

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT

BETWEEN

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION HUB FOR PANDEMIC AND EPIDEMIC INTELLIGENCE (HEREAFTER 'WHO HUB')

AND

THE EUROPEAN HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE AUTHORITY (HEREAFTER 'HERA') OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

REGARDING COOPERATION ON PANDEMIC AND EPIDEMIC INTELLIGENCE RELEVANT TO MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES

Background

The mission of the WHO HUB is to support countries and regional and global actors to avert and manage public health threats through collaborative problem-solving that is informed by better data and analytics. To achieve this mission, the WHO HUB is developing an approach to collaborative intelligence clustered around three interconnected activities: connect data, solutions, and communities of practice; innovate tools and processes; and strengthen capabilities across stakeholders.

HERA, a service of the European Commission, has been set up to improve preparedness and response to serious cross-border threats in the area of medical countermeasures. In this context, HERA, in close collaboration with other Commission Services and relevant European Agencies, is to strengthen health security coordination within the Union during preparedness and crisis response times, bringing together Member States, the industry and relevant stakeholders in a common effort; address vulnerabilities and strategic dependencies within the Union; and contribute to reinforcing the global health emergency preparedness and response architecture.

The WHO HUB and HERA (hereinafter referred to as 'the Sides' or 'the Side') believe that their technical collaboration will contribute to the shared goals of preventing, preparing, detecting and rapidly responding to serious cross-border threats to health, without prejudice to already existing forms of cooperation herein.

The Sides recognize their commitment to contribute to strengthening the global health security architecture by fostering EU and international engagement in the context of global health threats, and availability and access to medical countermeasures for preparedness, prevention, detection of, and response and recovery to public health emergencies have reached the following understanding;

1.1. Areas of collaboration

The Sides, each within its competence¹, intend to collaborate in the following areas:

- **Platforms, methods and practices sharing:** by exploring the possibilities to provide access to each Sides' IT platforms, sharing methodologies and best practices, thus allowing regular information sharing from existing epidemic intelligence systems, such as the Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS) system, to enable and foster (anticipatory) health threat assessments and identify the relevant and context-suitable medical countermeasures responses, hereby also countering mis- and disinformation on health threats;

¹ See Commission Decision of 16.9.2021 establishing the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority [C(2021)6712 final].

- **Work Plans:** by consulting each other on their annual work plan with the aim to coordinate their activities related to this Administrative Arrangement, to leverage synergies, further areas of collaboration and prevent inefficiencies;
- **Personnel exchange:** by exploring the possibility of time-limited exchange of personnel to exchange institutional perspectives or subject matter expertise subject to rules, regulations and administrative practices of each Side;
- **Research roadmap:** to better orient the research and development of advanced medical countermeasures and related technologies, to develop a global research agenda focusing on improving public health intelligence, to be embedded in existing frameworks and developed towards in coordination with other global, regional and national stakeholders;
- **Training:** by facilitating the development of targeted public health intelligence training curricula and activities to strengthen knowledge and skills in preparedness and response in support of medical countermeasure deployment.

1.2. Modalities of collaboration

1.2.1. Supervision and coordination

The Sides intend to organise regular meetings to ensure the supervision and coordination of the activities carried out under this Administrative Arrangement. The meetings should be held on a managerial and technical-operational levels.

1.2.2. Interoperability of information systems and tools

The Sides intend to organise regular meetings concerning the efficient design of data standards and relevant means aimed to explore access to the Sides' information systems, and exchange technical specifications of these systems, where needed.

2. Funding

2.1 This Administrative Arrangement does not entail any financial commitments on either Side.

2.2 Any collaborative activity carried out pursuant to it is subject to the availability of appropriated funds and other resources, including human resources.

3. Notices

All notices to be given under this Administrative Arrangement should be in writing.

4. Duration and Termination

This Administrative Arrangement is to be operational for five (5) years from the date of its signature, unless one Side discontinues its participation in it at an earlier point in time.

This Administrative Arrangement may be terminated by either Side, subject to the provision of three months prior written notice to the other Side. Notwithstanding the foregoing, it is expected that any termination of this Administrative Arrangement should not prejudice the orderly completion of any ongoing collaborative activity.

This Administrative Arrangement does not intend to create any legal rights or obligations in respect of either Side under international or domestic law.

Signed at *[Date and place]*
30 NOV 2022 Berlin

For the WHO HUB

5 December 2022

For HERA

Signature

Chikwe Ihekweazu, Director WHO HUB

Signature

Pierre Delsaux, Director-General HERA