Ad hoc open-ended intergovernmental working group to review the working methods of the Executive Board

The Executive Board,

Recalling resolution WHA54.22 on the reform of the Executive Board;

Having considered the report of the Ad hoc open-ended intergovernmental working group to review the working methods of the Executive Board, whose terms of reference were established by decision EB109(2),1

1. DECIDES:

   (1) to amend its Rules of Procedure as proposed in the report of the Ad hoc working group, with effect from the closure of its 112th session;

   (2) that its session following the Health Assembly shall in principle be extended by two days to permit a more even and effective distribution of substantive work between its two annual sessions;

   (3) to review at its 113th session in accordance with Rule 16 of its Rules of Procedure the mandate, operation, role and structure of the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee, the Programme Development Committee and the Audit Committee with a view to improving their efficiency and their relationship with Board sessions, including the possibility, among others, of merging two or more of these standing committees or increasing the frequency of joint meetings;

   (4) that, as from its 113th session, members will sit with name plates designating only the name of the Member State concerned;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General to study options available for changing the timing and duration of the sessions of the Board and its standing committees, with a view to finding alternative dates which would facilitate timely receipt and review of sessional documentation by Member States, to bring the timing of sessions in line with the programme budget cycle, and to provide optimal

1 Document EB112/8.
balance between sessions of the Board and those of other governing bodies of the Organization, and to report to the Board thereon at its 113th session;

3. RECOMMENDS to the Fifty-seventh World Health Assembly the following resolution:

   The Fifty-seventh World Health Assembly,

   Recalling resolution WHA33.17 on the study of WHO’s structure in the light of its functions and resolution WHA54.22 on the reform of the Executive Board;

   Having considered resolution EB112.R1;

1. DECIDES to replace the existing text of Rule 72 of its Rules of Procedure with the following text:

   Rule 72

   Decisions by the Health Assembly on important questions shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting. These questions shall include: the adoption of conventions or agreements; the approval of agreements bringing the Organization into relation with the United Nations and with intergovernmental organizations and agencies in accordance with Articles 69, 70 and 72 of the Constitution; amendments to the Constitution; appointment of the Director-General; decisions on the amount of the effective working budget; and decisions to suspend the voting privileges and services of a Member under Article 7 of the Constitution.

2. RESOLVES that in the Basic documents, in accordance with the generally accepted rules of interpretation, the use of one gender shall be considered as including a reference to the other unless the context otherwise requires.

Second meeting, 29 May 2003

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