Health Strategy First Nations & Sport Health Systems Strategy
Has Budget Branch been consulted if there are financial implications?	Not Applicable

Adviser/DLO comments:	Returned to Dept for: REDRAFT <input type="checkbox"/> NFA <input type="checkbox"/>
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s33(b)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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11 of 11

Government	Percentage
Current government	85%
Previous government	15%

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1. **Identify the main components of the system.**
 2. **Define the objectives and scope of the project.**
 3. **Develop a detailed project plan.**
 4. **Implement the plan and monitor progress.**
 5. **Evaluate the results and make adjustments.**

Government	Percentage
Current government	100%
Previous government	0%

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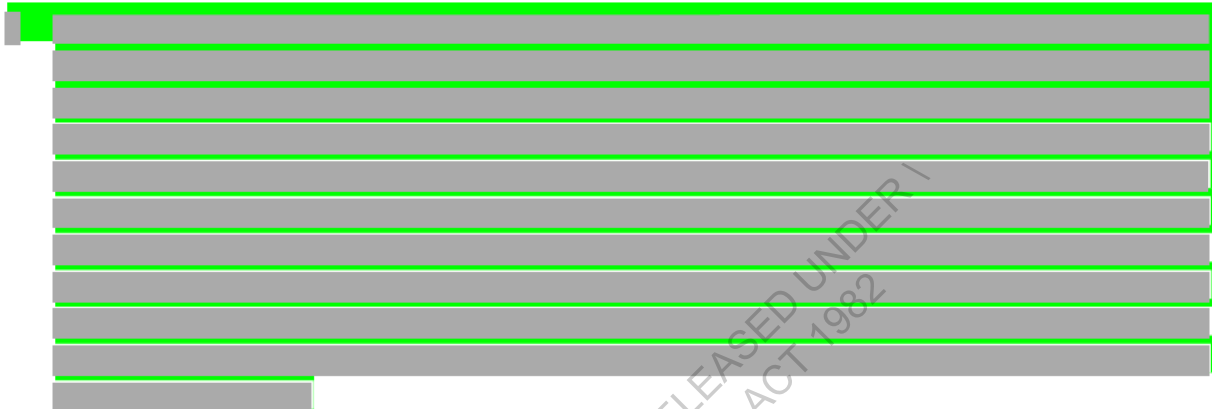
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