

Provisional agenda (annotated)

- 1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Dialogue with the Director-General**
- 3. Strategic priority matters**

3.1 Draft thirteenth general programme of work 2019–2023

The Director-General will present for the Board's consideration the draft thirteenth general programme of work 2019–2023. The draft general programme of work is fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. It offers a statement of vision, mission and priorities for WHO, as well as clear strategic priorities, strategic shifts and organizational shifts. It is also in harmony with the Director-General's agenda for change and reflects the shifts in WHO's methods of work that will be required to support that change.

3.2 WHO reform

The Director-General will submit a series of reports on WHO reform. These will include a report providing proposals to: improve the efficiency of the Board and its strategic role; address interpretational ambiguities and gaps in the process for the inclusion of items on the Health Assembly's provisional agenda; and address further ambiguities, gaps and other shortcomings in the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Bodies. The Board will be invited to consider these proposals with a view to either amending or recommending amendments to the Rules of Procedure, as necessary. Further reports will provide information on: the Director-General's transformation agenda; the strategy and implementation plan for value for money in WHO; and the evaluation of the Officers of the Board of their experience in using the criteria and prioritization tool in respect of proposals for additional agenda items.

3.3 Public health preparedness and response

In response to resolution EBSS3.R1 (2015) and decision WHA68(10) (2015), this report will provide: (a) an update on all Public Health Emergencies of International Concern, WHO Grade 3 and United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee Level 3 emergencies in which WHO took action; (b) a description of the work WHO is undertaking at global, regional and country levels to improve coordination during health emergencies; and (c) an update on the progress made to improve research and development for potentially epidemic diseases.

In line with decision WHA70(11) (2017), the Director-General will submit for the Board's consideration, a draft five-year global strategic plan to improve public health preparedness and response, which has been shaped by Member States' comments through the following processes: the WHO regional committee meetings held in 2017; a web-based consultation; and a face-to-face consultation undertaken with the Geneva-based missions. The draft plan comprises guiding principles, three pillars for public health preparedness and response and strategic orientations for sustained implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005).

The Chair of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme will present the Committee's third report to the governing bodies. The report will provide the Committee's observations and recommendations for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme based on its review of the Programme, including field visits, conducted during the period June–December 2017.

3.4 Polio transition planning

The report by the Director-General will provide concise information on: a high-level strategic plan for polio transition; relevant country-level processes, including the functional reviews of the Regional Office for Africa, the core country capacity business model of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, the Africa Immunization Business Case, and national polio transition planning; the Polio Post-Certification Strategy; updates on the Human Resources, and Programme Budget Planning associated with polio transition.

3.5 Health, environment and climate change

The Director-General will report, and seek Member States guidance, on the plans for bringing about, and measuring, progress in the Director-General's strategic priority on "the health impacts of climate and environmental change", aimed at reducing the estimated 12.6 million deaths each year from environmental risks, through WHO's General Programme of Work and Special Initiatives, and in partnership with other agencies.

3.6 Addressing the global shortage of, and access to, medicines and vaccines

Lack of access to medicines and vaccines continues to impede progress towards universal health coverage. The Secretariat report will address the global shortage of, and access to, medicines and vaccines, including options for comprehensive health systems approaches, taking into account all stages throughout the medicines and health product value chain. An update will also be provided on progress made in implementing resolution WHA69.25 (2016).

3.7 Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property

The Director-General will present the final report of the overall programme review of the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property. The review assesses the continued relevance of the global strategy and plan of action, together with their achievements and remaining challenges they face. The report will present recommendations on the way forward for the next stage of implementation of the global strategy and plan of action, with respect to the addition, enhancement and conclusion of relevant elements and actions.

3.8 Preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, to be held in 2018

In line with resolution WHA70.11 (2017), the Director-General will provide information on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (2011) and the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (2014), in preparation for the third High-level Meeting in 2018. The Board will be invited to note the report.

