

UPDATES ON IHR AMENDMENTS PROCESS

IHR Secretariat, WHO, September 2022



World Health
Organization

HEALTH
EMERGENCIES
programme

What are the International Health Regulations (2005)?



A **legally binding** agreement among 196 States Parties (all 194 WHO Member States, plus Holy See and Lichtenstein), to work together for **global health security**.

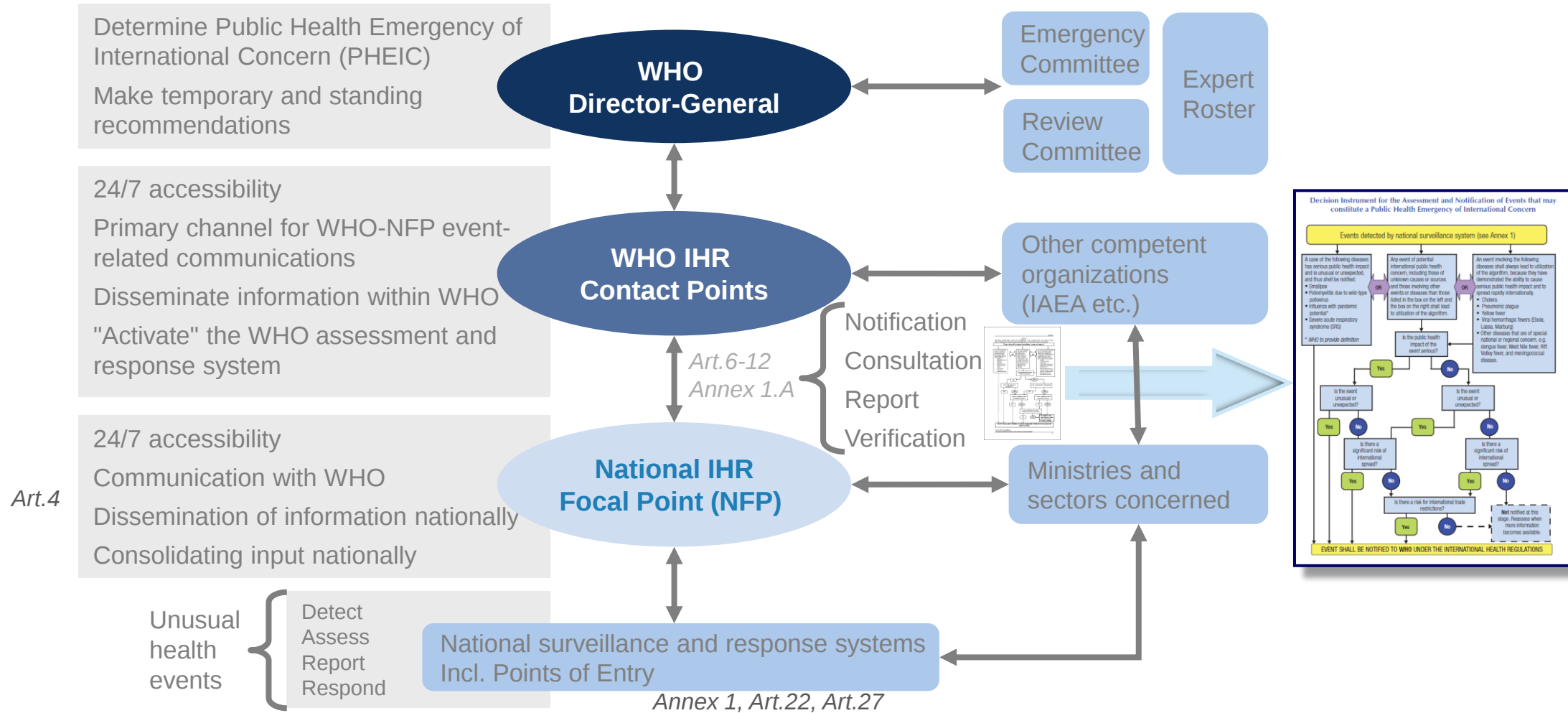
Entered into force on **15 June 2007**.

WHO coordinates and facilitates the its implementation.

Purpose and Scope

To prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with, and restricted to, public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic.

How does IHR work?



WHO refers an event for consideration to the EC based on the risk assessment

Acute event management Under the IHR and the WHO Emergency Response Framework

Signal detection by WHO/ State Party notification
Verification and risk assessment by WHO



Rapid communication to State Parties via EIS;
DON; situation reports



Rapid Risk Assessment
grading/initiate rapid response

Consideration of
convening an
Emergency Committee:
1) Does event constitute a
PHEIC?
2) If yes, what TRs?

