

## **Governance reform: follow-up to decision WHA69(8) (2016)**

### **Report by the Director-General**

1. The Health Assembly in decision WHA69(8) (2016) decided “to request the Bureau of the Executive Board, taking into account inputs from Member States,<sup>1</sup> to review the criteria currently applied in considering items for inclusion on the provisional agenda of the Board,<sup>2</sup> and to develop proposals for new and/or revised criteria for the consideration of the 140th session of the Executive Board.”
2. The Officers of the Board met and reviewed the criteria for additional items on the Board’s provisional agenda, which were agreed upon by the governing bodies in resolution EB121.R1 (2007) and decision WHA65(9) (2012), taking into account inputs provided by Member States throughout the governance reform process.
3. Based on such review, the Officers of the Board developed a revised set of five major criteria and a list of factors relating thereto for the Board’s consideration at its 140th session.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, the Officers proposed to establish an objective and transparent tool for the prioritization of proposals, which would support the Officers in the implementation of the criteria but would be without prejudice to the Officers’ discretion in accepting proposals and recommending the deferral or exclusion of proposals received.<sup>4</sup>
4. The Board at its 140th session considered the Officers’ proposals,<sup>5</sup> in support of which consensus emerged in the ensuing discussions. Several delegations, however, underlined the need for certain adjustments. The Secretariat has incorporated Member States’ comments into the Officers’ proposal and this report summarizes that process.
5. The proposed criteria and list of factors are contained in Annex 1 to this report. Should the Board agree to endorse these criteria, they would supersede the criteria established by the governing bodies in resolution EB121.R1 and decision WHA65(9).

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<sup>1</sup> Available at <http://apps.who.int/gb/gr/> (accessed 15 March 2017 ).

<sup>2</sup> See decision WHA65(9) (2012) and resolution EB121.R1 (2007).

<sup>3</sup> See document EB140/40.

<sup>4</sup> See document EB140/40 Add.1.

<sup>5</sup> See the summary records of the Executive Board at its 140th session, sixteenth meeting, section 2.

6. The prioritization tool is presented in Annex 2. The tool provides a relative weighting to the various criteria and factors that would be used by the Officers of the Board in considering whether to include a proposed item on the provisional agenda of the following session of the Board. The weightings were determined through a process whereby Officers of the Board assigned a score to each of the criteria and, where applicable, the underlying factors. Finally, a weighting score was generated by multiplying the score assigned to each criterion by the scores assigned to the factors relating thereto.

7. All the proposals received would be scored by the Officers of the Board in line with the determined weightings for the various criteria and factors. It is proposed that such scores be submitted and that the average of the scores assigned to each proposal be compiled through an on-line system to be developed by the Secretariat. At the teleconference among the Officers of the Board and the Director-General at which the provisional agenda of the Board is prepared, the Officers would thus have at their disposal an objective weighting of each of the proposals under consideration, which could be used not only to determine those proposals that warranted being dealt with by the Board but could also provide an indication of the respective priority for consideration.

#### **ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

8. The Board is invited to consider for adoption the following draft decision:

The Executive Board, having considered the report on governance reform: follow-up to decision WHA69(8) (2016), decided:

(1) to endorse the set of criteria and factors for the inclusion of additional items on the provisional agenda of the Executive Board as well as the tool for the prioritization of proposals for additional items on the provisional agenda of the Executive Board as set out in Annexes 1 and 2 to document EB141/5; and that these criteria shall supersede the criteria established in resolution EB121.R1 (2007) and decision WHA65(9) (2012);

(2) to request the Director-General to report on the implementation of the revised criteria and prioritization tool to the Executive Board at its 146th session for purposes of review and possible further refinement, as appropriate.

ANNEX 1

**PROPOSED CRITERIA AND FACTORS FOR THE INCLUSION OF ITEMS ON THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Criterion A The proposal addresses a global public health issue**

**Factors to consider under this criterion include:**

- Factor A.1 The current health situation, including changes, if any, in demographic and epidemiological trends.
- Factor A.2 The public health burden the public health issue has at global/regional and country levels.
- Factor A.3 The extent to which the proposal addresses an urgent, emerging or neglected health issue.
- Factor A.4 The extent to which the public health issue is perceived as being a global public health threat.

**Criterion B The proposal addresses a new subject within the scope of WHO**

**Factors to consider under this criterion include:**

- Factor B.1 The proposed new subject falls within the mandate and capacities of WHO.
- Factor B.2 The comparative advantage of WHO in addressing the proposal.
- Factor B.3 The proposal introduces a subject that is deemed to be of interest to public health and that has never been discussed at WHO.
- Factor B.4 The proposal raises for re-discussion an issue that has not been discussed within WHO global fora for the past four years.

**Criterion C The proposal brings up for discussion internationally agreed instruments that involve or impact health or declarations, agreements, resolutions or decisions adopted in other WHO international fora**

**Factors to consider under this criterion include:**

- Factor C.1 The added value reopening the discussion of the subject will bring to public health.
- Factor C.2 The need for collective action through WHO for the implementation of any commitments.

Factor C.3 The need for Member States to seek country technical support from the Secretariat for the implementation of any commitments.

