World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE BOARD
134th session
Agenda item 5.2

23 January 2014

Methods of work of the governing bodies

DRAFT DECISION

The Executive Board, having considered the report by the Secretariat on options for improved decision-making by the governing bodies,[1]

DECIDES:

Capacity Building and Training[2]

(1) to endorse the steps taken by the Secretariat to improve capacity-building and training for members of the Board and its Officers;

Electronic Access to governing body meetings

(2) to approve the proposal to introduce webcasting for future public sessions of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee and of the Executive Board to all internet users through a link on the WHO website;

(3) to recommend that the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly decide to introduce webcasting for future public sessions of its Committees A and B, as well as of its Plenary meetings, to all internet users through a link on the WHO website, subject to resolution of any relevant technical issues and to the availability of financial resources;

Minimal use of paper documents

(4) to endorse the steps taken by the Secretariat to minimize the Organization's use of paper documents, and to approve the proposed measures outlined in paragraph 9 of the report contained in EB134/6;

(5) to request the Director-General to continue to develop additional, transparent means for the Secretariat to communicate with Member States;

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[1] EB 134/6 and 134/6 Add. 1.

[2] Subheadings in this document are included purely for organizational clarity.

Use of an electronic voting system for the appointment of the Director-General

(6) to recommend that the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly approve the recommendation of the Secretariat contained in EB134/6 Add. 1 regarding rental of an electronic voting system for the nomination and appointment of the Director-General that is cost-effective and secure; and to approve the recommendation that such a system be tested in advance through mock votes by the Governing bodies prior to the election of the next Director-General;

Minimizing the late submission of draft resolutions

(7) with effect from the closure of its 134th session, to amend the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board as follows:

- **Add a Rule 28*bis* reading as follows:**

  "Proposals for resolutions or decisions to be considered by the Board relating to items of the agenda may be introduced until the close of the first day of the session. However, if a session is scheduled for two days or less, such proposals may be introduced no later than 48 hours prior to the opening of the session. The Board may, if it deems it appropriate, permit the late introduction of such proposals."

- **Add a Rule 28*ter* as follows:**

  "Proposals and amendments related to items on the agenda shall normally be introduced in writing and handed to the Director-General, who shall circulate copies to the delegations. Except as may be decided otherwise by the Board, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the Board unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations at least 24 hours previously. The Chairman may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, even though they have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day."

(8) to recommend that the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly amend the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly, with effect from the closure of that session, as follows:

- **Delete Rule 49 and replace Rule 48 with the following text:**

  "Formal proposals relating to items of the agenda may be introduced until the first day of a regular session of the Health Assembly and no later than two days prior to the opening of a special session. All such proposals shall be referred to the committee to which the item of the agenda has been allocated, except if the item is considered directly in a plenary meeting."

Minimizing the late dispatch of documents

(9) to recall the importance of the requirement in Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board that documents for sessions of the Executive Board be dispatched by the Director-General not less than six weeks before the commencement of a regular session of the Board;

Reform of reporting requirements

(10) to recommend that the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly decide that progress reports shall henceforth be only considered by the Health Assembly and no longer by the Executive Board;

Revising Requirements for the Explanatory Memorandum for new items and supporting statements for items of an urgent nature

(11) regarding explanatory memoranda required by Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, to require that such memoranda take into account the criteria established by the Board in resolution EB121.R1 and identify linkages to the General Programme of Work and the Programme Budget;

(12) regarding supporting statements required by Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board for proposals of an urgent nature, to require that such statements take into account the above-referenced criteria, as well as include an explanation of the nature of the urgency as well as the potential risks of deferral or exclusion;

(13) to require that the explanatory memoranda and supporting statements be provided to the Officers and members of the Executive Board, and be made available to all Member States and Associate Members, on the WHO SharePoint site; and to further require that the minutes of the meetings of the Officers of the Board under Rule 8 be made available to all Member States and Associate Members, on the WHO SharePoint site;

Revising the process for the agenda of the Executive Board

(14) to adopt the following additional procedures for preparation of the agenda of the Executive Board on a trial basis, with effect from the closure of the 134th session through the closure of the 138th session:

(a) The officers of the Board, when drawing up the provisional agenda under Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board will endeavour not to exceed a maximum optimal number of items such that the provisional agenda will contain no more than 36 items in non-budget years, and 48 items in budget years.

(b) In doing so, the Officers of the Board will use the criteria established by the Board in resolution EB121.R1[1] (the "agreed criteria") in the following manner: Except for items that are recurring or mandated by the Board or Assembly, items will be assigned a number from 1 to 3 corresponding to how many of the agreed criteria each item fulfils and will be prioritized accordingly, such that items that fulfil all three of the agreed criteria will have priority over items fulfilling two criteria, and items fulfilling two criteria will have priority over those fulfilling one priority. Items which do not fulfil any criteria will be excluded.

[1] Proposals need to address a global public-health issue and/or involve a new subject within the scope of WHO and/or an issue that represents a significant public-health burden.

Optional Additional Element:

The Director-General will provide to the Officers of the Board, in order to facilitate the above-referenced process, the results of [a technical assessment of the proposed items in light of the agreed criteria by the Secretariat][an assessment of the proposed items in light of the agreed criteria by a group composed of two representative from each WHO region.]

(c) One week before the opening of the January session of the Board, the Director-General will consult with the Officers of the Board to consider the Board's provisional agenda and supplementary agenda and prepare recommendations for inclusion, exclusion or deferral for the Board. In doing so they will again endeavour not to exceed the maximum optimal number of items, as referred to in paragraph 14(a). Consistent with Rule 10*bis*, the Board may add to, delete from, or amend the agenda, taking into account the agreed criteria, and endeavouring not to exceed the maximum optimal number of items.

(15) to review the results of these additional procedures at its 138th session;

(16) to recommend that the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly suspend the requirement in paragraph 7(a) of decision WHA65(9) regarding the use of the criteria used for priority setting in the General Programme of Work, for the duration of the trial period herein mentioned.

Criteria for urgent items and late resolutions

(17) to require that proposals for urgent items under Rule 10, and resolutions submitted after the deadline provided in paragraphs 7 above, have cosponsorship of at least 12 Members States from at least three WHO regions in order to be receivable.

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