

# **GHSA Legal Preparedness Action Package Newsletter**

*Promoting legal preparedness as a critical capacity for an effective response to health emergencies and strengthening global health security*

**January- September 2023**

Welcome to the second newsletter of the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) Legal Preparedness Action Package (LP AP). In the next few months, we will reflect and strategize on the Action Package's work thus far and our future work as we gear up for the next phase of GHSA (January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2028).

We welcome contributions to the Newsletter from all members. Please use this [link](#) to submit your entries.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

### **GHS Conference 2024**

The abstract portal for the Global Health Security Conference 2024 opened on July 17 and will close on November 19, 2023. More information on the conference can be found here: <https://www.ghsconf.com/>.

In an effort to foster collaboration among working group members we ask that if you are interested in submitting an abstract, being part of a group that submits, or supporting those that will submit, you fill out this form to express interest: <https://forms.gle/NgTyp75hDbK5dyfi9>.

For the 2022 conference, the LP AP hosted a workshop on legal mapping, a workshop on liability, and a poster presentation. We are looking forward to building off of the work that we did in 2022 for the 2024 conference.

The conference will have the following themes:

- Mitigating Threats & Challenges
- Conflict & Health
- Information and Communication
- Innovation in Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, Response & Resilience
- Health Security & the Human-Animal-Environmental Interface
- Enhancing Global Health Security Governance
- Strengthening Multisectoral Partnerships

### **Video Shorts**

Thanks to recommendations from our members, on behalf of the GHSA, the LP AP will begin to develop and host video shorts as a way to raise awareness about and increase access to our members' expertise. The video shorts will be aimed at providing digestible introductions to legal preparedness topics by experts across sectors and disciplines. These can serve to drive interest in the Action Package and its network and lead to follow-up discussions with experts, whether through informal small group discussions or webinars.

To start, the video series will cover topics with legal and non-legal aspects based on the Working Group on Amendments to the IHR (WGIHR) and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) meeting timelines and agendas. The video shorts will provide World Health Organization (WHO) Member States (MS) currently negotiating the amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) and the WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (“WHO CA+”) with greater technical background and perspectives that could help build their understanding on various key topics emerging from these negotiations.

Building off of the two webinars that we hosted in July, each video will individually cover a topic and be approximately 10-15 minutes long. The Legal Preparedness Action Package will work with other Action Packages to plan those topics requiring cross-collaboration. GHSA’s Advocacy and Communications Task Force would facilitate the Zoom connection.

In the spirit of GHSA, we encourage members from across sectors, disciplines, and regions to participate in this effort! **Please reach out to the Secretariat ([ghsalpap@georgetown.edu](mailto:ghsalpap@georgetown.edu)) if you are interested in participating as speaker, supporting with outreach, or following this effort.**

### **Experts for Joint External Evaluations**

The LP AP has been asked to facilitate connections with legal preparedness experts to support Joint External Evaluations (JEEs) by legal experts to participate in the JEE missions. Note that the trip would be funded by WHO and not the Action Package. **If you are interested and available, please contact the Secretariat know and we will pass along your information accordingly ([ghsalpap@georgetown.edu](mailto:ghsalpap@georgetown.edu)).**

### **IDLO Issue Brief:**

The IDLO launched their issue brief: Preventing Pandemics through the Rule of Law: Strengthening Countries’ Legal Preparedness for Public Health Emergencies, which advances legal preparedness as a critical competency for public health emergency (PHE) prevention, preparedness and response and features some of the key building blocks of a rule of law-based response to PHEs. You can find the Issue Brief on IDLO’s website: [Preventing Pandemics through the Rule of Law: Strengthening Countries’ Legal Preparedness for Public Health Emergencies | IDLO - International Development Law Organization](#)

## **EVENTS**

### **Legal Mapping as a Tool for Legal Preparedness: Lessons Learned from Korea**

**March 10, 2023**

The LP AP hosted scholars from Yonsei University in the Republic of Korea to discuss lessons learned from Korea’s recent legal mapping project. The conversation featured policy experts and researchers who provided an overview of the Action Package, as well as an introduction to legal preparedness and legal mapping.