Factor C.4 The existence of other resolutions or decisions taken by the governing bodies that could fulfil the perceived need in factors C.2 and C.3 above.

**Criterion D The existence of evidence-based, cost-effective interventions to address the subject being proposed**

**Factors to consider under this criterion include:**

Factor D.1 The solidity of the evidence submitted by proponent.

Factor D.2 The cost-effectiveness of the proposal.

Factor D.3 The potential for using knowledge and innovative science and technology to address the subject.

Factor D.4 The potential impact on the human and financial resources of the Organization.

**Criterion E The urgency of the proposal**

**Factors to consider under this criterion include:**

Factor E.1 The extent to which immediate action is required to address the public health issue with potential global impact being raised.

Factor E.2 The criticality of negative impact of a delay in addressing such public health issue.

Factor E.3 With due consideration of factors E.1 and E.2, the impact the introduction of the item will have on the workload, effective management and running of the Board's session.

Factor E.4 The feasibility of postponing the proposal for inclusion on the agenda of future sessions.

**Criterion F The linkages that the proposals for additional items have with the priorities of the Organization as reflected in the General Programme of Work of the Organization.**

**Criterion G The linkages that the proposals for additional items have with the health-related components of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

## ANNEX 2

**TOOL FOR THE PRIORITIZATION OF PROPOSALS FOR ADDITIONAL ITEMS  
ON THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

| <b>Criterion A</b><br><b>The proposal addresses a global public health issue</b>                                 | <b>Relative weighting</b> | <b>Score by the Officer of the Board</b> |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| Factor A.1<br>The current health situation including changes, if any, in demographic and epidemiological trends  | Up to 9                   |  |
| Factor A.2<br>The public health burden the public health issue has at global/regional and country levels         | Up to 11                  |  |
| Factor A.3<br>The extent to which the proposal addresses an urgent, emerging or neglected health issue           | Up to 10                  |  |
| Factor A.4<br>The extent to which the public health issue is perceived as being of a global public health threat | Up to 15                  |  |

| <b>Criterion B</b><br><b>The proposal addresses a new subject within the scope of WHO</b>  | <b>Relative weighting</b> | <b>Score by the Officer of the Board</b> |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| Factor B.1<br>The proposed new subject falls within the mandate and capacities of WHO  | Up to 10                  |  |
| Factor B.2<br>The comparative advantage of WHO in addressing the proposal  | Up to 8                   |  |
| Factor B.3<br>The proposal introduces a subject which is deemed to be of interest to public health and which has never been discussed at WHO | Up to 10                  |  |
| Factor B.4<br>The proposal raises for re-discussion an issue that has not been discussed within WHO global fora for the past four years      | Up to 3                   |  |

| <b>Criterion C</b><br><b>The proposal brings up for discussion internationally agreed instruments which involve or impact health or declarations, agreements, resolutions or decisions adopted in other WHO international fora</b> | <b>Relative Weighting</b> | <b>Score by the Officer of the Board</b> |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| Factor C.1<br>The added value reopening the discussion of the subject will bring to public health  | Up to 5                   |  |
| Factor C.2<br>The need for collective action through WHO for the implementation of any commitments   | Up to 4                   |  |
| Factor C.3<br>The need for Member States to seek country technical support from the Secretariat for the implementation of any commitments  | Up to 2                   |  |
| Factor C.4<br>The existence of other resolutions or decisions taken by the governing bodies that could fulfil the perceived need in factors C.2 and C.3  | Up to 3                   |  |

| <b>Criterion D</b><br><b>The existence of evidence-based, cost-effective interventions to address the subject being proposed</b> | <b>Relative weighting</b> | <b>Score by the Officer of the Board</b> |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| Factor D.1<br>The solidity of the evidence submitted by proponent  | Up to 8                   |  |
| Factor D.2<br>The cost effectiveness of the proposal   | Up to 6                   |  |
| Factor D.3<br>The potential for using knowledge and innovative science and technology to address the subject                     | Up to 3                   |  |
| Factor D.4<br>The potential impact on the human and financial resources for the Organization                                     | Up to 3                   |  |

| <b>Criterion E</b><br><b>The urgency of the proposal</b>  | <b>Relative weighting</b> | <b>Score by the Officer of the Board</b> |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| Factor E.1<br>The extent to which immediate action is required to address the public health issue with potential global impact being raised   | Up to 19                  |  |
| Factor E.2<br>The criticality of negative impact of a delay in addressing such public health  | Up to 15                  |  |
| Factor E.3<br>With due consideration of factors E.1 and E.2 in mind, the impact the introduction of the item will have on the workload, effective management and running of the Board's session | Up to 11                  |  |
| Factor E.4<br>The feasibility of postponing the proposal for inclusion on the agenda of future sessions   | Up to 5                   |  |

| <b>Criterion F</b>  | <b>Relative weighting</b> | <b>Score by the Officer of the Board</b> |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| The linkages that the proposals for additional items have with the priorities of the Organization as reflected in the General Programme of Work of the Organization | Up to 20                  |  |

| <b>Criterion G</b>  | <b>Relative weighting</b> | <b>Score by the Officer of the Board</b> |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| The linkages that the proposals for additional items have with the health-related components of the Sustainable Development Goals | Up to 20                  |  |

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