

Global updates from the World Health Organization

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Overview

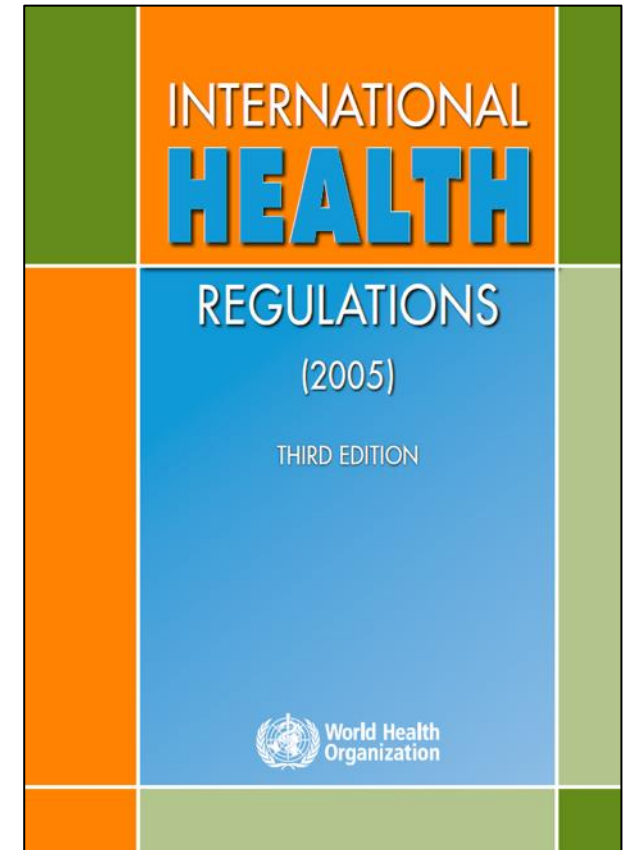
1. Introduction to the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005)
2. WHO-ICAO collaboration and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
3. Global updates on the global architecture for health emergency preparedness, response and resilience (HEPR)

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Introduction to the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005)

The International Health Regulations (IHR 2005)

- An **international legal agreement**, which helps countries to work together “to **prevent, protect against, control** and provide a public health **response** to the **international spread of disease** in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which **avoid unnecessary interference** with international traffic and trade”.
- Adopted in 2005; entered into force in 2007; **legally binding upon 196 WHO Member States**
- Predecessors:
 - IHR (1969, 1973, 1981)
 - International Sanitary Regulations (1951)



<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/43883>

The International Health Regulations (IHR 2005)

- Innovations of the IHR (2005):
 - a. Not limited to **any specific disease or means of transmission**
 - b. States' obligations to develop **minimum core public health capacities**
 - c. States' obligations to **notify events** that may constitute a **"public health emergency of international concern"** (PHEIC) according to defined criteria
 - d. Authorization for WHO to use **unofficial reports** and obtain **verification**
 - e. **Determination of a PHEIC** and issuance of **temporary recommendations**
 - f. Protection of the **human rights of persons and travellers**
 - g. Establishment of **National IHR Focal Points** and **WHO IHR Contact Points**

Designation of points of entry (POE) under the IHR (2005)

- **3 types of POE:** airport, port, ground crossing
- Airports and ports (article 20): "States Parties **shall** designate the airports and ports that shall develop the capacities provided in Annex 1"
- Ground crossings (article 21): "Where justified for public health reasons, a State Party **may** designate ground crossings that shall develop the capacities provided in Annex 1"

Criteria for designation:

- 1) Population density in and around the POE
- 2) Epidemiological situation in around the POE
- 3) Volume and frequency of international traffic
- 4) Multimodal transportation
- 5) Public health risks in the place of origin and transit of international traffic
- 6) Existing capacities and facilities to manage public health risks at the POE
- 7) Joint designation of POE with neighboring country

Designation of POE under the IHR (2005)

