

GHS2026 Conference Workshops

Day One - Tuesday 9 2026, 4pm-6pm

Room 408

Legal Preparedness: Supporting Countries in Breaking Down Legal Barriers to Responding to Public Health Emergencies

Aim & Objectives:

To provide participants with a deeper understanding of the importance of legal preparedness as a critical capacity for supporting compliance with International Health Regulations (IHR) and the Pandemic Agreement to achieve an effective public health emergency (PHE) response and enhancing global health security;

To socialize the work and progress of the GHSA Legal Preparedness Action Package (LP AP) through interactive sessions to further promote legal preparedness to attract more stakeholders into the initiative; and

To introduce, promote, and test the guidance tools developed by the LP AP with participants, including the Legal Framework Guide for Legal Preparedness for legal mapping and Guidance Tool for the Procurement of Medical Countermeasures.

This workshop builds upon concepts introduced at the 2022 GHS Conference and promises to be a catalytic event to advance legal preparedness capacity building.

Legal preparedness areas to be covered:

- Legal Mapping and its importance as the first step to becoming better legally prepared in identifying gaps in existing legal instruments needed to support effective prevention, preparedness, and response to PHEs, introducing a LP AP legal framework guide;
- Capacity Building for strengthening legal preparedness at all levels (national, regional, and global), including: (1) developing and conducting accessible trainings; and (2) building and expanding a multisectoral network of national, regional, and global experts on legal preparedness;
- Liability risk management for promoting equitable access to MCMs through range of mechanisms (indemnification, means of distributing risks, and no-fault compensation systems);
- Strengthening regulatory capacities to facilitate equitable access to MCMs (emergency use mechanisms, infrastructure to conduct required studies, reliance on or recognition of assessments and decisions of reference regulatory authorities and/or WHO Emergency Use Listings), exploring the challenges from different stakeholders' perspectives (e.g., regulators and health institutions, healthcare providers, industry, supply chain operators, etc.).



Target audience:

This workshop is intended to target a multidisciplinary audience interested in participating in a deep-dive session to gain further understanding of the importance and breadth of legal capacities needed to be prepared to respond effectively to PHEs and highlight the tools and resources to advance legal preparedness efforts. This will be achieved through a combination of panels, comprised of presentations and Q&A discussions with experts, and interactive exercises across a series of areas, namely legal mapping of national policies, capacity building for legal preparedness, liability risk management for equitable access to medical countermeasures (MCMs), and strengthening regulatory capacities for facilitating access to MCMs.