

Shaping Global Health Security

The WHO Pandemic Agreement and IHR amendments

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Reviewing the IHR (2005) Functionality during COVID 19

343 Recommendations : The world cannot afford to wait until the COVID-19 pandemic is over to start planning for better preparedness and response for the next pandemic

**GPMB Report
(2019/2020)**

**IOAC Committee
(2021)**

GPMB Report (2021)

**IHR Review Committee
(2020/2021)**

**IPPPR Report
(2021)**

Source- WHO: Strengthening of the International Health Regulations (2005) through a process for revising the Regulations through potential amendments (who.int)

Working Groups for Emergency Preparedness and response and IHR Amendments (WGPR & WGIHR)

Resolution WHA74.7 May 2021: Establish a Working Group for emergency preparedness and response (WGPR)

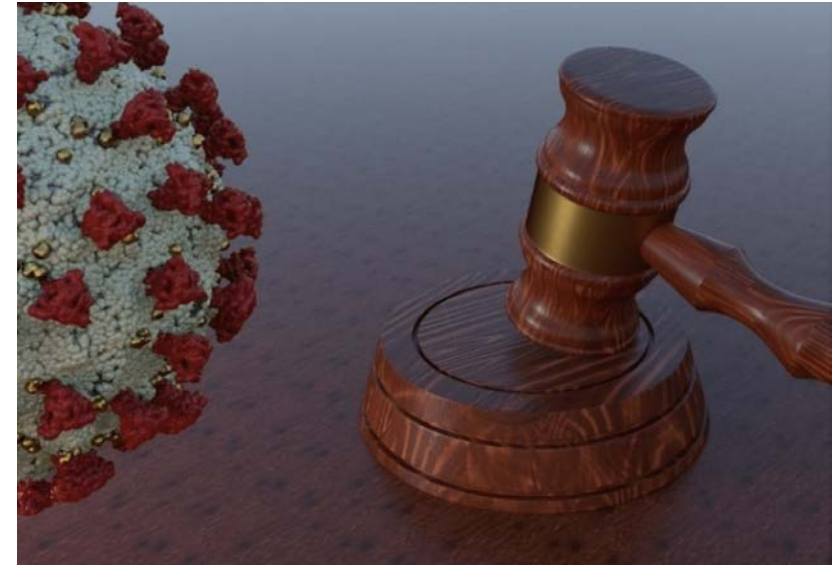
Categories for implementation of the proposed recommendations

- regular technical work of WHO as per its normative functions
- existing frameworks (IHR (2005) and WHA resolutions/decisions)
- amending or building on existing frameworks (IHR (2005) and WHA resolutions/decisions)
- new WHO international agreement(s)/instrument(s)

Source- WHO: [terms-of-reference_ihr-amendments-rc_for-web_rev-221024.pdf](#) (who.int)

Legal Basis of the WHO Pandemic Agreement

- The Agreement is expected to be endorsed by the WHA under Article 19 of the WHO Constitution,
- The Conference of parties will be the governing body
- The SG of the UN will be serving as the Depositary.



Scope and Principles of the WHO Pandemic Agreement

- ✓ The Agreement is guided by **equity** to ensure fair pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response.
- ✓ It upholds **state sovereignty, human rights, and international humanitarian law**.
- ✓ Emphasizes **solidarity, inclusivity, transparency**, and the use of the **best available science**.
- ✓ Gives special attention to the needs and capacities of **developing countries** and **vulnerable populations**.



Achieving Equity in Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response

- Equity and Access-Centered Global Approach.
- Integrated One Health Surveillance & Resilience.
- Innovation, Technology, and Local Production.

