

Proposal by the Bureau on an updated timeline and deliverables, development of the zero draft of the WHO CA+, and establishment of drafting group modalities

Background

1. As agreed in paragraph 3 of the report of the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) (document A/INB/2/5), the INB Bureau committed to propose revisions to the timeline and deliverables (contained in document A/INB/1/6 Rev.1) for the consideration of the INB at its third meeting. In addition, in its report of the second meeting, the INB agreed to discuss the way forward, including the development of the zero draft and establishment of drafting group modalities.

Proposal by the INB Bureau on the way forward for the development of the zero draft of the WHO CA+

2. The Bureau proposal contained in this document takes into consideration the commendable progress made by the INB to date, including identification of the provision of the WHO Constitution under which the instrument should be adopted, as agreed at the second meeting of the INB, as well as the significant inputs provided by Member States and relevant stakeholders during the intersessional period to the third meeting of the INB, which have guided the development of the conceptual zero draft.

3. With regard to the development of the zero draft, the Bureau proposes that it should advance the conceptual zero draft based on the interventions of Member States and relevant stakeholders during the third meeting of the INB. The Bureau would then provide an updated document, taking account of this input, to the INB prior to its fourth meeting; this would be the “zero draft” of the instrument whose aim would be to facilitate the negotiations while being mindful of both the principle that “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed” and that the zero draft would continue to be a “living document”.

Proposal by the INB Bureau regarding a drafting group and related working modalities of the INB

4. Cognizant of the mandate provided through decision SSA2(5) paragraph 5, that the INB shall submit its outcome for consideration by the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly, with a progress report provided to the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly, the Bureau is aware of the limited time available to advance the negotiations. The following general modalities are therefore proposed for the consideration of the INB at its third meeting:

- (i) Future meetings of the INB will, to the extent possible, be scheduled to provide flexibility for an increase in the number of consecutive days for INB meetings;
- (ii) Sessions of the INB will open and close with a plenary session to accommodate the participation of all Member States and relevant stakeholders. The INB will, in line with previous practice, adopt short procedural reports of its meetings;

Drafting group

- (iii) Following its establishment, a drafting group will meet immediately after the opening session of the INB's plenary meeting and will close before that meeting begins its closing session;
- (iv) Participation in the drafting group will be limited to Member States,^{1,2} unless otherwise agreed by the INB;
- (v) Meetings of the drafting group will be held with interpretation in the six official WHO languages; Meetings of the drafting group will be chaired by one or more Bureau members, as determined by the INB Bureau, unless otherwise agreed by the INB;
- (vi) For the consideration of the INB, the purpose of the drafting group would be to advance negotiations by way of clear text and compromise solutions, taking broadly into account similar processes for the negotiation of international instruments under the auspices of the United Nations and its agencies, including WHO negotiations on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and the International Health Regulations (2005);
- (vii) The drafting group Chair will provide cleared texts and compromise solutions to each INB meeting at the closing session of the INB.

5. These general modalities for the establishment and functioning of an INB drafting group could be agreed by the INB at its third meeting. If so agreed, the first meeting of the drafting group could then be convened at the fourth meeting of the INB, and at each subsequent meeting of the INB, and this could be reflected in the meeting reports. The Bureau also notes that in addition to the establishment of a drafting group, the INB could, should it so decide, establish one or more working groups; for example, the INB could decide to establish a working group on a specific technical topic (including, if deemed appropriate, with input from experts and relevant stakeholders) prior to addressing the topic in a drafting group.

6. An updated timeline and deliverables is provided in the annex to this document for consideration. The final version of the updated timeline and deliverables will be posted on the INB website.

¹ Per the text adopted by the First World Health Assembly on 21 July 1948, this term shall be read to include Associate Members with respect to the INB.

² And regional economic integration organizations as appropriate.

ANNEX

**UPDATED TIMELINE AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE INB STARTING FROM
ITS THIRD MEETING**

Timeline	Meetings and expected deliverables
5–7 December 2022	<p>Third meeting of the INB</p> <p><u>Deliverables:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consideration of a conceptual zero draft of the WHO CA+ – Discussion of the way forward, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of the zero draft of the WHO CA+ • establishment of drafting group modalities
30 January–7 February 2023	Executive Board: 152nd session
27 February–3 March 2023	<p>Fourth meeting of the INB and meetings of a drafting group</p> <p><u>Deliverables:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Presentation of the zero draft of the WHO CA+ – Establishment of a drafting group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allocation of items to the drafting group
3–6 April 2023	<p>Fifth meeting of the INB and continuation of meetings of the drafting group</p> <p><u>Deliverables:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Preparation of a progress report for the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly – Progress towards a consensus text of the WHO CA+
21–30 May 2023	Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly
12–16 June 2023	<p>Continuation of the drafting group</p> <p><u>Deliverables:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Progress towards a consensus text of the WHO CA+
17–21 July 2023	<p>Sixth meeting of the INB and continuation of drafting group meetings</p> <p><u>Deliverables:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review of the work of the drafting group – Progress towards a consensus text of the WHO CA+
End August to end October	Regional Committees
6–10 November 2023	<p>Continuation of drafting group</p> <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Progress towards a consensus text of the WHO CA+
4–6 December 2023	<p>Seventh meeting of the INB</p> <p><u>Deliverables:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Progress towards a consensus text of the WHO CA+ – Outline of the final report for the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly
19 February–1 March 2024 <i>(two week marathon)</i>	<p>Eighth meeting of the INB and continuation of the drafting group</p> <p><u>Deliverables:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Progress towards a consensus text of the WHO CA+ – Preparation of the final report for the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly

18–29 March 2024 <i>(two week marathon)</i>	Ninth meeting of the INB and continuation of the drafting group <u>Deliverables:</u> – Consensus text of the WHO CA+ – Finalization of the report for the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly
May 2024	Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly

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