3.9 Preparation for the a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on ending tuberculosis

In resolution 71/159 (2016) the United Nations General Assembly decided to hold a high-level meeting on tuberculosis in 2018 and requested the Secretary-General to make preparations in collaboration with WHO and Member States. This report will provide background information and details of actions taken by WHO, including organizing the first WHO Global Ministerial Conference "ending tuberculosis in the sustainable development

era: a multisectoral response” (Moscow, 16 and 17 November 2017) together with the contributions by partners in the process leading to the high-level meeting.

4. Other technical matters

4.1 Global snakebite burden

Every year, poisoning from snakebites (snakebite envenoming) accounts for as many as 138 000 deaths and 400 000 cases of lasting disability; in over 2 million more people, it provokes serious illness. In response, WHO included snakebite envenoming in the list of neglected tropical diseases in June 2017. The Secretariat will provide a detailed report summarizing the global situation regarding snakebite envenoming and the actions it is undertaking.

4.2 Physical activity for health

The Executive Board, at its 140th session in January 2017, endorsed a proposal that the Secretariat would prepare a report and draft global action plan to promote physical activity, for consideration by the Board at its 142nd session. The Board will also be invited to consider a draft resolution.

4.3 Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health (2016–2030): early childhood development

Pursuant to resolution WHA69.2 (2016), in which the Health Assembly requested the Director-General to report regularly on progress towards women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health, this report will provide an update on the current status of women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health, with a focus on early childhood development.

4.4 mHealth

In order to realize the potential efficiency gains offered by digital health technologies, Member States are seeking to identify standardized approaches to application, in particular for mHealth. The Director-General will provide an updated technical report indicating how mHealth can be institutionalized as a digital tool to advance the Sustainable Development Goals and help to achieve universal health coverage. The Board will be invited to take note of the report.

4.5 Improving access to assistive technology

The Director-General will report on WHO’s work and the urgent actions needed to improve access to assistive technology (e.g. wheelchairs, hearing aids and low-vision devices), in the context of ageing populations and the growing burden of noncommunicable diseases and disability. The Board will be invited to consider a draft resolution outlining steps needed to implement the WHO’s priority assistive products list.

4.6 Maternal, infant and young child nutrition

- Comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition: biennial report
- Safeguarding against possible conflicts of interest in nutrition programmes

In line with resolution WHA65.6 (2012) and decision WHA67(9) (2014), the Director-General will present a proposed approach for the prevention and management of conflicts of interest in the policy development and implementation of nutrition programmes. The Board will be invited to note the approach. The Director-General will also provide information on the progress achieved in the implementation of the WHO comprehensive

implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition 2012–2025. The Board will be invited to note the report.

5. Other managerial, administrative and governance matters

5.1 Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework for the sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits

In accordance with decision EB140(5) (2017) and section 6.14.5 of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework, the Executive Board will be invited to consider a proposal on which proportion of PIP Partnership Contribution funds should be used for inter-pandemic preparedness measures and which proportion should be reserved for pandemic influenza response activities.

5.2 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 twenty-seventh meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee, which is scheduled to be held on 18 and 19 January 2018.

5.3 Evaluation of the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization

In line with resolution WHA65.15 (2012) and decision EB141(1) (2017) the Secretariat is coordinating an evaluation, open to all Member States, to be conducted by the Executive Board within one year of the appointment of the Director-General of the World Health Organization, to assess the efficacy of the revised process and methods for the election of the Director-General. The evaluation will take place in an open meeting of the Executive Board held during its 142nd session. The report will serve to facilitate an informed discussion during the open meeting.

5.4 Evaluation: update and proposed workplan for 2018–2019

WHO's evaluation policy requires the Secretariat to report annually to the Executive Board on progress in the implementation of the biennial Organization-wide evaluation workplan. At its session in January 2018, the Board will consider a report that: (a) provides a brief progress update on the ongoing work; and (b) presents, for approval by the Board, the proposed evaluation workplan for the biennium 2018–2019, incorporating both the corporate and decentralized evaluations planned and developed through consultation at senior management level across the Organization, and discussed with the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee.

