

158th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 20-24 June 2016

Agenda Item 7.5

CE158/INF/5, Add. I

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (IHR)

1. At the time of the preparation of Implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) (Document CE158/INF/5), it was not possible to further elaborate on two issues that are critical for the future application and implementation of the IHR in the Region, and beyond:

- a) The status of the new IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework post-2016 (1), that, further to the endorsement in principle by the six WHO Regional Committees in 2015,¹ was expected to be formally adopted by the 69th World Health Assembly, as mandated by Article 54 of the Regulations. On occasion of the 69th World Health Assembly in May 2016, in the absence of clear communication to Member States indicating actions expected by the Assembly (Document A69/20) (4), there was no formal adoption of the new IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework post-2016. It is worthwhile to recall that the new IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework post-2016 revolves around four components—self-assessment, after-action review of public health events, simulation exercises, and external evaluations.
- b) The report of the “IHR Review Committee on the Role of the International Health Regulations (2005) in the Ebola Outbreak and Response” (Document A69/21) (5). As emerged during the discussion of Agenda Item 14.1 of the 69th World Health Assembly, the 12 recommendations by the Committee resulted rather controversial, thus could not be adopted through a resolution. Through Point 2 of Decision WHA69(14) (6) the Assembly decided to defer to the six WHO Regional Committees in 2016, including the 55th Directing Council of PAHO/68th Session of the Regional Committee of WHO, further consideration about the above mentioned recommendations.

¹ As mentioned in Document CD54/FR (2), the 54th Directing Council of PAHO/67th Session of the Regional Committee of WHO was in agreement with the WHO concept and framework presented in Document CD54/INF/4, Add. I (3).

Actions Proposed by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to PAHO Member States and PAHO Governing Bodies

2. For States Parties in the Americas to benefit most from the application and implementation of the IHR, there is a need to collegially move forward on solid formal and technical grounds. A solid mandate by PAHO's Governing Bodies would also enable the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (PASB) to more effectively comply with its mandate and obligations to provide support to States Parties.

3. Therefore, considering Assembly's Decision WHA69(14), PASB is inviting the 158th Executive Committee to consider:

- a) Holding a face-to-face regional consultation, between the end of July and the beginning of August 2016, to:
 - i. consider the relevance for the Americas of each of the 12 recommendations by the IHR Review Committee and, where applicable, define the key actions for their implementation in the Region;
 - ii. define the areas of work of a prospective regional IHR plan;
 - iii. agree on the content of a prospective related resolution to be approved by the 55th Directing Council of PAHO/68th Session of the Regional Committee of WHO to be held in Washington, D.C., 26-30 September 2016.
- b) Proposing the "Implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR)" as a Program Policy Matter in the agenda of the 55th Directing Council with the aim of considering the adoption of a resolution establishing IHR-related priorities in the Region. Such resolution would also facilitate the positioning of Member States in the Americas on the occasion of the 140th meeting of the Executive Board of WHO, January 2017, expected to deliberate on IHR matters as per the Assembly's Decision WHA69(14).
- c) Allowing PASB to publish the prospective Program Policy Matter document and related proposed resolution at least three weeks prior to the 55th Directing Council.

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