Advancing Global Health Security: From Commitments to Actions
27-29 June, 2016 | Bali, Indonesia

Concept Note

Background
In July 2015, WHO held a high-level meeting with key multisectoral partners in Cape Town, South Africa, to discuss ‘Building Health Security Beyond Ebola’. The aim of the meeting was to encourage countries to work cooperatively – with each other, and with WHO and partners – to strengthen preparedness for disease outbreaks in West Africa and, in the longer term, to expand preparedness into other countries and regions. In Cape Town, Member States and partners called for WHO to take the lead in the coordination of global health security work, to provide a road map for this work, and to develop a tool for donor and partner coordination. The Government of Indonesia also offered to host a follow-up meeting in June 2016 to advance global health security.

A year has passed since the Cape Town meeting, and we are now facing new epidemic threats. Global health security preparedness remains essential, building country core capacities is critical, and implementing the International Health Regulations (IHR) is key. The most vulnerable, low capacity countries are of the highest priority.

To this end, over the past year a number of important agreed actions have been carried out: a number of countries in the African Region have been supported to strengthen priority IHR capacities (surveillance/early warning, community engagement and risk communications, incident management systems and coordination); external capacity assessments have been conducted; the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) tool was developed and is now being used; multi-partner initiatives, such as the Global Health Security Agenda, are accelerating activities to improve capacity-building; and the Strategic Partnership Portal (SPP) was created. All such activities and multisectoral initiatives contribute to preparedness and health systems strengthening with a common goal: to enable countries to prevent, detect and respond to any health emergency risk.

With the establishment of a Health Emergencies Programme, WHO is advocating an all-hazards approach to risks. WHO will increase its support to Member States to build their capacities to manage health risks and, as health cluster lead, will coordinate the international health response to contain outbreaks and provide effective relief and recovery to affected populations when national capacities are overwhelmed.

‘Advancing Health Security: From Commitments to Actions’ will bring together information about the actions of the past year, particularly from countries in Africa – including the status of their capacities, their achievements, the remaining challenges they face, their gaps and needs – with inputs from partners about their in-country initiatives.

June 2016
Goal of the Meeting
The ‘Advancing Global Health Security’ meeting will highlight the main achievements and challenges encountered by countries while developing their preparedness and response capacities. It will review the commitments made in Cape Town in terms of better coordination and alignment, and identify gaps and overlaps at national, regional and global levels so that the efforts of multisectoral partners can be better distributed for greater impact.

Objectives of the Meeting
i. To align country, partner and WHO efforts around a unifying and multisectoral preparedness framework that sets the way forward through harmonized technical, financing, and evaluation benchmarks.
ii. To provide feedback on the results of recent joint assessments and evaluations, and share best practices in translating these into actionable and measurable outcomes.
iii. To obtain further commitment from Member States and partners to provide sustained international and domestic investment in preparedness.

Venue and Dates
The venue is Bali, Indonesia. The dates are 27-29 June 2016.

Participants
Two hundred participants are anticipated and will range from high-level technical experts to key decision makers. Major stakeholders include:

- Member States – from all WHO Regions
- Donor partners
- Technical partners, including UN agencies, national technical agencies, NGOs and regional organizations