

# Guiding Principles for use of PIP Framework Partnership Contribution Funds for Pandemic Influenza Response

## Revised March 2024

### I. Background

1. The Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework (“PIP Framework”) Partnership Contribution (PC) is an annual payment to WHO from influenza vaccine, diagnostic and pharmaceutical manufacturers using the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS).<sup>1</sup> The PIP Framework specifies that the annual contribution shall be equivalent to 50% of the running costs of GISRS.
2. PIP Framework section 6.14.4 specifies that PC resources “shall be used for improving pandemic preparedness and response [...]” (Emphasis supplied.)
3. Consistent with this, the Executive Board has decided that 30% of the PC funds received for preparedness and response activities are to be set aside annually by WHO for use at the time of a pandemic<sup>2</sup>. This is known as the “PIP PC Response Fund”. Since 2018, interest has accrued on the PC Response Fund.
4. To ensure that the proportional division does not hinder necessary response measures during an influenza pandemic, the Executive Board further specified that during such time, the Director-General will be able to temporarily modify the allocation of PC resources as required to respond. The Executive Board specified that the Director-General will report on any such modifications to Member States, and to manufacturers and other stakeholders<sup>3</sup>.
5. These Guiding Principles provide the basis for the Director-General to decide on the use of PC funds, both response funds and any preparedness funds that may still be available, in a timely manner, at the time of a pandemic. At such time, the Director-General will keep the Advisory Group, manufacturers and other stakeholders informed on decisions made on use of the PC Response funds.
6. In 2014, the Advisory Group developed ‘Guiding Principles for use of PIP Partnership Contribution Response Funds’. In 2024, following interaction with manufacturers and other stakeholders, the Advisory Group developed this revised version.

### II. Authority

The WHO Director-General shall decide on the allocation and use of PC funds for pandemic influenza response, using the Guiding Principles set out below.

### III. Guiding Principles

Guided by the principles below, the overarching aim of the PC funds for pandemic influenza response is to contribute to a rapid and equitable response to pandemic influenza.

1. **Fairness and Equity:** Fairness and equity are at the core of the PIP Framework. Benefits secured through the PIP Framework, including antivirals and other therapeutics, vaccines, ancillary products and diagnostics, will be distributed to countries, particularly developing countries,

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<sup>1</sup> See PIP Framework Section 6.14.3

<sup>2</sup> Upon receipt by WHO, PC funds are allocated as follows: 10% to the PIP Secretariat; of the remaining 90%, 70% is allocated to Preparedness, and 30% is allocated to the PC Response Fund (see decision EB152(22)).

<sup>3</sup> Decision EB152(22).

according to public health risk and need and particularly where those countries do not have their own capacity to produce or access pandemic products<sup>4</sup>. Based on the foregoing, WHO will ensure that any use of PC funds for pandemic response reflects fairness and equity.

2. **Timeliness:** Decisions on the release and use of the PC funds for pandemic response will be made in a manner that recognises that in a pandemic, time is of the essence.
3. **Evidence Based Decisions:** Decisions on the release, use and allocation of the PC funds for pandemic response will be grounded in the most relevant and up-to-date evidence related to the actions to be taken at the time.
4. **Transparency and Accountability:** WHO will be fully accountable for the use of all PC funds for pandemic influenza response activities. Information on the allocation and use of PC funds for pandemic response will be shared in a timely manner with Member States, the PIP Advisory Group, manufacturers, and other stakeholders through WHO's regular emergency response reporting, and/or through specific reporting by the PIP Secretariat, as appropriate.
5. **Efficient Use of Funds:** PC funds for pandemic response should neither duplicate nor supplant other funds allocated to pandemic influenza response.

#### IV. Release and Use of PC Funds for Response

1. PC funds for pandemic response will be used to provide the benefits outlined in the PIP Framework, in particular to facilitate access to, effective deployment, and use of pandemic vaccines, antiviral medicines and other therapeutics, ancillary products, diagnostic kits and other pandemic influenza response products.
2. PC funds for pandemic response may be released in connection with the convening of an emergency committee under the IHR regarding the determination of a PHEIC due to the emergence of a human influenza virus with pandemic potential, in as many disbursements as is financially prudent, to ensure that funds are supportive of necessary pandemic influenza response activities. PC funds for pandemic response may be used for a range of pandemic influenza response activities, as determined by the Director-General, including, but not limited to:
  - Shipments of biological materials, including clinical specimens, viruses and virus isolates, and laboratory diagnostic reagents, between or among WHO GISRS laboratories and/or Other authorized laboratories, as well as laboratory and epidemiology activities;
  - The purchase and/or shipping to recipient countries<sup>5</sup> of pandemic influenza response products, such as vaccines, antivirals and other therapeutics, ancillary products, diagnostic kits, and other products relevant to pandemic influenza response, including those secured under PIP Standard Material Transfer Agreements 2; and
  - Supporting countries, including to request and prepare for the receipt, effective deployment, and use of pandemic influenza vaccines, antivirals and other therapeutics, ancillary products, diagnostic kits or other pandemic influenza response products.

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<sup>4</sup> cf PIP Framework Section 6.0.2(iii)

<sup>5</sup> This may be directly or indirectly via procuring or supporting bodies.