

WHO's arrangement for hosting health partnerships and proposals for harmonizing WHO's work with hosted partnerships

Health Metrics Network

1. Subsequent to the preparation of the report by the Secretariat contained in EB132/5Add.1 ("WHO's arrangement for hosting health partnerships and proposals for harmonizing WHO's work with hosted partnerships"), the Executive Board of the Health Metrics Network decided on 8 November 2012 to dissolve the Network.
2. Launched in 2005, the Health Metrics Network connects global, regional and country partners. It was established to mobilize partners to strengthen health information systems and to increase the availability of information for decisions to improve health outcomes in countries. A key priority of the Network has been to improve monitoring of vital events – births, deaths and causes of death – through innovation and the use of information technologies.
3. Over the years, the Health Metrics Network has played a key role in raising the profile of health information systems, helping countries to assess and strengthen their systems and accelerating improvements to country civil registration and vital statistics systems. At its November 2012 session, the Health Metrics Network Executive Board noted that the work of the Network in these two separate but related areas of work is now at a crossroads. In this regard, it further noted that the importance of health information systems is no longer challenged and that all partners agree on the need to establish health information systems and strengthen existing mechanisms. The Health Metrics Network Executive Board did however note that civil registration and vital statistics systems remain largely neglected. The Health Metrics Network Executive Board agreed that the network has fulfilled its time-limited and catalytic role and has maximized outreach and advocacy for the issues that have received too little attention and required the contributions of multiple stakeholders. The Health Metrics Network Executive Board further noted that the work pioneered by the Network can now be taken over and followed up by the Health Statistics and Information Systems Department in the WHO Secretariat.
4. In view of the foregoing, and the increasingly limited financial recourses available for Network activities, the Health Metrics Network Executive Board decided that the Network should be dissolved and that ongoing operations should cease on 31 May 2013.
5. The Health Metrics Network Secretariat has three long term staff positions. All necessary measures have been taken to ensure that the staff involved are treated decently and fairly, and in line with WHO Staff Rules and Regulations. The dissolution of the Health Metrics Network is not expected to generate any liabilities for WHO.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

6. The Board is invited to note the report.