

Provisional agenda (annotated)

- 1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Report by the Director-General**
- 3. Report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board**

The Board will receive at the opening of its session the report of the ninth meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee which is scheduled to be held during the preceding week.

- 4. Technical and health matters**

- 4.1 Pandemic influenza preparedness: sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits

The report summarizes activities that have been undertaken to implement WHA60.28. It covers: the intergovernmental process; the development of an Influenza Virus Traceability Mechanism; establishment of the Advisory Mechanism; options for an international stockpile of H5N1 vaccines; and advances made to strengthening surveillance at the animal-human interface.

- 4.2 Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)

The report describes the Secretariat's activities on implementing the International Health Regulations (2005), including global partnerships and strengthening national capacity, since its report to the Sixty-first World Health Assembly. It also summarizes information received by the Secretariat on similar work carried out by States Parties for the period 15 June 2007 to 24 May 2008. In addition, it gives details on the International Food Safety Network.

- 4.3 HIV/AIDS and mental health

The report discusses the complex relationship between mental disorders, including substance use disorders, and HIV/AIDS, and outlines several priority areas for work to prevent HIV transmission associated with mental disorders and psychoactive substance use and to improve the health of people living with HIV/AIDS and mental disorders.

- 4.4 Prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment

The document reports on progress in prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment pursuant to resolutions WHA56.26 and WHA59.25, and introduces the draft action plan for the prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment, which was drawn up at the request of Member States, to complement the action plan for the global strategy for the prevention and control of noncommunicable disease.

4.5 Primary health care, including health system strengthening

The report draws together the conclusions of the different discussions on primary health care over the last two years. The report reviews the rationale for a renewed focus on primary health care and its implications for strengthening health systems. It outlines a four-point agenda for action.

4.6 Commission on Social Determinants of Health

The report outlines the recommendations of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health, which are grouped under three main themes: improving daily living conditions; redressing the inequitable distribution of resources; and measuring health inequities and assessing the impact of action. There are strong synergies between revitalizing primary health care and accelerating progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

4.7 Monitoring of the achievement of the health related Millennium Development Goals

The review of current status and trends highlights the need to consolidate gains achieved, resolve issues where progress is limited, and tackle weak health systems, the epidemiological transition, and emerging health threats. The renewal of primary health care provides a framework and direction for future work through its focus on equity, health as an outcome of cross-sectoral policy, and responsive health systems that advance universal access.

4.8 Climate change and health

Following resolution WHA61.19, the Secretariat has consulted with Member States and drawn up a workplan for expanding efforts to protect health from the emerging risk of climate change. The report describes the proposed workplan, with activities grouped under four key objectives: (i) awareness raising, (ii) partnership building, (iii) generation of evidence, and (iv) strengthening of health systems.

4.9 WHO's role and responsibilities in health research

In response to resolution WHA60.15, the Secretariat has drafted a strategy on research for health, which is submitted to the Board for its consideration. The draft strategy outlines WHO's role in research for health, and the role of research in the Organization.

4.10 International recruitment of health personnel: draft global code of practice

In 2004, the Health Assembly in resolution WHA57.19 requested the Director-General to prepare a code of practice on the international recruitment of health personnel, in consultation with Member States and all relevant partners. In response, the Secretariat has prepared a draft code of practice on the basis of inputs from many stakeholders. The report presents the draft code of practice.

4.11 Counterfeit medical products

Following the request of the Health Assembly in May 2008 for the subject to be referred to the Board for further discussion and in order to allow additional information to be obtained. The report sets out the key issues, and presents the draft resolution as it was discussed at the Health Assembly in May 2008.

4.12 Human organ and tissue transplantation

The comprehensive consultation process that led to revised Guiding Principles on Human Cell, Tissue and Organ Transplantation identified various measures for improving safety, quality, efficacy and ethics of the practices concerned. The document describes these measures and presents the draft update of the Guiding Principles.