- Transparent Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing
- Reliable Supply Chains & Fair Procurement
- Inclusive Governance & Public Engagement
- International Support & Sustainable Financing

PA Resolution - Summary of the Next Steps & timeline

(As per 12th May 2025)

Milestone	Timeline / Deadline	Details / Actions
Adoption of WHO Agreement	2025 (WHA78)	Adopted under Article 19 of the WHO Constitution.
Opening for Signature	After WHA adopts Annex (Article 12)	Signature begins after WHA adopts the Annex; to take place at WHO HQ and later at UN HQ.
Adoption of Annex by WHA	WHA79 (May 2026)	IGWG to submit negotiated Annex to WHA79
Inter Governmental Working Group (IGWG) Organizational Meeting	No later than 15 July 2025	Elect Bureau (2 Co-Chairs, 4 Vice-Chairs), agree on methods and program of work.
Entry into Force of Agreement	30 Days following the date of deposit of the sixtieth instrument of ratification	States encouraged to sign, ratify, approve, or accede promptly to bring Agreement (with Annex) into force quickly.
Preparations for First Conference of the Parties (CoP)	Before first CoP (TBD)	IGWG to oversee CoP preparations: rules of procedure, budget, reporting mechanisms, etc.
Director-General to Report to WHA	WHA80 (May 2027)	First report on progress toward entry into force and CoP preparations.

Updates on the IHR amendments

Modality of work

The process was ...

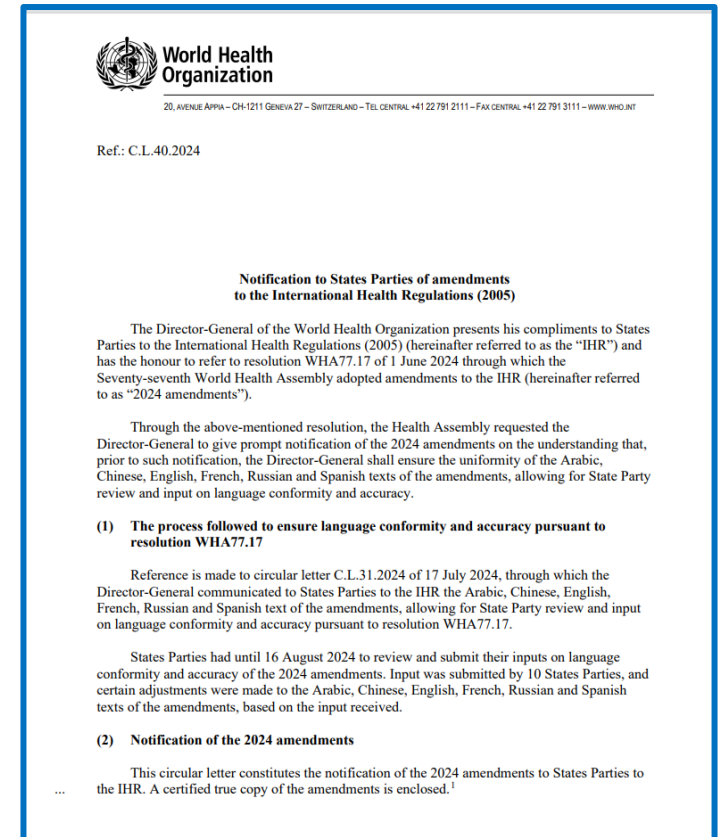
- Being led by the MS of the WHO through (WGIHR).
- 14 meetings conducted including resumed sessions
- Joint work with the INB in common issues
- Package of Amendments approved by the 77th WHA



Source- WHO: Reports of the working groups on IHR amendments: WHO | Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005)

Summary of approved amendments

- Introducing the pandemic emergency.
- Commitment to access, solidarity and equity.
- Establishment of the States Parties Committee and Coordinated Financial Mechanism.
- Creation of National IHR Authorities



Modernizing Health Security: IHR Amendments on PoE, Digital Health Certificates, recommendations & PHSMs (1)

- **Clear Responsibilities for Conveyance Operators (Article 24):**
- Specifies the application of public health measures on board, as well as during embarkation and disembarkation.
- **Digital Health Documents – Now a Global Standard (Article 35 & Annex 6)** Promotes the use of digital health certificates for vaccination, prophylaxis, and laboratory results.
 - Ensures that non-digital (paper) formats remain valid, accessible, and signed by authorized officials.
- **Managing Both Exposed and Infected Individuals (Article 27)**
- **Boosting Laboratory Capacities at PoEs (Annex 1B)**
- Strengthens core capacities at designated Points of Entry, including laboratory diagnostics and specimen transport.



