

# CAPSCA Africa Programme Updates

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African Region



**EPR** Emergency Preparedness and Response

WHO Regional Office for Africa

# Introduction

- WHO and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) have been collaborating on **strengthening country capacities for management of public health events in air transport**
  - Capacity strengthening for **airports based on IHR (2005) requirements** for Points of Entry
  - **Response** to such Public Health Events
- In this regard, WHO and ICAO have together conducted **regional and country level trainings** on management of public health events in air transport for countries in AFRO.
  - Pre-pandemic
  - During Pandemic
- Many **lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic** that can be applied to strengthen the collaboration

# Collaborative Work – Pre-pandemic

- Routine Assessment of Airports for IHR Core capacities and support to different airports in the building of IHR core capacities
  - **Joint External Evaluations (JEE)**
  - **CAPSCA Assessment tools**
- Regional Trainings on management of public health events in air transport
- Training of Border Health Officers on COVID-19
  - In February 2020 – building capacity on early detection, isolation, management within airplanes and airports etc. supported countries in early detection
- Guidance and training on management of ill travelers at Points of Entry - international airports

# Collaborative Work – During Pandemic

- ❑ WHO worked with ICAO to provide **guidance to countries on international travel and safety of air travel, travel restrictions, screening at airports, safe transportation of specimens**
- ❑ The two agencies also advocated for **safe resumption of international travel** in collaboration with International Air Transport Association (IATA) and other aviation agencies in Africa such as the Africa Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC).
- ❑ Together supported **virtual CAPSCA meeting** to review, harmonize and advocate for relevant policies and/or guidelines for safe air transport and screening capacities at airports

# Considerations for IHR (2005) targeted amendments

- Based on lessons learnt from COVID-19, the WHA decided to **amend the IHR (2005)**
- The amendment **aims to strengthen emergency preparedness and Member States' compliance and accountability for building IHR 'core capacities'** and address the gaps identified in the implementation of the regulations.
- At WHA75, 2022 (per Article 55 IHR) – Article 59 of the regulations was amended
- The amendment process involves:
  - ✓ Establishment of Working group on IHR amendment (WGIHR)
  - ✓ Establishment of IHR review committee (article 50) for technical review and considerations of proposals for amendments and provide their advice

## REVIEW COMMITTEE REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (2005)

The review committee did a technical review of the proposed amendments and submitted their report to WHO DG in January 2023

Report of the review committee is being considered by the WGIHR in the negotiations



<https://www.who.int/teams/ihr/ihr-review-committees/review-committee-regarding-amendmer>

# OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

## Existing articles

- 307 proposed amendments for 33/66 articles
- 6/9 annexes

## New articles

- 6 articles
- 2 annexes

# AREAS FOR WHICH PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS WERE SUBMITTED

Notification, verification, and provision of information – Articles 5-11, Annex 2 (+1 new) – *70 proposed amendments (+1 new annex 2)*

Health measures, health documents, points of entry – Articles 19, 23, 24, 27, 28, 31, 35, 36, 42, 43, 45, Annexes 3, 4, 6, 8 – *54 proposed amendments*

Core capacities – Annex 1 – *45 proposed amendments*

Collaboration and coordination – Article 44, 44A (new), Annex 10 (new) – *38 proposed amendments (+1 new article, 1 new annex)*

Public health response and temporary recommendations – Article 13, 13A x2 (new), 15, 16, 17, 18 – *32 proposed amendments (+2 new articles)*

Convening and functioning of the Emergency Committee – Articles 48, 49 – *22 proposed amendments*

Determination of public health emergency of international concern – Article 12 – *21 proposed amendments*

Definitions, Scope, purpose and principles – Articles 1, 2 and 3 – *14 proposed amendments*