Number of designated POEs by type

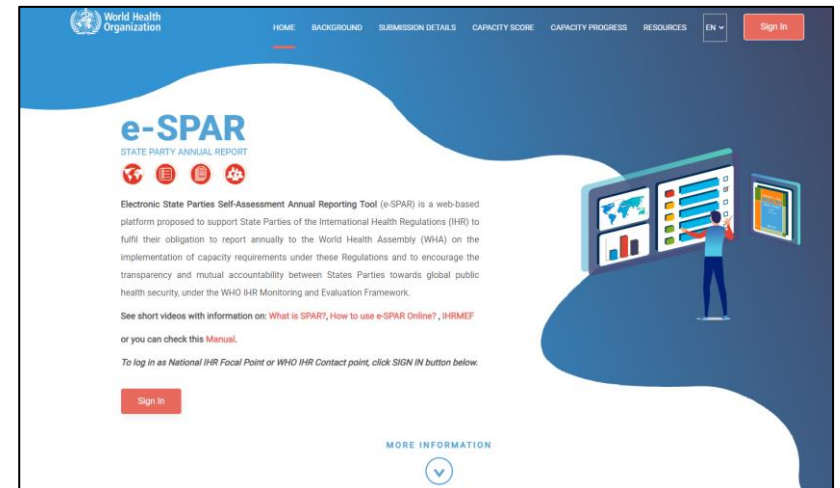
Globally

IHR designated points of entry	
Ports	824
Airports	716
Ground crossings	746
Number of States Parties reporting authorized ports to issue ship sanitation certificates (SSC)	142

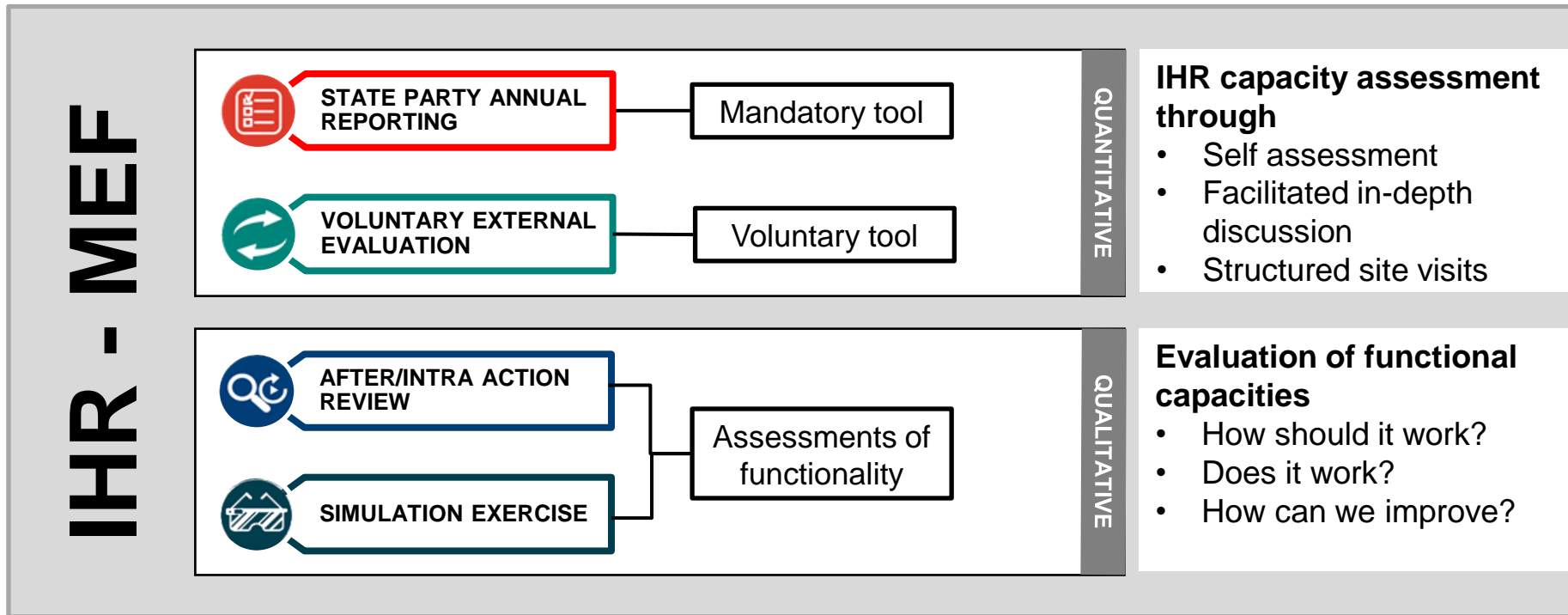
WHO African Region

IHR designated points of entry	
Ports	105
Airports	144
Ground crossings	267
Number of States Parties reporting authorized ports to issue ship sanitation certificates (SSC)	31