4.13 Public health, innovation and intellectual property: global strategy and plan of action

The report discusses ongoing activities and outlines the Secretariat's response to Member States' requests in resolution WHA61.21, including proposals for the outstanding components of the plan of action, i.e. timeframes, progress indicators and estimated funding needs. It also describes the establishment of an Expert Working Group and a Quick Start Programme referred to in resolution WHA61.21.

4.14 Chagas disease: control and elimination

Item proposed by three Member States. Although considerable progress has been made in control of Chagas disease, the goal of resolution WHA51.14, namely to eliminate the disease as a public health problem by 2010, will not be achieved. Efforts towards elimination should continue in the light of new developments, increasing global significance and ongoing strategies.

4.15 Capacity building to constructively engage the private sector in providing essential health care services

Item proposed by a Member State. With the increasingly important role of the private sector in health service provision, there is a growing need to develop strategies urgently to engage the private sector in order to achieve the health system's goals of efficiency, responsiveness and good quality. The report sets out some of the empirical evidence available.

5. Programme and budget matters

5.1 Programme budget 2006–2007: performance assessment

The report gives an assessment of results achieved by the Secretariat, as measured against expected results. It also details information on financial implementation during the biennium. The performance assessment report was discussed at regional committee meetings in 2008.

5.2 Medium-term strategic plan 2008–2013 and Proposed programme budget 2010–2011

The strategic plan guides the preparation of biennial programme budgets. The Proposed programme budget aims to make the Medium-term strategic plan operational for the biennium 2010–2011. It presents targets for each expected result and the resources required to achieve them. In line with resolution WHA60.11, minor changes have been introduced to the strategic plan since it was adopted. These include the addition of several expected results and the revision of various indicators and their targets.

6. Financial matters

6.1 Scale of assessments for 2010–2011

In resolution WHA60.5 the Health Assembly adopted a scale of assessments for WHO for 2008–2009 reflecting the latest available United Nations scale, itself adopted in December 2006. The report proposes that this scale should also be applied for 2010–2011. An updated scale is expected to be adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2009.

6.2 Amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules

In common with the United Nations system, WHO is about to adopt the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, with complete implementation of the Standards by 1 January 2010. Major changes are consequently needed to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules. The report sets out the revisions needed.

7. Management matters

7.1 Partnerships

The report presents draft policy guidelines for WHO's involvement in global health partnerships, with special attention to institutional arrangements for hosting functions. This follows requests by the Board at its 122nd session in January 2008 and further discussion at its 123rd session in May 2008. The Board is invited to endorse the guidelines.

7.2 Multilingualism: implementation of action plan

In response to resolution WHA61.12 (Multilingualism: implementation of action plan), this document reports on the progress made, presents a timetable for implementation and sets out the financial implications, including the additional resources required within the framework of the Medium-term strategic plan 2008–2013.

7.3 Reports of committees of the Executive Board

- Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations

During its session the Board will receive the report of the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations, which contains, inter alia, the Committee's recommendations on requests from organizations for admission into official relations with WHO, the review of nongovernmental organizations in provisional official relations, and the review of collaboration between WHO and one third of the organizations in official relations during the period 2006–2008. The report also contains the views of the Standing Committee on the participation of nongovernmental organizations in intergovernmental meetings.

- Foundations and awards

The Board will review the reports of the selection panels of the prizes to be awarded in 2009 by the Léon Bernard Foundation, the Ihsan Dogramaci Family Health Foundation, the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation, the State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion, the Jacques Parisot Foundation Fellowship, and the Dr Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health. The Board is invited to approve the report of the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Committee.

7.4 Provisional agenda of the Sixty-second World Health Assembly and date and place of the 125th session of the Executive Board

The document includes the preliminary daily timetable of the Sixty-second World Health Assembly.

8. Staffing matters

8.1 Appointment of the Regional Director for South-East Asia

The document contains the Regional Committee's proposal to the Board for appointment of the Regional Director.

8.2 Appointment of the Regional Director for the Western Pacific

The document contains the Regional Committee's proposal to the Board for appointment of the Regional Director.

