



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD
105th Session
Agenda item 7.6

EB105/33
27 January 2000

Provisional agenda for and duration of the Fifty-third World Health Assembly

Report by the Director-General

1. According to Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly, the Board shall prepare the provisional agenda of each regular session of the Health Assembly after consideration of proposals submitted by the Director-General. Proposals for the provisional agenda of the Fifty-third World Health Assembly are attached at Annex 1.
2. In its decision WHA30(xvi) the Thirtieth World Health Assembly requested the Executive Board to fix the duration of each session. The approved programme budget for the financial period 2000-2001 provides for a six-day Health Assembly in 2000.
3. The Thirty-second World Health Assembly, in resolution WHA32.36, decided that the Executive Board “shall fix a preliminary daily timetable for the Health Assembly’s consideration of its agenda and the General Committee shall review and approve this timetable, subsequently revising it if and when required”. A draft preliminary daily timetable for the Fifty-third World Health Assembly is attached at Annex 2.

REFORM OF THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

4. The Fifty-second World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA52.21 on reform of the Health Assembly, which welcomed the incorporation of ministerial round tables in the agenda of the Health Assembly and decided to incorporate in the provisional agenda for the Fifty-third World Health Assembly high-level discussions in order to enhance the involvement of ministers and heads of delegations in policy discussions. The resolution also:

- requested the Director-General to make appropriate arrangements for the conduct of the debate on *The world health report 2000* in a shortened plenary meeting;
- encouraged group or regional statements in the plenary debate;
- requested the Director-General to submit to the Executive Board at its 105th session proposals for the themes of the high-level discussions (together with proposals for the provisional agenda of the Health Assembly), and to propose procedures for the conduct of the high-level discussions so as to ensure the full participation of all ministers and heads of delegations registered.

5. In response to this resolution, the Director-General has proposed an agenda and timetable for the Health Assembly which will make it possible to incorporate round tables and conduct a plenary debate over fewer meetings, while accommodating a full agenda of programme and administrative matters. The timetable at Annex 2 features:

- compression of the opening formalities;
- suspension of the first plenary meeting to allow the Committee on Nominations to meet, rather than adjourning plenary and reconvening another plenary meeting;
- a fixed time for the report of the Chairman of the Board and the Director-General;
- four-and-a-half hours for plenary debate over two plenary meetings to allow up to 54 delegates to take the floor (68 speakers took the floor at the Fifty-second World Health Assembly);
- one half day for ministerial round tables.

6. The Director-General proposes as the theme for the round tables **addressing the major health system challenges**. This proposal takes into account the debate at the last Health Assembly, in which numerous delegates indicated preference for a theme related to *The world health report 2000* (health systems: improving performance). Several delegates also suggested that the number of round-table themes should be limited to one or two.

7. With respect to the procedures for the conduct of the round tables, the Director-General proposes that:

- the round tables should take place on the morning of Tuesday, 16 May;
- participants should be ministers or those designated to personally represent them;
- up to four round tables could be held concurrently on one theme;
- the Health Assembly should select chairmen from among the delegates.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

8. The Executive Board may wish to adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board, having considered the report of the Director-General on the provisional agenda for and duration of the Fifty-third World Health Assembly,¹ and recalling its earlier decision that the Fifty-third World Health Assembly should be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland and open on Monday, 15 May 2000, decided that the Fifty-third World Health Assembly should close no later than Saturday, 20 May 2000. It approved the provisional agenda of the Fifty-third World Health Assembly and the arrangements for the conduct of the discussion on *The world health report 2000* in a shortened plenary meeting, and

¹ Document EB105/33.

encouraged Member States to make group or regional statements in the plenary debate. It also recommended the theme for the round tables, namely, addressing the major health system challenges, and the procedures for the conduct of the round tables as outlined in the Director-General's report. It further recommended that participation in the round tables should be open to ministers of health or to those designated to personally represent them in policy discussions.



