

Agenda Item: 7.5 Review of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework

Statement

I take the floor on behalf of MMI. This statement is supported by TWN and PHM.

We share the Review Group's main observation: "that the PIP Framework is a innovative tool for pandemic preparedness" and "has led to greater confidence and predictability in the global capacity to respond to an influenza pandemic."

The PIP Framework places virus sharing and benefit sharing on equal footing. This is relevant in the context of other pathogens as well.

We would like to highlight the following:

We are concerned with several of the recommendations of the Review Group pertaining to GSD. We feel that the Framework must treat sequence data the same way as the viral isolate. Access to and the use of sequence data should trigger benefit sharing.

Databases that wish to host sequence data should implement a standard user agreement that applies benefit sharing obligations of the PIP Framework to users that access the sequence data and allows the tracking of users of sequence data.

In 2016, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) decided to undertake a study into criteria that could be used to identify what constitutes a specialized international access and benefit-sharing instrument, and what could be a possible process for recognizing such an instrument. Given this decision, WHO Members should await and be guided by the Study on specialized instruments and its consideration by the Parties of the CBD/Nagoya Protocol in 2018.

We call for the amount of Partnership Contribution that should be paid by manufacturers, be updated given that the current running costs of WHO GISRS, is estimated to be US\$122 million.

Finally we are of the view that WHO Members should initiate a new instrument to govern the sharing of seasonal influenza viruses, rather than a Study that may adversely affect the PIP framework.