5.5 Engagement with non-State actors

In line with resolution WHA69.10 (2016) and paragraph 68(a)(i) of the overarching framework of the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors, the Executive Board will consider the annual report on engagement with non-State actors. In addition, paragraphs 60, 61 and 64 of the overarching framework mandate the Board, through its Programme Budget and Administration Committee, to consider applications for admittance of non-State actors into official relations and to review collaboration with one third of the non-State actors in official relations in order to decide whether to maintain their official relations.

5.6 Reports of committees of the Executive Board

- Foundations and awards

The Board will consider the reports of the selection panels for the following prizes to be awarded in 2018:

The Ihsan Dogramaci Family Health Foundation Prize, the Sasakawa Health Prize, the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize, the State of Kuwait Health Promotion Foundation Prize (the His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for Research in Health Care for the Elderly and in Health Promotion), and the Dr Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health. The Board will also be invited to approve the report of the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Committee and, should this prove necessary, to consider a report from the meeting of the Jacques Parisot Foundation.

5.7 Future meetings of the governing bodies

- Provisional agenda of the Seventy-first World Health Assembly
- Date and place of the 143rd session of the Executive Board

5.8 Appointment of the Regional Director for the Americas

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

5.9 Statement by the representative of the WHO staff associations and report of the Ombudsmen

- Statement by the representative of the WHO staff associations
- Report of the Ombudsmen

5.10 Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules [if any]

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 Seventy-first World Health Assembly.

6. Matters for information

6.1 Report of the regional committees to the Executive Board

In 2012, in decision WHA65(9), the Health Assembly endorsed the proposal that the chairpersons of the regional committees routinely submit to the Board summary reports of the committees' deliberations. The Board will be invited to consider the recommendations of the regional committees.

6.2 Global vaccine action plan

The Executive Board will be invited to consider the Executive Summary of the report of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on immunization, which met to discuss progress made in implementing the Global Vaccine Action Plan. The Executive Summary will also contain the Advisory Group's recommendations for corrective action.

6.3 Reports of advisory bodies

- Expert committees and study groups

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

In a second report, the Secretariat will provide details of both meetings and membership of expert committees that met in 2017.

6.4 Eradication of poliomyelitis

The report will provide an update of progress made against each of the objectives of the Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. It will summarize the latest programmatic and epidemiological situation, including details of continuing work to achieve the global interruption of poliovirus transmission, and of intensified efforts to accelerate laboratory containment, together with a financial update of the programme to rapidly achieve global certification of eradication of all wild poliovirus types.

7. Closure of the session

Note:

The Director-General and the Officers of the Executive Board met in Islamabad, Pakistan on 7 October 2017. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the Executive Board.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- *review the draft provisional agenda of the 142nd session of the Board to be held in January 2018, in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board;*
- *test the criteria and factors for the prioritization of proposals, to be applied on a trial basis in line with the Board's decision EB141(8) (2017) on governance reform, and provide feedback to the Secretariat on use of the prioritization tool;*
- *update the Officers on the preparations for the special session of the Executive Board; and*
- *report on the consultation on the methods of work of the governing bodies and the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.*

Provisional agenda of the Executive Board at its 142nd session

At its previous meeting held on 31 July–1 August 2017, the Officers of the Board (the Bureau) had proposed to restructure the provisional agenda of the Executive Board at its 142nd session according to a new framework under six categories:

- (1) *Opening and adoption of the agenda*
- (2) *Dialogue with the Director-General*
- (3) *Strategic priority issues: programmatic, governance and managerial*

- (4) *Other technical issues*
- (5) *Managerial, administrative and governance issues*
- (6) *Matters for information*

They had proposed that the items on “Eradication of poliomyelitis” and “Progress towards the health-related sustainable development goals” be moved to the draft provisional agenda of the Seventy-first World Health Assembly, which would leave a total of 34 items on the agenda.

