



**Ministerial consultation and high-level technical meeting on
the implementation of the Action Plan to Improve Public Health
Preparedness and Response in the WHO European Region
Istanbul, Turkey
12–14 February 2019**

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Scope and purpose

Background

Adequate protection against health threats requires high-level political and financial commitment to address the full cycle of emergency management, including prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, supported by multisectoral engagement, and, as appropriate, whole-of-society approaches and effective partnerships. This was the rationale behind the development of the Action Plan to Improve Public Health Preparedness and Response in the WHO European Region, which was welcomed with appreciation at the 68th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe in September 2018 through unanimous adoption of resolution EUR/RC68/R7. It is thus the collective responsibility of all Member States to ensure health emergency preparedness and, when necessary, a joint response.

The Action Plan aims to strengthen and maintain national capacities in the WHO European Region to effectively prevent, prepare for, detect and respond to public health threats, and to provide assistance to affected countries, when necessary, through three strategic pillars:

- Strategic pillar 1. Build, strengthen and maintain States Parties' core capacities required under the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005);
- Strategic pillar 2. Strengthen event management and compliance with the requirements under the IHR (2005);
- Strategic pillar 3. Measure progress and promote accountability.

Moving forward immediately with operationalization of the Action Plan requires that those working in the health sector, at the highest political and technical levels, make a full commitment to its vision and goals. Furthermore, it requires that a process, based on a technical consultation, be agreed upon and set in motion for engaging Member States, partners and other stakeholders, in order to ensure implementation of the activities outlined in the Action Plan along with regular reporting to governing bodies.

In addition, the Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW 13), 2019–2023, sets an ambitious strategic direction by identifying three interconnected priorities: achieving universal health coverage, addressing health emergencies, and promoting healthier populations. By implementing the regional Action Plan, we will contribute to the achievement of the GPW 13 target of *1 billion more people better protected from health emergencies*.

Purpose

The purpose of the event is to galvanize the commitment of all Member States, at the highest levels of health sector leadership, to full implementation of the Action Plan to Improve Public Health Preparedness and Response in the WHO European Region.

Objectives

This high-level meeting will have the following objectives:

- to establish a shared understanding of the importance of governance of health emergency preparedness and response, and to seek commitment to shared accountability for the target set out in GPW 13 in the area of health emergencies;
- to present and discuss the implementation of the Action Plan and contribute to its monitoring framework, drawing on synergies between partners, existing needs and challenges, and the sharing of best practices;
- to identify priority areas for support required from WHO and partners in implementation of the Action Plan and to reaffirm WHO's leadership in coordinating partners and stakeholders.

Outputs

The main outputs of the meeting will be:

- agreement on a regional platform for accelerating the implementation of the regional action plan by creating opportunities for dialogue and exchange of experience;
- agreement on the way forward in operationalizing the Action Plan that identifies critical actions and key milestones for its implementation, reporting and review;
- agreement on a monitoring framework for the Action Plan, in alignment with the impact frameworks of relevant global instruments.

General programme

This meeting will be the first step of a multiyear process needed to implement the Action Plan and monitor its impact.

The meeting will be organized in two parts:

1. a two-day technical meeting, on 12–13 February 2019, at which high-level experts, nominated by Member States, will discuss in detail the implementation of the Action Plan and contribute to its monitoring framework, in line with resolution EUR/RC68/R7, adopted by the WHO Regional Committee for Europe in 2018;
2. a half-day ministerial consultation, on 14 February 2019, to affirm our political commitment to and leadership of full implementation of the Action Plan in the WHO European Region.