Information publicly available in
the e-SPAR platform
<https://extranet.who.int/e-spar/>



IHR (2005) monitoring and evaluation framework



National Action Plan for Health Security



– The 2022 review of the **SPAR** and **JEE** tools led to the **harmonization of border health/POE indicators** across these two instruments.



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WHO-ICAO collaboration and Memorandum of Understanding



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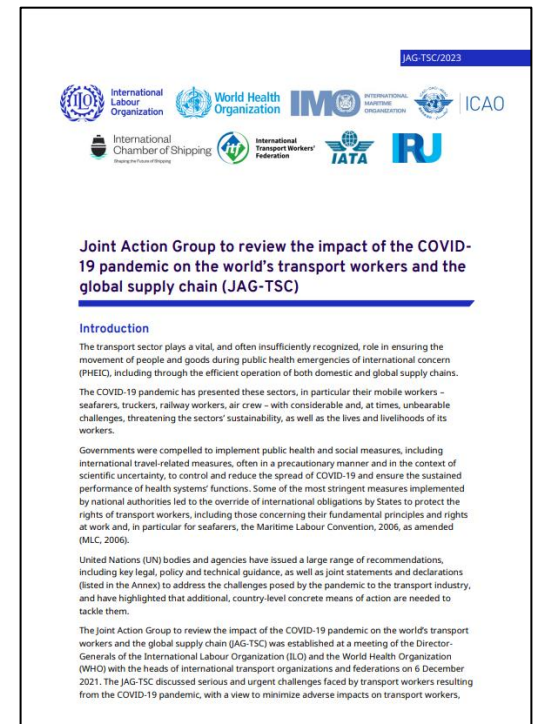
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Key challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic

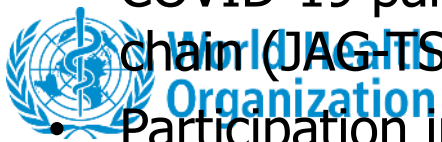
- **Need for better harmonization** in the **policy and technical recommendations on international travel** being issued across sectors.
- **Need to collect scientific evidence** on the **effectiveness** of travel-related measures and need to **balance health gains and socioeconomic impact**.
- **Inconsistencies in the definition of 'essential workforce'** leading to the disruption of essential services (e.g. repatriations, transport of humanitarian/emergency workforce and essential supplies) and negatively impacting on workers' conditions.

Good global practices during the COVID-19 pandemic

- Close **WHO-ICAO collaboration** to promote **alignment of policy and technical recommendations** and **joint advocacy**:
 - WHO's participation in the COVID-19 Council Aviation Recovery Taskforce (CART)
 - WHO's review of the various updates to ICAO's COVID-19 take-off guidance
 - ICAO's participation in the IHR Emergency Committee for the COVID-19 pandemic
 - ICAO's review of the various updates of WHO's technical guidance on the implementation of a risk-based approach to international travel during the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Participation in the Joint Action Group to review the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on transportation workers and the global supply chain (JAG-TSC)
 - Participation in the UN taskforce to review the impact of the COVID-



[Link to the document](#)