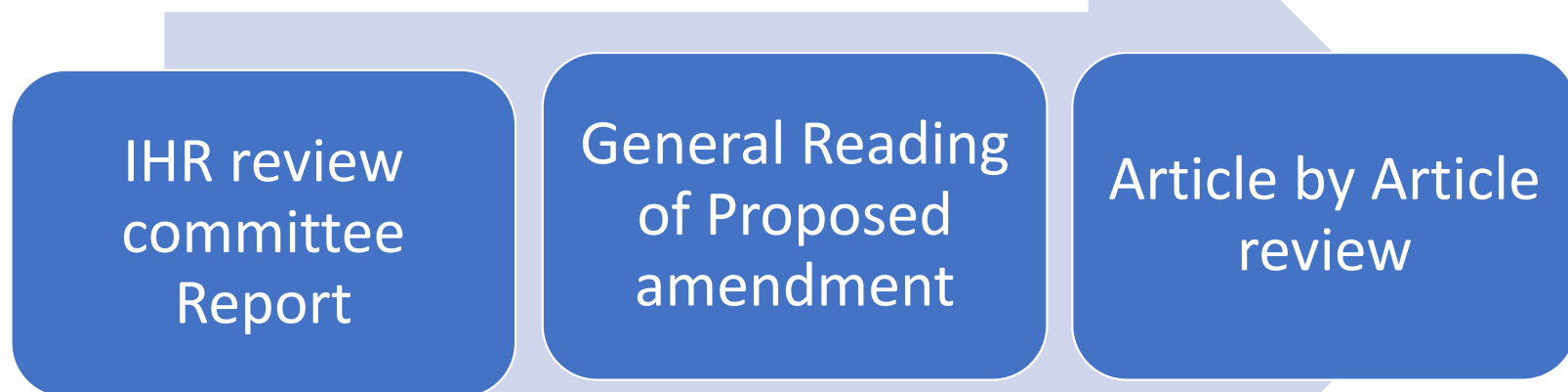
Responsible authorities – Article 4 – *7 proposed amendments*

Final provisions (reporting and review, dispute settlements) – Articles 54, 56 – *4 proposed amendments*

Compliance/Implementation – Art 53A, 53ter-quart, 54A (new) – *3 new articles*



# Progress of IHR AMENDMENT PROCESS



Useful link on IHR amendment: [https://www.who.int/teams/ihr/working-group-on-amendments-to-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)](https://www.who.int/teams/ihr/working-group-on-amendments-to-the-international-health-regulations-(2005))

## Implications of the IHR Amendment on PoEs

- Some of the core capacities countries should develop are related to **control of designated points of entry** in the management of persons crossing borders during a PHEIC
  - **Health measures, health documents, points of entry – Articles 19, 23, 24, 27, 28, 31, 35, 36, 42, 43, 45, Annexes 3, 4, 6, 8 – 54 proposed amendments**
  - Health documents from travelers that contain information ‘in digital or physical format on lab test for a pathogen and/or information on vaccination against a disease’
  - Travel health documents shall ‘preferably be produced in digital form’ and should fulfill interoperability on information technology platforms

# Regional Strategy for Health Security and Emergencies 2022- 2030

- Launched in August 2022
- Highlights the importance of building national capacities for Preparedness, Detection, and Response
  - **A minimum of Score 3 (Developed Capacity) for all IHR core capacities by 2030, including all at PoEs and border health**
  - More regular **assessments/evaluations** of the capacities (**JEEs, ESPAR, SIMEX** etc)
  - Includes 3 WHO initiatives to support countries in **Preparedness** (*Promoting Resilience of Systems in Emergencies* - PROSE), **Detection** (*Transforming African Surveillance Systems* -TASS) and **Response** (*Strengthening and Utilizing Response Groups for Emergencies* -SURGE)
- **Collaboration in its implementation key.**

# Going Forward – Strengthening the Collaboration

- ❑ For AFRO, the main area of collaboration is on **assessments of IHR capacities in the airport, strengthening both routine and PHEIC capacities in the airport and training for management of public health events in air transport.**
- ❑ **Evaluation of existing public health event provisions in the aviation system, gap analysis and assisting States by providing advice in the implementation of IHR in the aviation sector. -**  
Example: Recent evaluation conducted in Zimbabwe in March 2023
- ❑ **JEE – Point of Entry/Border Health component**
- ❑ **Collaboration in implementation of the Regional HSE strategy 2022- 2030**



World Health  
Organization

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*Thank you for listening*