WHO Emergency
Response
Framework

Why does the WHO DG convene an Emergency Committee under the IHR?

Mandate of the Emergency committee (Art 48):

- To **advise the DG** if event is a **PHEIC** or not
- To **terminate** a PHEIC
- To propose issuance of **Temporary Recommendations** if a PHEIC



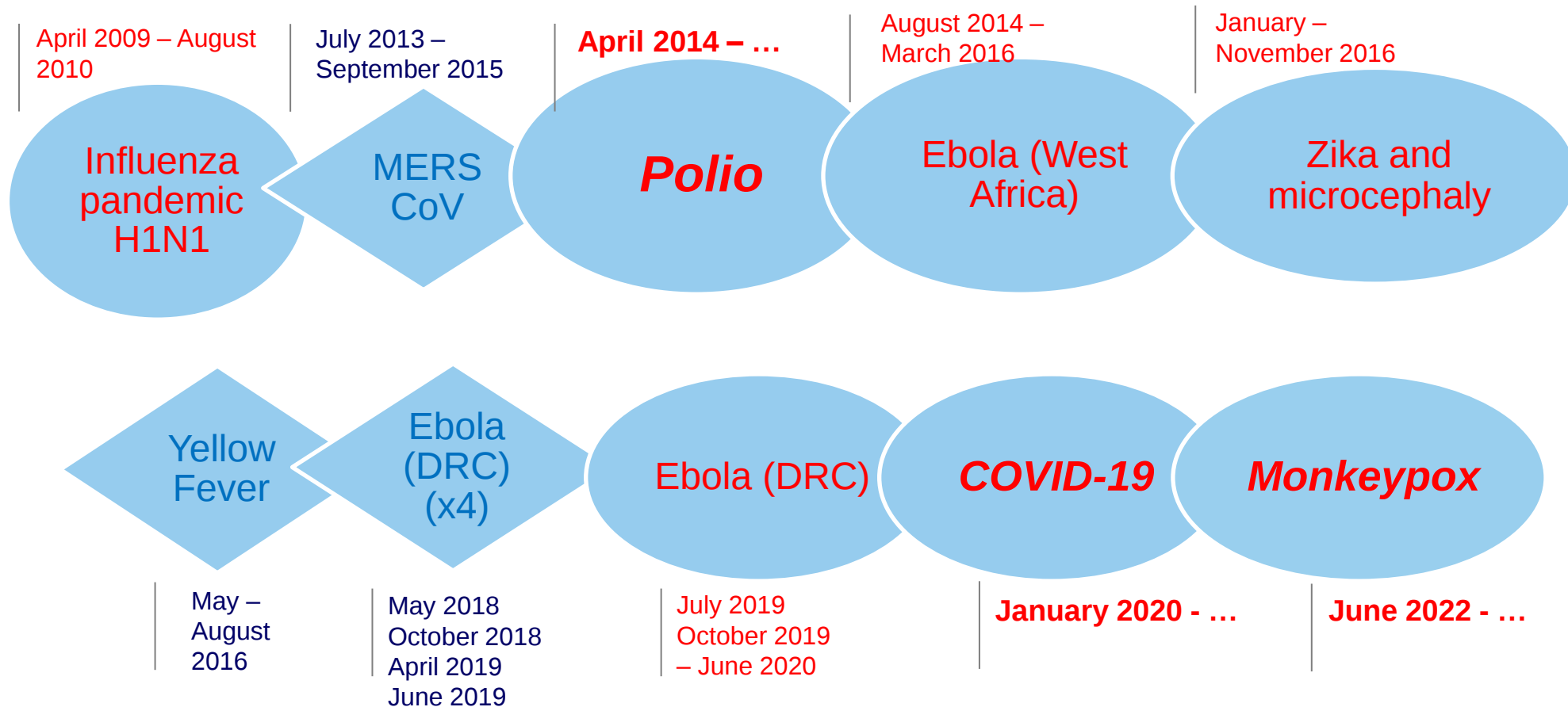
Operations (Art – 47-49):

- **Members and advisers** selected from IHR Roster of Experts or other Expert advisory panels of WHO, and expert nominated by the affected State Party
- **Confidentiality** rules and regulations
- **Affected State Party** invited to provide information
- **EC Report** provided to the Director-General

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (Art 1):

1. **Extraordinary** (unusual/unexpected) event
2. Constitutes a **risk to other states** through **international spread**
3. Requires **coordinated international response**