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

FIFTY-THIRD WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
Geneva, Switzerland
15-20 May 2000

A53/1

Provisional agenda

PLENARY

1. Opening of the Assembly¹
2. Reports of the Executive Board on its 104th and 105th sessions
3. Address by Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director-General²
4. Invited speaker
5. Admission of new Members and Associate Members [if any]
6. Executive Board: election
7. Awards
8. Reports of the main committees
9. Closure of the Assembly

ROUND TABLES

10. Round tables: addressing the major health system challenges

¹ 1.1 Appointment of the Committee on Credentials

1.2 Election of the Committee on Nominations

1.3 Reports of the Committee on Nominations

- Election of the President

- Election of the five Vice-Presidents, the Chairmen of the main committees, and establishment of the General Committee

1.4 Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items to the main committees.

² Including *The world health report 2000*.

COMMITTEE A

11. Opening of the Committee¹

12. Technical and health matters

- 12.1 Stop Tuberculosis Initiative
- 12.2 HIV/AIDS
- 12.3 Food safety: the role of WHO
- 12.4 Infant and young child nutrition
- 12.5 Technical cooperation among developing countries
- 12.6 Strengthening health systems in developing countries
- 12.7 Revised drug strategy
- 12.8 Eradication of poliomyelitis
- 12.9 WHO framework convention on tobacco control
- 12.10 Global strategy for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases
- 12.11 Cloning in human health
- 12.12 Health promotion

COMMITTEE B

13. Opening of the Committee¹

14. Management and financial matters

- 14.1 Financial matters
 - Financial report on the accounts of WHO for 1998-1999, report of the External Auditor, and comments thereon made on behalf of the Executive Board; report of the Internal Auditor

¹ Including election of Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur.

- Status of collection of assessed contributions, including Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution
- Casual income
- Real Estate Fund
- Transfers between appropriation sections for 2000-2001
- Amendments to the Financial Regulations
- Assessment of new Members and Associate Members [if any]

14.2 Staff development and support

- Human resources: annual report
- Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Rules
- Appointment of representatives to the WHO Staff Pension Committee

14.3 Amendments to the Regulations for Expert Advisory Panels and Committees

14.4 Use of languages in WHO

15. Legal issues

- Regional committees and regional conventions
- Participation of WHO in the 1986 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations

16. Health conditions of, and assistance to, the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine

17. Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations

- Support to Central American countries affected by Hurricane Mitch (resolution WHA52.12)

ANNEX 2

**PRELIMINARY DAILY TIMETABLE FOR THE
FIFTY-THIRD WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

May 2000	Plenary	Committee A	Committee B	Other
Monday 15				
10:00	1. Opening of the Assembly 1.1 Appointment of Committee on Credentials 1.2 Election of Committee on Nominations	-	-	
10:30	[suspension]	-	-	Committee on Nominations
11:00	1.3 Reports of the Committee on Nominations	-	-	
11:30	-	-	-	General Committee
14:30	– Presidential address 1.4 Adoption of agenda	-	-	
15:00	2. Chairman, Executive Board 3. Director-General	-	-	
16:00	– Review of <i>The world health report 2000</i>	-	-	
Tuesday 16				
9:00	4. Invited speaker 10. Round tables ...	-	-	...
14:30	– Review of <i>The world health report 2000</i> (continued)	11. Opening of the Committee 12. Technical and health matters	-	Committee on Credentials

May 2000	Plenary	Committee A	Committee B	Other
Wednesday 17				
9:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report of Committee on Credentials 5. Admission of new Members and Associate Members [if any] - ... 	-	-	
		12. Technical and health matters (continued)	13. Opening of the Committee 14. Management and financial matters	

14:30	-	12. Technical and health matters (continued)	14. Management and financial matters (continued)	
17:30	-	-	-	General Committee (list for election, Executive Board)
Thursday 18				
9:00	-	12. Technical and health matters (continued)	14. Management and financial matters (continued)	

14:30	-	12. Technical and health matters (continued)	15. Legal issues 16. Health conditions of, and assistance to, the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine	
17:00	7. Awards	-	-	

May 2000	Plenary	Committee A	Committee B	Other
Friday 19				
9:00	6. Executive Board: election 8. Reports of the main committees -	- 12. Technical and health matters (continued) ...	- 17. Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations 14. Management and financial matters (continued)
14:30	-	12. Technical and health matters (continued)	14. Management and financial matters (continued)	
Saturday 20				
9:00	-	12. Technical and health matters (continued) - Finalization of resolutions and reports	- Finalization of resolutions and reports	
11:30	8. Reports of the main committees (continued) 9. Closure of the Assembly	-	-	

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