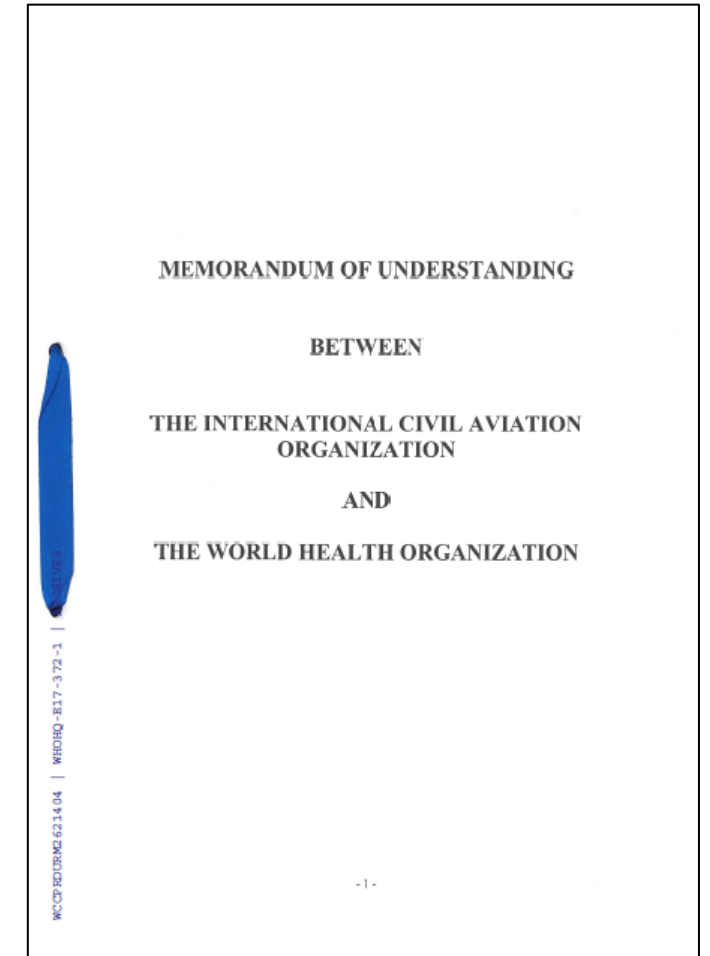


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WHO-ICAO Memorandum of Understanding

- **Signed by the Director Generals** of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in **November 2022**.
- Provides a **framework of cooperation and understanding** to facilitate collaboration between the two organizations in the following areas:
 1. Provision of **evidence-informed and risk-based advice** on policy and technical matters related to civil aviation and public health during the preparedness and response to health emergencies.
 2. Joint **advocacy and risk communication** efforts on risk-based approaches to international travel in the context of health emergencies.
 3. Share **information and tools** to facilitate **technical cooperation and risk assessment** efforts in the areas of public health and civil aviation.



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- A **joint workplan** is under development to facilitate and monitor the

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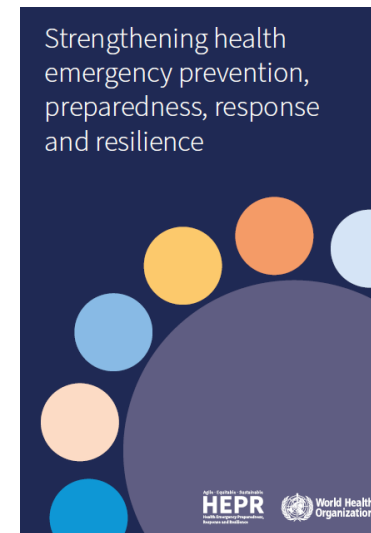
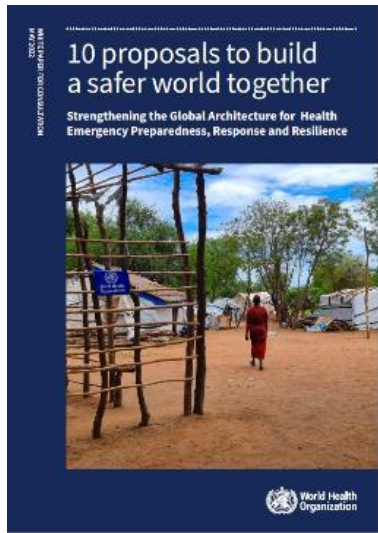
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Global architecture for health emergency preparedness, response and resilience (HEPR)



Updates on HEPR



- Based on independent reviews, synthesising **+300 recommendations**; developed in consultation with Member States and partners; and presented to the World Health Assembly in May 2022 and 2023

- Two ongoing processes at the heart of strengthening HEPR: **Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB)** to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response; and **targeted amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005)** – expected submission to WHA77 in May 2024

[Link to further information on the INB and IHR amendment processes](#)

THANK YOU

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