

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING

**WHO headquarters, Geneva
Tuesday, 31 January 2017, scheduled at 14:30**

Chairman: Dr R. BUSUTTIL (Malta)

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Matters for information	
Reports of advisory bodies	
• Expert committees and study groups	2
2. Management and governance matters (continued)	
Reports of committees of the Executive Board	
• Foundations and awards	2
Provisional agenda of the Seventieth World Health Assembly and date and place of the 141st session of the Executive Board	3
3. Noncommunicable diseases (continued)	
Cancer prevention and control in the context of an integrated approach (continued).....	5
4. Closure of the session.....	5

EIGHTEENTH MEETING

Tuesday, 31 January 2017, at 14:35

Chairman: Dr R. BUSUTTIL (Malta)

1. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION: Item 16 of the agenda

Reports of advisory bodies: Item 16.1 of the agenda

- **Expert committees and study groups** (documents EB140/50 and EB140/50 Add.1)

The Board noted the report contained in document EB140/50.

2. MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE MATTERS: Item 14 of the agenda (continued)

Reports of committees of the Executive Board: Item 14.4 of the agenda

- **Foundations and awards** (document EB140/43)

Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize

Decision: The Executive Board, having considered the report of the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize Committee, awarded the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize for 2017 to Dr Yasmin Ahmed Jaffer of Oman for her significant contribution to public health in Oman, particularly in the area of women's and children's health. The laureate will receive the equivalent of 2500 Swiss francs in United States dollars.¹

Sasakawa Health Prize

Decision: The Executive Board, having considered the report of the Sasakawa Health Prize Selection Panel, awarded the Sasakawa Health Prize for 2017 to Dr Arslan Rinchin of Mongolia for his remarkable contribution to the advancement of primary health care in Mongolia. The laureate will receive US\$ 30 000.²

United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize

Decision: The Executive Board, having considered the report of the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Selection Panel, awarded the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize for 2017 to Professor Lô Boubou Baïdy of Mauritania, who is being honoured for his substantial contribution to the establishment of the national blood transfusion centre and development of

¹ Decision EB140(11).

² Decision EB140(12).

blood transfusion services, as well as for his fight against viral hepatitis, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections in Mauritania. The laureate will receive US\$ 20 000.¹

Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health

Decision: The Executive Board, having considered the report of the Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize Selection Panel, awarded the Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health for 2017 to the Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade of Cuba for its outstanding contribution to public health. The laureate will receive US\$ 100 000.²

Provisional agenda of the Seventieth World Health Assembly and date and place of the 141st session of the Executive Board: Item 14.6 of the agenda (document EB140/44)

The DIRECTOR (Governing Bodies) drew attention to the draft provisional agenda of the Seventieth World Health Assembly, contained in document EB140/44, and noted that an additional subitem on hearing loss would be added under item 16.

The representative of ERITREA, speaking on behalf of the Member States of the African Region, and supported by the representative of INDIA,³ said that an additional, separate subitem on access to medicines should be added to the draft provisional agenda under item 14 (Health systems); the discussion of that topic should not be restricted to the discussion of the global shortage of medicines and vaccines under item 14.3.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that, rather than adding a further subitem, item 14.3 could be broadened by amending it to “Addressing the global shortage of and access to medicines and vaccines”.

It was so agreed.

The representative of CANADA asked what the intention of the discussion under the revised agenda item would be.

The representative of NEW ZEALAND, supported by the representative of MALTA, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, asked whether an additional Secretariat report would be prepared to guide the discussion.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL proposed that a new working document should be prepared to support discussions under the revised agenda item, which would take into account a broad range of issues on the subject, including points raised during the current session of the Executive Board, for example on the report of the United Nations Secretary-General’s High-level Panel on Access to Medicines, and the work carried out under the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property.

¹ Decision EB140(13).

² Decision EB140(14).

³ Participating by virtue of Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

The representative of BRAZIL¹ expressed concern that a discussion on access to medicines could become skewed to focus on the fair pricing of medicines. Although the report of the High-level Panel on Access to Medicines was a useful document, it was important to consider a wider range of documentation and inputs in order to ensure a meaningful discussion. He therefore expressed support for the proposal made by the Director-General.

