

Declaration of Bolivia

Commission B

Item 13.1 adoption of the “Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework for the Sharing Of Influenza Viruses and Access to Vaccines and Other Benefits”

Gracias Sr. Presidente

El gobierno de Bolivia siguió con mucha atención todo el proceso de que precedió a la adopción del Marco Global de preparación para una Gripe Pandémica, intercambio de virus gripales y acceso a vacunas y otros beneficios.

Bolivia da la bienvenida a la conclusión de este proceso y no se opone a la adopción del marco global sin embargo deseamos reiterar al resto de la Membresía algunas de nuestras preocupaciones.

Voy a pasar al idioma ingles que es el idioma de una carta que enviamos al Grupo de Trabajo y que se refleja en el corrigendum 1

Bolivia expresses its concerns with the preliminary adoption of Annex 2, the “Standard Material Transfer Agreement outside WHO network of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework For the Sharing of Influenza Viruses and Access to Vaccines and Other Benefits by the Open-Ended Working Group on Pandemic Influenza Preparedness because it does not prohibit the patenting of the influenza biological material and parts thereof shared with entities outside WHO network.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia defended such a view during the Open-Ended Working Group meetings and has presented proposals prohibiting the patenting of influenza biological materials and parts thereof by entities inside WHO network as well as by entities outside WHO network.

During the OEWG/PIP meeting that took place in WHO from 11-15th April 2011, the Plurinational State of Bolivia presented a proposal to ensure that the biological material and parts thereof shared through the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework are not appropriated by entities outside the WHO GISRS through the patent system.

It is our view that allowing the patenting of influenza biological materials and parts thereof particularly in the context of pandemic preparedness is against public health interests and thus contradicts the primary objective of the World Health Organization that is “the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health”.

We also firmly believe that it is unethical and runs counter to the beliefs, traditions and cultures of many people around the world, including the indigenous peoples of Bolivia, and could have severe adverse effects for pandemic risk assessment and response including on research and development as well as on promoting access to vaccines and other medical technologies and supplies.

While in the spirit of constructiveness and flexibility the Plurinational State of Bolivia withdrew its proposal, Bolivia would like to strongly state its reservation on the matter and to reserve its

right to seek a prohibition of the patenting of influenza biological materials and parts thereof by entities within and outside WHO network.

Gracias