

High level Conference on Global Health Security Solutions for strengthening States' capacities under the IHR

22-23 March 2016

Lyon, France

Chair Summary

- 1. Dr Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, and Ms Marisol TOURAINE, French Minister for Social Affairs and Health, welcome the High Level Conference on Global Health Security organized in Lyon from 22 to 23 of March 2016 by France and the European Commission, and co-sponsored by the World Health Organization and the Dutch Presidency of the European Union. They draw the following main conclusions from the conference:
- 2. Participants are committed to strengthen global health security through the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR (2005)) by reaffirming the critical role of international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- 3. The Ebola epidemic and the current Zika epidemic confirm the increasing globalization of health risks and interdependence of each country, government, international organization, economic sector, as well as each public, private and non-governmental actor.
- 4. Health security is a global public good that is the responsibility of all and requires strong and transparent global governance under the auspices of WHO.
- 5. The International Health Regulations (IHR (2005)) is the unique tool for global health security legally recognised by the 194 Member States of the World Health Organization. It is the intervention framework of reference and its implementation should be reinforced.
- 6. Filling the gaps in the implementation of the IHR (2005) and notably regarding the core capacities required to prepare, detect, assess, notify and respond is key to manage effectively outbreaks and emergencies with health and humanitarian consequences.
- 7. The development of the required core capacities relies on the reinforcement of human resources for health and the strengthening of health systems. Development and

- cooperation policies should contribute to strengthening health systems, health human resources and core capacities to ensure a sustainable and stable impact on the social, economic and political development of countries.
- 8. It is important that all countries be equipped with the means to prevent, detect and assess the threats on public health, as well as communicate and respond, with the support of WHO and in a spirit of trust.
- 9. The mutual commitment of all actors, from all the sectors and levels in a "One Health" perspective, should contribute to a more efficient and concrete approach to periodic evaluations of core capacities required of states, in the framework of continuous process of improvement.
- 10. The development of WHO's Joint External Evaluation tool (JEE) is an important step in this regard. It is essential that WHO leads its implementation, guaranteeing its sustainability while ensuring its independence.
- 11. Therefore, we would like to further support the work of WHO as regards the continuous improvement of the Joint External Evaluation tool, the implementation of the JEE missions in countries in collaboration with its partners, and the use of the data collected.
- 12. We support the establishment of WHO's new Outbreak and Health Emergencies Programme that will, among other functions, coordinate global all-hazards preparedness and will support the effective implementation of the IHR (2005).
- 13. Within this new Outbreak and Health Emergencies Programme, the WHO Office in Lyon, which already builds country capacities for IHR implementation (preparedness, learning and training), would need to engage in gap analysis and evaluation processes to deliver tailor-made assistance to countries. It would rely on its qualified staff and would work in a multisectoral approach, in close collaboration with WHO regional offices and liaising with OIE and FAO.
- 14. In the framework of the Outbreak and Health Emergencies Programme, WHO will coordinate the implementation of the JEE by ensuring the training of experts and the transparency of the selection process; by guaranteeing the centralization and the analysis of data, and by promoting the independence of evaluations conducted in the framework of the JEE.
- 15. WHO's new Outbreak and Health Emergencies Programme will allow putting into practice all commitments on the implementation of the IHR (2005) through a multisectoral approach. It will prepare the world for possible future crises, notably through the training of resource persons and the development of a biennial report on health security and associated good practices.