Modernizing Health Security: IHR Amendments on PoE, Digital Health Certificates, recommendations & PHSMs (2)

Inclusion of Pandemic Emergencies & Access to Health Products (Articles 15, 16, and 17)

- Expands scope to explicitly include **pandemic-related emergencies**.
- Enhances provisions to ensure **timely and equitable access** to relevant health products.

Information Sharing by the WHO Director-General (Articles 15 & 16)

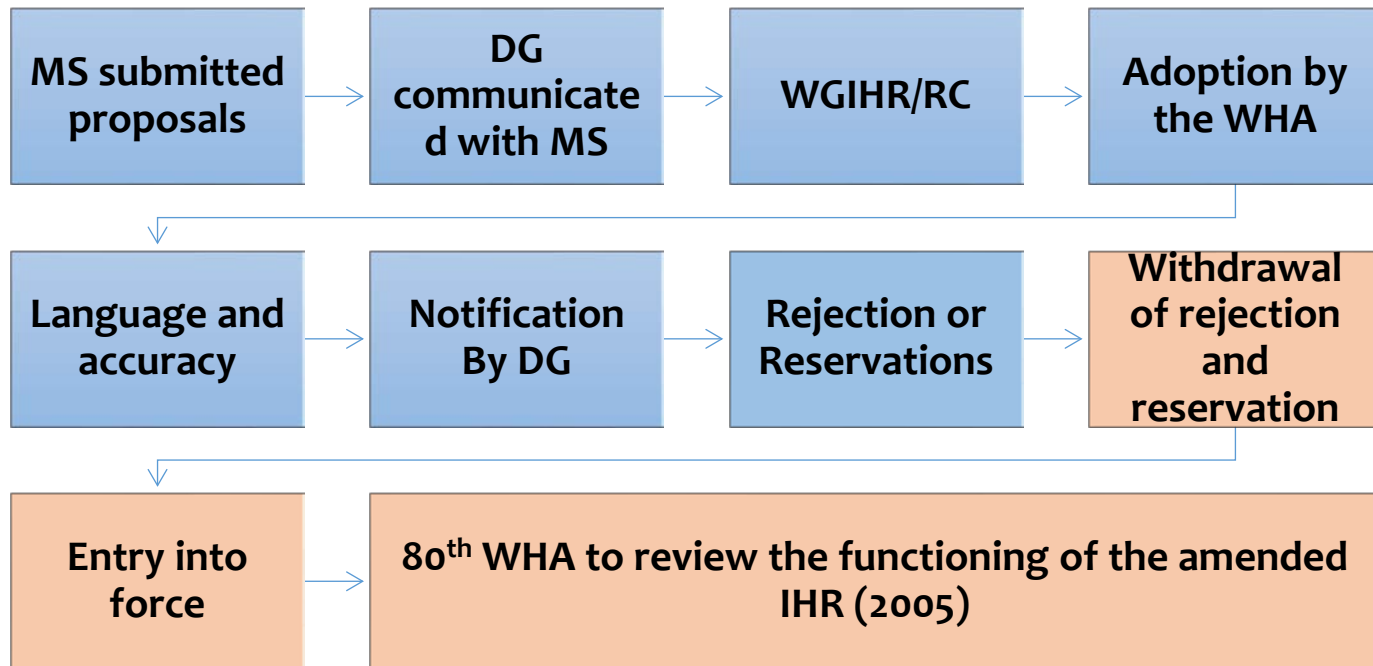
Provide information on WHO-coordinated and other mechanisms for access, allocation, and distribution of relevant health products.

Clearer Criteria for WHO Recommendations (18)

- Support international travel.
- Ensure continuity of international supply chains for health products and food.



Legal process



Source- WHO: https://apps.who.int/gb/wgihr/?sfvrsn=4b549603_12

Complementarity with the Pandemic Agreement

1. Terminologies and definition:
 - Pandemic emergency,
 - PHEIC,
 - relevant health products, and
 - the work to remove barriers.
2. State party **implementation committee** (IHR article 54 bis)
3. Coordinated **financial mechanism** (IHR article 44, and 44bis)



Thank you

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