**Recording:** <https://youtu.be/9A7hXcfKINc>

### **World Congress on Public Health**

**May 3-6, 2023**



In May 2023, the LP AP hosted two workshops at the World Health Congress in Rome, Italy. One focused on regulatory preparedness and the other on legal preparedness generally. The workshops again were well-received and became foundational for future webinar activities.

## **Webinar Series on WGIHR & INB Key Issues:**

### **Conversations with Experts**

July 3 and 10, 2023

In July 2023, the LP AP held informal technical discussions with experts across sectors and disciplines aimed at supporting countries' understanding of key issues and concepts emerging from negotiations on amending the International Health Regulations (IHR) and developing the WHO CA+. The first webinar focused on the basics of International Law, global health governance, equity, ethics, human rights, and the Rule of Law. This second webinar focused on the importance of having regulatory systems and liability risk management frameworks to facilitate rapid and equitable access to medical countermeasures during emergencies.



[Liability Risk Management Recording: \[LINK TO RECORDING\]](#)

## **WHO Comment Submission**

March 2023

In March 2023, the LP AP compiled and submitted member comments to the WHO on draft Guidelines on Regulatory Preparedness for Authorization and Post-Authorization Activities for Human Pandemic and other Public Health Emergency Vaccines in Importing Countries.

## **SUB-WORKING GROUP UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED**

*Please let us know if you would like to participate in any of these Sub-Working Groups by emailing the Secretariat ([ghsalpap@georgetown.edu](mailto:ghsalpap@georgetown.edu)).*

### **Capacity Building Sub-Working Group**

Co-leads Chiara Campisi (IDLO) and Professor Benjamin Meier (Global Health Law Consortium (GHLC)) have agreed to lead this group to advance the LP AP's work in capacity building on legal preparedness, from the field to the classrooms of future legal preparedness experts. They are looking for members interested in joining them in this effort.

### **Legal Mapping**

The legal mapping sub-working group has been working on the development of the updated draft legal preparedness legal framework guide and have narrowed the content of the guide to eight (8) main areas of focus (see below). With the help of the members from this sub-working group, focus group feedback, and student researchers, this input has been incorporated in the updated attributes and sub-attributes within each of these priority areas of the legal framework guide. As the group continues to follow-up with the leads and co-leads for each of these focus areas to finalize edits, the guide also plans to incorporate resources for background and to provide context to navigate through the guide. The legal mapping sub-working group also encourages members of the broader Working Group to suggest or submit additional resources to include for the development of the context for the background.

Eight Domains of the Legal Mapping Legal Preparedness Framework Guide:

1. Coordination of IHR and Facilitation of Multisectoral Response
2. Supporting Development of Public Health Emergency Operations Centers (PHEOCs) for Coordination of Preparedness and Response Functions
3. Sustainable Financing for Preparedness and Response to Public Health Emergencies
4. Strengthening Access to Medical Countermeasures (MCMs)
5. Establishment of systems to support coordination for real-time public health surveillance
6. Establishment and regulation of national laboratory systems
7. Operation of Safe and Secure Laboratories (Laboratory Biosafety and Biosecurity)
8. Zoonotic Disease Control under a One Health Approach

If colleagues wish to provide input, background materials, or would like to be more involved in the draft guide process, please let us know.

### **Liability Risk Management Sub-Working Group**

In addition to leading in the planning of the WGIHR/INB webinar in July, the group has been working to develop a publication on COVAX Equity, Liability, and Indemnity Analysis, which will be shared with the larger group for review prior to publication. Additionally, the group has begun planning for the development of a guidance tool on liability risk management and equity. Stay tuned for more information on both activities.

### **Regulatory Sub-Working Group**

Emanuele Cesta (Italy), Elizabeth (Liz) Sadove (U.S.), and Debra A. Yeskey (CEPI) agreed to co-lead the group in raising greater awareness about the various regulatory hurdles during health emergency response, the need to identify and frame the issues, and developing guidance to address them from a legal preparedness perspective. The group welcomes regulatory experts in the network to support his work.