
Report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board

1. The twenty-second meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board was held in Geneva on 14 and 15 May 2015 under the chairmanship of Mrs Kathryn Tyson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).¹ The Committee adopted its agenda, with the deletion of items 2.8 and 3.5.²

Agenda item 3.1 Hosted health partnerships: update (Document EBPBAC22/2)

2. The Committee considered the report by the Secretariat on hosted health partnerships, which provided an update on developments concerning hosted partnerships. The Committee highlighted the importance of hosted partnerships in global health, of a transparent, fair and full cost-recovery mechanism and of the development of generic hosting terms. The Committee requested the Secretariat to update and make available the list of partnerships and alliances, highlighting the rationale for these collaborative arrangements. It was noted that the first periodic reviews of hosted partnerships will be submitted to the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee at its twenty-third meeting in January 2016.

The Committee noted the report by the Secretariat contained in document EBPBAC22/2.

Agenda item 3.2 Annual report of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee (Document EBPBAC22/3)

3. The Chairman of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee introduced the fifth annual report of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee to the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee.³ He confirmed that the Advisory Committee had reviewed and discussed with WHO's management and the External Auditor the 2014 financial statements and that it had expressed no reservations in connection with the submission of the financial statements to the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee and to the Health Assembly.

4. Regarding compliance issues, the Chairman of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee emphasized the importance of further enhancing the culture of compliance and accountability across the Organization. He noted that unsatisfactory internal audit reports, especially at the country level, indicate a culture of tolerance of non-compliance with rules and policies. With

¹ The list of participants is available in document EBPBAC22/DIV./1.

² Document EBPBAC22/1.

³ Document EBPBAC22/3, Annex.

respect to audit recommendations and in order to find comprehensive and sustainable solutions, the Advisory Committee highlighted the need for the Secretariat to focus on lessons to be learnt from audit report findings, across the Organization, rather than only dealing with these at the individual level.

5. The Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee recommended wide support both for the Secretariat's focus on enhancing the culture of compliance with rules and policies, as well as for its focus on the performance of staff members in order to ensure effective implementation of internal controls. The Advisory Committee stressed the need for the Secretariat to ensure that the compliance units be harmonized in their structure and responsibilities across the Organization.

6. The Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee further noted the need to enhance the alignment of priorities at the three levels of the Organization and highlighted, in particular, the need for WHO to have an effective coordination and decision-making structure at the senior management level. The Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee recommended the formalization of the terms of reference of the Global Policy Group.

7. The Programme, Budget and Administration Committee acknowledged the valuable support and guidance being provided by the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee and underlined the importance of the Advisory Committee's report in supporting the deliberations of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee.

8. Noting the recommendation of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee in respect of formalizing the role, responsibilities and mandate of the Global Policy Group, the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee appreciated the role of the Global Policy Group as a consultative and advisory body.

9. The Director-General thanked the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee for an excellent report and confirmed that she has zero tolerance for non-compliance. She informed the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of measures taken by the Secretariat to enhance transparency and accountability at all levels of the Organization and highlighted that the Global Policy Group was also reviewing and discussing compliance matters on a regular basis.

10. The Regional Directors confirmed the principle of zero tolerance for non-compliance and underlined that compliance is considered a priority for WHO. Additional information was provided on actions taken at regional and country levels to strengthen compliance and controls, and to create a culture of accountability. Several initiatives are under way, including: the establishment of compliance units; the introduction of dedicated compliance dashboards and other tools; the development of new training programmes and strategies to ensure the systematic sharing of information on compliance issues; and the introduction of measures to ensure the stringent follow-up on audit recommendations. It was noted that all regions are making steady progress in implementing the risk management process.

The Committee noted the annual report of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee contained in document EBPBAC22/3.

Agenda item 3.3 Evaluation: annual report (Document EB137/7)

11. The Committee considered the annual evaluation report, which included: (i) an update on the implementation of the key action areas of the framework for strengthening evaluation; (ii) a progress

update on the implementation of the evaluation work plan for 2014–2015; and (iii) highlights of organizational learning, based on an analysis of recent evaluations.

12. The Committee welcomed the report and encouraged the Secretariat to continue its efforts to institutionalize a culture of evaluation through the new Evaluation function.

The Committee recommended that the Executive Board note the report by the Secretariat contained in document EB137/7.

Agenda item 3.4 External and internal audit recommendations: progress on implementation (Document EBPBAC22/4)

13. The Committee considered the report of the Secretariat, noting that it highlighted actions taken to ensure enhanced compliance and accountability in the Organization.

14. The Committee welcomed the additional information presented by the Secretariat. Owing to the late publication of the document, it was suggested that this document be brought to the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly and discussed in conjunction with the reports of the Internal Auditor and External Auditor.

15. The Committee urged the Secretariat to implement fully the internal control tools that it had developed in a timely and comprehensive manner across the Organization. It welcomed the update by the Secretariat on sanctions applied in cases of misconduct and how the impact to the Organization of such misconduct was mitigated, including recovery of funds and other measures to compensate for the damage caused to the Organization. Other measures applied also include additional training or withdrawal of delegated authority.

16. The Committee was informed that in order to enhance compliance with rules and policies and to address recurrent issues, the Secretariat aims to analyse the trends across the Organization. It was also noted that efforts are under way to bring together the different initiatives relating to accountability and compliance and implement them in a harmonized manner across the Organization.

17. Some Member States requested additional information regarding compliance measures for direct financial contributions, especially those linked to the quality control of reports.

The Committee noted the report by the Secretariat contained in document EBPBAC22/4 and requested that it be brought to the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly and discussed in conjunction with the reports of the Internal Auditor and External Auditor.

Agenda item 4 Adoption of the reports and closure of the meeting

18. The Committee adopted its reports to the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly and to the Executive Board.

= = =