



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD
103rd Session
Provisional agenda item 7

EB103/22
9 November 1998

WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health

Terms of reference

BACKGROUND

1. January 1997 - In resolution EB99.R23, the WHO Executive Board (1) approved the proposal¹ that the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board should be invited to join an expanded UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy (JCHP), to be named the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health (CCH); and (2) requested the Director-General to prepare draft terms of reference for the Committee in continuance of WHO's role as secretariat of the Committee. WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA subsequently designated focal points to draft the terms of reference.
2. May 1997 - In resolution EB100.R2 the WHO Executive Board approved the draft terms of reference and requested the Director-General to transmit the resolution to the Executive Boards of UNICEF and UNFPA. In September 1997, the UNICEF Executive Board proposed a number of amendments to the terms of reference (decision 1997/27) and the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board recommended that CCH should meet as soon as possible to discuss its functioning, including proposed amendments to its terms of reference (decision 97/28).
3. January 1998 - The WHO Executive Board at its 101st session reviewed progress² and agreed that CCH should convene to make a final recommendation on the Committee's Terms of Reference to the respective Executive Boards. At a meeting at WHO headquarters on 3 and 4 July 1998,³ CCH members agreed on amended terms of reference to be recommended to the three Executive Boards (Annex).
4. September 1998 - The UNICEF and UNDP/UNFPA Executive Boards approved the proposed CCH terms of reference.

¹ Document EB99/22 Add.1.

² Document EB101/18.

³ Report of First Meeting of WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health (document CCH(98)/Report).

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

5. The Executive Board is invited to consider the following draft resolution:

The Executive Board,

Noting the report of the Director-General on the terms of reference of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health (CCH),¹

1. APPROVES the terms of reference for CCH as proposed by the Director-General in consultation with the Executive Director of UNICEF, the Executive Director of UNFPA and as recommended by the First Meeting of CCH at WHO headquarters, 3 and 4 July 1998 (Annex);
2. REQUESTS the Director-General to transmit this resolution to the Executive Boards of UNICEF and UNFPA.

¹ Document EB103/22.

ANNEX

WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. The WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health (CCH) shall meet biennially, or in special session if required, normally in Geneva. The Committee shall be chaired in rotation by a member of the Executive Board of each organization; WHO, as the lead agency in international health, will chair the first session.
2. The role of the Committee will be:
 - to facilitate the coordination of health policies and programmes of the three organizations;
 - to review the overall needs for strategic, operational and technical coordination in the fields of maternal, child, adolescent and women's health, with a prioritized focus on disease and health ramifications based on WHO mortality and morbidity statistics, and reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, to ensure regular exchange of information in these areas and to make recommendations to the respective Executive Boards for follow-up action by the secretariats, as appropriate, with due regard for the respective mandates of the organizations involved;
 - to promote consistency in implementation strategies and activities among the three organizations and with other partners, for the maximum benefit of Member States, especially at the country level within the context of the Resident Coordinator system and, in this context, to ensure that these are guided by the overall policy framework for health development as defined by the World Health Assembly;
 - to receive and review progress and assessment reports presented by the Director-General of WHO, the Executive Director of UNICEF or the Executive Director of UNFPA, on activities pertaining to the health of children, young people and women, with a prioritized focus on disease and health ramifications based on WHO mortality and morbidity statistics, including reproductive health, and to review any orientation of strategy that may be necessary to meet agreed objectives, with due regard for the respective mandates of the agencies involved;
 - to consider matters of common concern to WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA which the Executive Boards or the secretariats of the respective organizations may refer to this Committee;
 - to report to the WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA Executive Boards on the foregoing matters.
3. The WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health shall be composed of 16 members of the Executive Boards of the three organizations, such members being selected by their respective Boards on the basis of one from each region of the organization concerned.
4. WHO shall provide the Secretariat for the Committee and, in consultation with UNICEF and UNFPA, jointly convene intersecretariat meetings to prepare the agenda and supporting documentation for the sessions of the Committee.

5. Further intersecretariat meetings may be convened in alternate years, where appropriate with other organizations active in health, to ensure a coordinated approach at country level.

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