

Administrative Arrangement
between
the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority of the European Commission
and
the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea
on Health Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Area of Medical Countermeasures

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the need for international cooperation to prevent, detect and respond to public health emergencies and serious cross-border health threats. It is therefore of common interest to foster cooperation in the area of health emergency prevention, preparedness and response.

Cooperation, coordination, communication and exchange of information are essential both to combat ongoing health emergencies, like the COVID-19 pandemic and to prepare for future serious cross-border health threats.

Recognizing the existence of mutual interests in the field of health emergency preparedness and response in the area of medical countermeasures, and desiring to further strengthen cooperation, the European Commission's Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (hereinafter referred to as "HERA") and the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as "MOHW"), hereinafter referred to as "Partner" and jointly as "Partners", have reached the following understanding:

1. Purpose

The Partners intend to strengthen cooperation across a range of mutual interests with the aim to direct their joint efforts to address prevention, preparedness and response to serious cross border health threats in the area of medical countermeasures. When relevant, both Partners intend to involve relevant public entities and services in the development of joint activities.

2. Domains of Cooperation

In particular, the Partners intend to strengthen cooperation in the area of medical countermeasures in the following domains:

- Epidemic and supply chain intelligence;
- Testing, tracing and detecting tools to identify potential spread of pathogens in the population, both via digital and analogue tools;
- Identification, research, innovation, and manufacturing/production of medical countermeasures, including vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics;
- Non-pharmaceutical interventions where they concern medical countermeasures;
- Stockpiling, preparedness for public health emergencies in relation to medical countermeasures;
- Support for third countries, on preparedness for and response to serious cross-border health threats, in particular early warning, vaccinations and production capacity;
- Cooperation and sharing of technical experiences in data science and modeling for epidemic analysis and predictions.

3. Methods of Cooperation

The methods of cooperation provided in this administrative arrangement may in particular include the following:

- Discussion of current issues, experiences and new developments of mutual interest, including on existing and emerging serious cross-border health threats;
- Exchange of information and non-personal data, including through regular meetings and communication, in line with the respective legal frameworks;
- Technical cooperation aimed to provide advice or training;
- Collaborative initiatives in the domains listed above, based on jointly identified, most relevant public health threats. The Partners intend to identify at least one of such initiatives on a bi-annual basis;
- Collaborative initiatives to build capacity with third country partners in the domains listed-above.

4. Contact points

The Partners intend to establish regular contacts between HERA's and MOHW's officials, as appropriate, to foster cooperation, ensuring the participation of the relevant public entities and services on both sides.

Each Partner intends to designate contact points for the implementation of this administrative arrangement.

5. Other provisions

- The Partners intend to set up a working group to further elaborate the details of the cooperation under this administrative arrangement. The working group may meet at appropriate times as jointly decided upon by the Partners.
- This administrative arrangement does not entail any financial commitments on either Partner. Any collaborative activity carried out pursuant to this administrative arrangement is subject to the availability of appropriated funds and other resources, including human resources.
- This administrative arrangement is to be operational for five (5) years from the date of its signature, unless one Partner discontinues its participation in it at an earlier point in time. Collaboration may continue until the Partners agree that the objectives of this administrative arrangement have been achieved or until one Partner discontinues its participation in this administrative arrangement.
- Each Partner should observe the confidentiality and secrecy of documents, information and other data received from or disclosed to the other Partner in the implementation of this administrative arrangement in accordance with its internal rules.
- This administrative arrangement is not intended to create any legal rights or obligations in respect of either Partner under domestic or international law.

Signed in two originals in English.

Signed in Brussels, Belgium on 17th May 2023, and in Sejong, Korea on 10th May 2023.

For THE HEALTH EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS AND
RESPONSE AUTHORITY
OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

STELLA KYRIAKIDES
Commissioner

For THE MINISTRY OF
HEALTH AND WELFARE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

CHO, KYOO HONG
Minister