8.3 Human resources: annual report (including employment and participation of women in the work of WHO)

The report of the Organization's staffing profile as at 30 September 2008 provides data on, inter alia, distribution of staff by gender, geographical representation, age, length of service and turnover of staff. The report also highlights progress in a number of key areas to facilitate management of human resources within the Organization. The annual report containing data as at 31 December 2008 will be submitted to the Sixty-second World Health Assembly.

8.4 Report of the International Civil Service Commission

The annual report of the International Civil Service Commission is submitted for the Board's information in accordance with Article 17 of the Commission's statute. The document summarizes the main elements of the Commission's report.

8.5 Amendments to Staff Rules and Staff Regulations

Amendments to the Staff Rules made by the Director-General are submitted for confirmation by the Board in accordance with Staff Regulation 12.2. Proposed amendments to the Staff regulations are presented for consideration by the Board for submission to the Sixty-second World Health Assembly

8.6 Statement by the representative of the WHO staff associations

9. Matters for information

9.1 Reports of expert committees and study groups

In compliance with Regulation 4.23 of the Regulations for Expert Advisory Panels and Committees, the Director-General submits to the Board for its consideration her report on meetings of expert committees and study groups, including a summary of the recommendations contained in the reports of expert committees and her observations on their significance for public health policies and implications for the Organization's programmes.

9.2 Progress reports

- A. Poliomyelitis: mechanism for management of potential risks to eradication (resolution WHA61.1)
- B. Smallpox eradication: destruction of variola stocks (resolution WHA60.1)
- C. Malaria, including proposal for establishment of World Malaria Day (resolution WHA60.18)
- D. Implementation by WHO of the recommendations of the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors (resolution WHA59.12)

- E. Prevention and control of sexually transmitted infections (resolution WHA59.19)
- F. Strengthening of health information systems (resolution WHA60.27)
- G. Working towards universal coverage of maternal, newborn and child health interventions (resolution WHA58.31)
- H. Strategy for integrating gender analysis and actions into the work of WHO (resolution WHA60.25)
- I. Rational use of medicines (resolution WHA60.16)
- J. Better medicines for children (resolution WHA60.20)
- K. Health technologies (resolution WHA60.29)

10. Closure of the session

Note: At their consultation with the Director-General on 20 September 2008, convened in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Officers of the Board made the following recommendations to:

1. *The draft provisional agenda transmitted to Member States for comment on 20 June 2008:*
 - *to change the title of item 4.5 to “Primary health care, including health system strengthening” in order to include the latter topic*
 - *to change the title of item 9.2G to “Working towards universal coverage of maternal, newborn and child health interventions” to reflect the title of the resolution*
 - *to defer the following items to the tenth session of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee meeting in May 2009:*
 - 5.2 *Implementation of Programme budget 2008–2009: update*
 - 6.1 *The unaudited financial report for the financial period 2008–2009*
 - 6.2 *Assessed contributions*
 - Sub-item on status of collection*
2. *Items proposed by Member States in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board. The Officers of the Board recommended:*
 - *to include:*
 - Chagas disease: control and elimination*
 - Capacity building to constructively engage the private sector in providing essential health care services*
 - *to subsume under existing agenda item 4.2 Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005):*
 - International Food Safety Authorities Network*

- to subsume under existing agenda item 4.5, *Primary health care, including health system strengthening*, the following two proposals related to primary health care and health systems:

Medical and health sciences education for strengthening health-care systems
A series of primary health care related topics proposed for discussion

- to incorporate elsewhere in the agenda:

Global eradication of poliomyelitis: the end game. As there will be a Secretariat progress report under agenda item 9 on matters for information, it was felt that the Member States' concerns would be appropriately addressed in the report.

- to exclude for one or more of the following reasons: the item was neither a global public health issue, nor did it represent a significant public health burden:

Prevention of burns and fire deaths

- to defer to the 125th session of the Board:

Assurance of safety and availability of blood-derived medicinal products

3. *The Officers of the Board also decided to recommend that the proposed item entitled "The election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization" should be placed directly on the provisional agenda of the Sixty-second World Health Assembly, to allow for wider discussion.*

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