



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD
113th Session
Provisional agenda item 3.1

EB113/3 Rev.1
15 January 2004

Revision of the International Health Regulations

Report by the Secretariat

1. In response to resolution WHA56.28 the following paragraphs provide information on progress made in revising the International Health Regulations and on arrangements to convene an intergovernmental working group.
2. An initial draft of the Regulations is being prepared on the basis of extensive consultations in house and with external partners, including an international group of legal experts. This draft is to be disseminated to Member States well before the regional consultations scheduled to be held in the six WHO regions between March and June 2004, in order to give Member States sufficient time to review the text prior to the meetings. Resources have been set aside to allow the regional offices to convene the meetings and ensure the participation of the least developed countries. A new draft will be formulated between July and August 2004 on the basis of these meetings and promptly dispatched to Member States and other participants in the intergovernmental working group.
3. A secure, Web-based information technology tool has been developed to enable consultation on the revision process with external partners.
4. Arrangements are being made for the intergovernmental working group on the revision of the Regulations to be convened in Geneva, from 1 to 12 November 2004, subject to the agreement of the Executive Board. This date allows time to consolidate the feedback from the regional consultations. Representation will be encouraged from all Member States (especially from the least developed countries), and regional economic integration organizations as described in resolution WHA56.28, and observers will be invited, *inter alia*, from the following bodies involved in the revision process: Airports Council International; Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation; Association of Southeast Asian Nations; FAO; International Air Transport Association; ICAO; IMO; International Shipping Federation; *Mercado Común del Sur*; *Office international des Epizooties*; World Tourism Organization; World Trade Organization. The intergovernmental working group will draft the final version of the revised Regulations to be submitted to the Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly (2005).
5. A report on the status of the revision process will be submitted to the Executive Board at its 115th session. This will include information on legal and technical advisory activities and regional consultations to assess the workability of the revised Regulations in countries with diverse health systems and different capacities for public-health surveillance and response.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

6. The Executive Board is invited to agree with the arrangements being made to convene the intergovernmental working group from 1 to 12 November 2004.

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