The CHAIRMAN took it that the Board wished to request the Secretariat to prepare a report on the revised agenda item, for consideration by the Seventieth World Health Assembly.

It was so agreed.

The representative of INDIA,¹ invited to take the floor by the CHAIRMAN at the request of the representative of NEPAL, and supported by the representatives of NEPAL, THAILAND and BHUTAN, recalled that, at the 139th session of the Board, India had proposed the submission of a draft resolution on mHealth for consideration at the Seventieth World Health Assembly; however, consideration of the item had subsequently been deferred. Highlighting the importance of the issue of mHealth and the need to ensure a timely discussion thereon, he requested that the item should be added to the provisional agenda of the Seventieth World Health Assembly, with a view to introducing a draft resolution for consideration by the Health Assembly.

The representative of FIJI, supported by the representative of CANADA, said that, while he agreed that mHealth was an important topic that warranted discussion by the Health Assembly, the Board had already adopted the forward-looking agenda, identifying items to be included on the agendas of future Health Assemblies and sessions of the Executive Board, including the consideration of mHealth at the 142nd session of the Board. That decision should not be undone.

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Board had agreed, during its discussions on governance, that greater efforts should be made to reduce the workload of the governing bodies by desisting from overloading their agendas. In adopting the agenda of the current session, the Board had already decided to defer several items to the 142nd session of the Executive Board, including the item on mHealth. That decision should be considered final, and he could not, therefore, accept the proposal made by India.

The representative of the NETHERLANDS agreed with the comments made by the Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN invited the Board to adopt draft decision 1, on the date, place and provisional agenda of the Seventieth World Health Assembly, contained in paragraph 7 of document EB140/44, as amended.

The decision, as amended, was adopted.²

The DIRECTOR (Governing Bodies), responding to a query from the representative of NEW ZEALAND, confirmed that an item on rheumatic heart disease would be added to the draft provisional agenda of the 141st session of the Executive Board.

¹ Participating by virtue of Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

² Decision EB140(15).

The CHAIRMAN invited the Board to adopt draft decision 2, on the date and place of the 141st session of the Executive Board, also contained in paragraph 7 of document EB140/44.

The decision was adopted.¹

3. NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES: Item 10 of the agenda (continued)

Cancer prevention and control in the context of an integrated approach: Item 10.5 of the agenda (documents EB140/31 and EB140/31 Add.1) (continued from the fifteenth meeting, section 1)

The CHAIRMAN recalled that an informal drafting group had been established in order to reach consensus on the text of the draft resolution contained in document EB140/31.

The representative of CANADA, presenting the work of the informal drafting group, said that although agreement had been reached on the majority of the text of the draft resolution, some paragraphs remained pending. Despite the best efforts of the participants and the spirit of collegiality in which they had worked, consensus had not been reached. Further discussions would therefore be required during the intersessional period, in order to produce a final text for submission to the Seventieth World Health Assembly.

The representative of ALGERIA said that consensus had been reached on much of the text of the draft resolution and discussion thereon should not be reopened; only the parts that remained pending should be subject to consideration and amendment.

The representative of THAILAND said that sufficient time should be given to ensure that participants could prepare their comments on the draft resolution, in consultation with their capitals, in order to allow them to contribute constructively to the discussion.

The CHAIRMAN assured the Executive Board that only the paragraphs on which consensus had not yet been reached would be open for discussion and that ample time would be given to Member States to contribute to the drafting process. On that understanding, he would take it that the Board wished to agree to continue the work of the drafting group during the intersessional period.

It was so agreed.

4. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION: Item 17 of the agenda

The CHAIRMAN commended all participants for their hard work during a particularly significant session of the Executive Board.

¹ Decision EB140(16).

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL congratulated all participants on the completion of an intense Executive Board session. The nomination procedures for the candidates for the post of Director-General had gone smoothly, and the Board had completed its heaviest agenda yet. Despite the difficulties and complexities encountered, the 140th session of the Executive Board had been one of the best during her tenure. Thanking the Chairman for his outstanding leadership, she said that she had been invigorated by the Board's discussions and inspired by its dedication.

After the customary exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRMAN declared the 140th session of the Executive Board closed.

The meeting rose at 15:35.

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