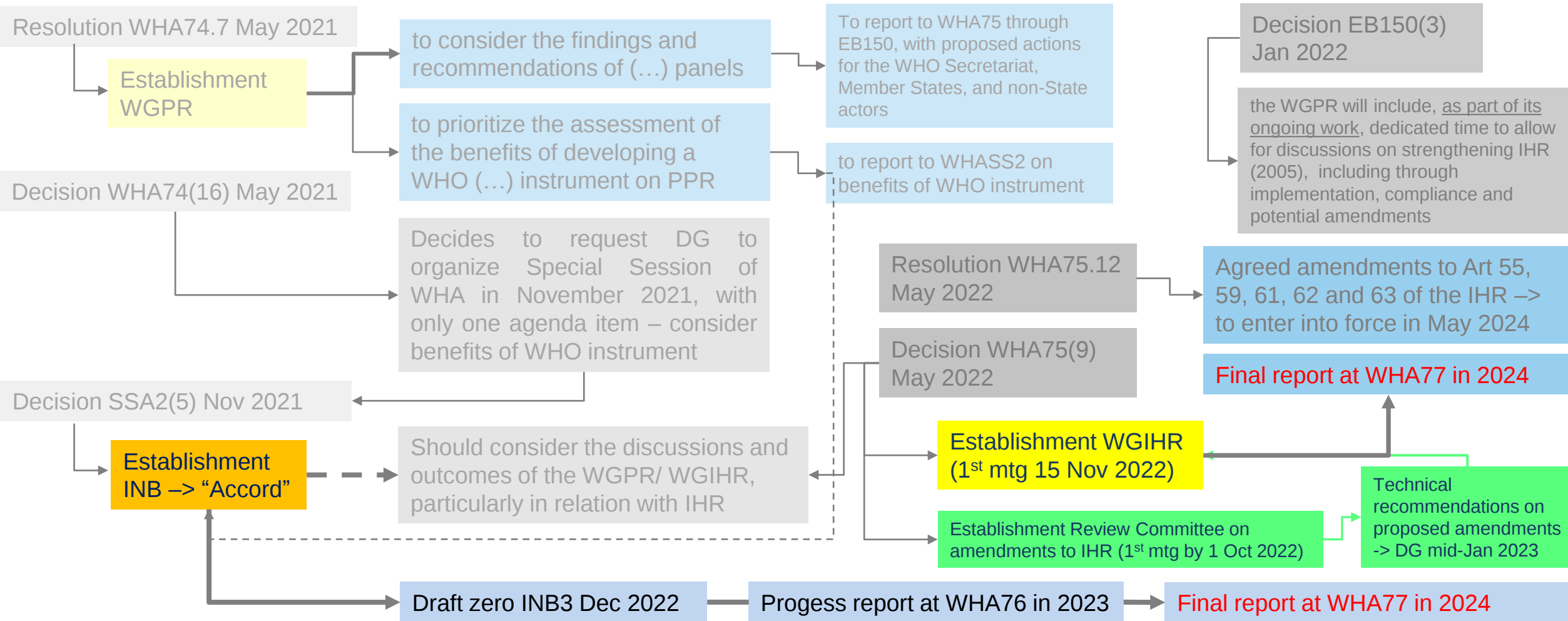
7 of the 10 events for which DG convened the Emergency Committee were determined to be a PHEIC



IHR Amendments – process so far and next steps

- Governing Bodies' mandates
- Areas potentially to be covered by the proposed amendments
- Process going forward

WHO Governing Bodies mandates related to IHR



Areas potentially to be covered by the proposed amendments

- Notification, verification, and information sharing
- Risk assessment, including determination of PHEIC and intermediate level of alert
- Public health response and Temporary recommendations
- Health measures on arrival or departure
- Convening and functioning of the Emergency Committee
- Collaboration and assistance
- Core capacities
- Compliance Committee

Process going forward

- States Parties are requested to submit proposals for amendments by 30 September 2022
- Review Committee to be convened from October to mid-January 2023
 - To examine amendments through a structured and systematic approach, including:
 - aim of the proposed amendment
 - considerations of benefits and challenges
 - consistencies with existing articles and frameworks
 - alternative options for more effective implementation
 - To provide technical recommendations on proposed amendments to the Director-General by mid January 2023
- Working Group on IHR Amendments to be convened from Mid-November 2022 to May 2024
 - To review the proposed amendments submitted by 30 September 2022, and the technical recommendations of the Review Committee
 - To provide its report to the WHA by May 2024.
 - Amendments agreed at the WHA77 in 2024 will then enter into force in 12 months as agreed in Resolution WHA75.12