EXECUTIVE BOARD
136th session
Agenda item 5.3

EB136/CONF./6 Rev.2
2 February 2015

Overview of Reform Implementation

Draft decision proposed by Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and United States of America

The Executive Board,

Recalling WHO relevant documents and agreements on WHO Reform;

Having considered the report of the Secretariat on the Overview of Reform Implementation;

(PP1) Recognizing that the pillar of WHO governance reform is essential to bringing the transformational reform process to the desired outcome that the governing bodies have been working on for more than four years;

(PP2) Recognizing also that the governance pillar can benefit from relevant outcomes from other aspects of WHO Reform, and underlining that the process outlined below has a separate mandate and that it should not in any way impede ongoing reform initiatives, emphasizing in particular the outcomes from the EBSS3;

(PP3) Having considered also the recent Report of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee contained in document EBPBAC21/2, in particular paragraphs 29 and 30, that states that slow progress on the Governance Reform pillar could impede the overall WHO reform agenda, and paragraph 28, which expresses concern at the lack of alignment in priorities at the three levels of the Organization,

DECIDES:

(OP1) TO ESTABLISH an inclusive Member States[1] consultative process on governance reform, to complete its work by the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly, providing recommendations through the Executive Board on how to improve WHO governance efficiency, with the mandate to address:

(a) working methods of Governing Bodies, including relevant proposals by the Secretariat and the WHO Reform Stage 2 Evaluation, as well as agenda-setting, including the significant growth in the number of agenda items, resolutions and decisions and its

[1] And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

impact on governance, and the functioning of the Executive Board Bureau and officials of the World Health Assembly;

(b) concrete ways to improve the alignment of the governance of all three levels of the organization, so as to improve accountability and effectiveness;

(OP2) that the Member States consultative process should include two meetings open to all Member States[1] with equal participation, as well as the creation of a working group which will further develop detailed recommendations on both the sub-elements above concerning the mandate of this consultative process. The working group will be made up of two members with relevant experience from each region whose selection and work will be facilitated by the Geneva-based regional coordinators so as to ensure inclusiveness;

(OP3) to urge Member States[1] to provide their inputs and proposals relevant to the sub-elements in paragraph 1 through the online platform as outlined below, by 2nd March, 2015;

(OP4) that the first Member States meeting will take place at a one-day session back to back with the 22nd meeting of the PBAC in May 2015, which will be reduced to two days, and provide concrete inputs to the working group for its work;

(OP5) that the second Member States meeting will take place by November 2015, and will provide recommendations to the 138th meeting of the Executive Board;

(OP6) that the working group will meet at least once prior to the first Member States meeting and will provide a preliminary report to it based on inputs from Member States and the Secretariat as outlined below, and have at least one other meeting before the second Member States meeting, for which it will produce a final report including recommendations;

(OP7) to request the Director-General:

(a) to establish an online platform to facilitate sharing of Member States[1] inputs and proposals, prior to the first Member States meeting and to maintain it throughout this inclusive Member States consultative process;

(b) to provide the following on the online platform established according to 7(a):

(i) a compendium of existing relevant background documents related to governance reform for the first meeting of the working group and the first Member States meeting, including reports, evaluations, resolutions and decisions;

(ii) an overview of the last ten years of the number of agenda items, number of documents, decisions and resolutions for the Executive Board and World Health Assembly, as well as the number of formal and informal meetings during and in between sessions of the governing bodies, and the associated costs;

[1] And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

(iii) current costing of formal and informal meetings during and in between sessions of the governing bodies, including price differences relating to location in Geneva;

(OP8) to request the Member States consultative process to report to the 138th Executive Board on governance reform, under a separate agenda item, with a view to considering final recommendations from this process, preparatory to consideration by the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly.

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