The draft provisional agenda had been circulated to Member States on 10 July 2017. Ten proposals for additional agenda items had been made by Member States by the deadline of 21 September. These proposals had been circulated to the Officers in advance of the meeting, together with the accompanying explanatory memoranda and Secretariat briefing notes. The Officers of the Board had also been provided with the tool for prioritization of proposals approved by the Executive Board (EB141(8)) for use on this occasion on a trial basis. It was noted that the Officers of Board were mandated to report back to the Board at its 142nd session on their experience using the prioritization tool.

With respect to the process for considering the 10 proposals, the Chairman proposed that the scores derived from the prioritization tool be distributed following a qualitative and contextual discussion of each proposal. This suggestion followed comments by the Officers that a “robotic” approach should be avoided; that the Officers were only testing the tool and that it should facilitate but not restrict their consideration; that the context of each proposal should be carefully considered; that the purpose of the Executive Board and the existing agenda items should be taken into account; and that the established practice of consensus among the Officers in considering the proposals should be maintained.

The Chairman proposed that, with a view to facilitating the Board’s final determination for the handling of the additional proposals, the Officers consider the following recommendations:

- Option 1: supporting the inclusion of the proposal in the agenda*
- Option 2: combining with another agenda item*
- Option 3: deferring to a future session of the Executive Board*
- Option 4: deferring to the World Health Assembly*
- Option 5: not including the proposal, if circumstances warrant.*

The Vice Chair from Fiji offered to withdraw himself from discussion of the item proposed by his country. The Bureau noted the offer but did not consider it necessary given the practices of the Officers in such situations and the desire to avoid setting a precedent that might complicate proposals coming from countries being represented among the Officers.

The Officers noted that they had all faced challenges in applying the prioritization tool and therefore, for reasons of expediency, agreed to discuss their experience with the tool for purposes of preparing their report to the Executive Board at a later time. See also relevant section below.

New agenda items

With regard to proposals for additional agenda items received from Member States, the Officers of the Executive Board recommended:

- to support for inclusion in the provisional agenda of the 142nd session of the Executive Board, under Strategic priority issues, the item proposed by the Government of the Russian Federation on tuberculosis and to recommend that the title of the proposal “Implementation of the commitments of the First WHO Ministerial Conference on ending tuberculosis in the sustainable development era: a*

multisectoral response” be amended to “Preparation for the United Nations High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Ending Tuberculosis”, to be held in 2018, thereby broadening the scope of the agenda item.

- *to defer the item on “Global action on patient safety” proposed by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to a future session of the Executive Board, following discussion of “World health days” at a future session of the Board as well as conclusion of the process to approve the Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW) by the Seventy-first World Health Assembly, since patient safety would be expected to be an important element of discussions on the GPW in relation to universal health coverage.*
- *to defer the item on “Engagement framework for private sector in health care delivery towards universal health coverage” proposed by the Government of the Philippines, to a future session of the Executive Board, pending the outcome of the ongoing work and approval of the Thirteenth General Programme of Work.*
- *not including on the provisional agenda of the 142nd session of the Executive Board the item on workers’ health proposed by the Governments of Sri Lanka and the United Republic of Tanzania under proposals entitled, respectively, “Follow-up of resolution WHA60.26 (2007) Workers’ Health: Global Plan of Action in the context of the SDG” and “Workers’ Health: Follow-up of the WHO global plan of action beyond 2008–2017”, noting that a progress report on implementation of the global plan of action on workers’ health 2008–2017 would be presented to all Member States at the Seventy-first World Health Assembly in 2018 in accordance with WHA60.26.*
- *not including on the provisional agenda of the 142nd session of the Executive Board the item on “Accelerated action for global drowning prevention” proposed by the Government of Fiji and drawing the attention of the Director-General to the need to enhance advocacy at country level in this area and raise awareness of existing guidance on prevention of drowning.*
- *not including on the provisional agenda of the 142nd session of the Executive Board the item on World Chagas Disease Day proposed by the Government of Brazil noting concern about a proliferation of specialized health “days” and the need for a comprehensive consideration by Member States of the costs and benefits of such “days”. The officers considered it appropriate to include such a consideration at a future session of the Board under Managerial, administrative and governance issues, and requested the Secretariat to prepare an analysis of the matter, including a mapping of world days/weeks and an evaluation of their effectiveness.*
- *not including on the provisional agenda of the 142nd session of the Executive Board the item on “establishment of a World Food Safety Day”, based on the same concern. However, noting the conclusion of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on the establishment of a World Food Safety Day and FAO resolution 11/2017 on observance of World Food Safety Day, the Officers of the Executive Board recommended that the Director-General send an official communication to the Director-General of FAO supporting the transmission of that FAO resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.*
- *not including on the provisional agenda of the 142nd session of the Executive Board the item on “Role of regional cooperation in the regulatory reforms for NCD prevention and control” proposed by the Government of the Philippines, given that noncommunicable diseases was already on the agenda.*
- *not including on the provisional agenda of the 142nd session of the Executive Board the item on “Health and human resources” proposed by the Government of the Philippines as the issue has been discussed recently under Working for Health: a five-year action plan for health employment and inclusive economic growth (2017–2021) adopted in May 2017 in resolution WHA70.6, that discussions will continue at the 4th Global Forum on Human Resources for Health, in November 2017, and as the proposal has a regional, not global focus; and invite the Members of the Regional Committee for the*

