

Note from the Chairman of the International Health Regulations Review Committee

I am writing with reference to the 4th meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) Review Committee to be held on Monday March 28 at WHO in Geneva.

Following my statement and the discussions at the 128th Session of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) (17-25 January 2011), I would like to invite a final consultation with states parties, the United Nations and its specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO before the IHR Review Committee finalizes our report.

To this end, I am attaching a preview document which outlines our main conclusions and recommendations based on the evidence we have reviewed and testimony we have heard during the past year.

The Review Committee would appreciate your review of this document and would welcome your inputs with respect to its contents. In particular the Review Committee would be interested in your views on the recommendations the Review Committee is proposing and how these can be taken forward.

We would welcome these comments either in writing to the Review Committee (kindly send submissions to ihr-pandemicreview@who.int) and /or during the plenary session at the 4th Meeting of the Review Committee on Monday March 28 at WHO in Geneva. While the Review Committee would continue to accept inputs by observers - only comments received before and during 28 March meeting will be taken into consideration by the Review Committee in its final report.

During the 28 March plenary session, following an introduction of the conclusions and recommendations by the Review Committee the floor will be open to all categories of observers (States Parties, United Nations and its specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations) for statements and comments. Following the plenary session, the 4th Meeting of the Review Committee will officially close.

The Review Committee will then meet in closed, deliberative session to review and consider the inputs from States Parties, United Nations and its specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.

The final report of the Review Committee will be presented at the Sixty-fourth World Health Assembly (WHA) 16-24 May 2011 under agenda item 13.2. It is expected this report will be available as part of the documentation for the WHA at the beginning of May.

We look forward to continuing our consultations and dialogue with you as the Review Committee works towards completing its final report.