Western Pacific to consider, if appropriate, including this item in the agenda of their next regional committee meeting.

Other items

*The Officers of the Board noted that at their previous meeting they had proposed that Polio transition planning be included in the agenda as a strategic priority issue and that polio eradication be moved to the agenda of the Seventy-first World Health Assembly. However, they agreed to the proposal of the Secretariat to include the **report on polio eradication**, which had already been prepared, as a document for information.*

They further recommended that the existing item on “Preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of NCDs”, to be held in 2018, should be considered under Strategic priority matters.

Next steps

In response to the request of the Officers of the Board, the Director for Governing Bodies confirmed that guidance materials would be developed to help Member States prepare future proposals for additional agenda items in a more consistent manner. Such guidance should include high-level comments from WHO on the proposals, rather than just comments from the concerned technical programme; these should include whether the issue has been discussed before, existing resolutions/decisions, and the impact on WHO from a resource perspective.

In accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure, where the Director-General and the Officers found it necessary to recommend the deferral or exclusion of proposals received for the draft provisional agenda of the 142nd session of the Board, an explanation for such recommendation, would be reflected in the annotated provisional agenda. In accordance with decision EB134(3) (2014) on WHO reform: methods of work of the governing bodies, the explanatory memoranda and supporting statements would be made available on the WHO web-based platform to all Member States and Associate Members.

The Director-General informed the Officers of the Board that the annotated provisional agenda for the 142nd session of the Executive Board as well as the provisional agenda showing the document numbers, would be sent out to all Member States with the convocation letter.

Use of the prioritization tool

The preliminary outcome of the trial scoring of the proposals for additional agenda items was shared with the Officers of the Board. (The final outcome, including the scores of the one officer not able to be present at the meeting, was shared with the Officers shortly after the meeting.) It was noted that there was general concordance with the outcome of the discussion on the provisional agenda. Noting that the final totals would be included in the report of the Secretariat to the Executive Board on the trial, the Officers recommended that the scores be represented as percentages rather than totals.

The Officers made a number of preliminary comments on their experience in use of the tool. They noted the utility of a scoring system in principle, but found challenges in applying it as a purely quantitative measure. It was a complex tool with a number of negative indicators that could confuse scoring. Certain factors seemed repetitive, and the wide and varying range of possible scores for each factor complicated the analysis. In sum, and as would be elaborated fully in their report, the Officers felt a simplified system, with fewer criteria, would better assist future officers. The Officers suggested that the tool be reviewed and revised by the WHO evaluation department, and noted this recommendation would be included in their report.

The Chair invited the Officers to send their detailed comments on use of the tool, including its various sections, to the Secretariat and suggested the Officers meet on the margins of the special session of the Executive Board in November to consider their report on this matter so that it may be submitted to the Board in January 2018.

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