

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOURTH MEETING

**WHO headquarters, Geneva
Tuesday, 29 May 2018, scheduled at 14:30**

Chairman: Ms M. N. FARANI AZEVÊDO (Brazil)

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FOURTH MEETING

Tuesday, 29 May 2018, at 14:45

Chairman: Ms M. N. FARANI AZEVÊDO (Brazil)

1. OTHER MANAGERIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND GOVERNANCE MATTERS: Item 4 of the agenda (continued)

Future sessions of the Executive Board and the Health Assembly: Item 4.7 of the agenda (document EB143/10) (continued)

The representative of GERMANY, supported by the representatives of VIET NAM, FINLAND, CHINA AND AUSTRALIA, proposed moving forward the meeting dates proposed in the first draft decision contained in document EB143/10. Under the revised schedule, the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee would meet from Monday, 21 January to Wednesday, 23 January 2019, and the 144th session of the Executive Board would convene from Thursday, 24 January to Saturday, 26 January 2019 and from Monday, 28 January to Friday, 1 February 2019.

The CHAIRMAN took it that the Board wished to adopt the revised draft decision.

The decision, as amended, was adopted.¹

Evaluation: annual report: Item 4.3 of the agenda (EB143/6) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN invited the Board to consider the proposed amendments² to the draft evaluation policy (2018) appended as an annex to document EB143/6.

The representative of the UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, speaking on behalf of the Member States of the African Region, reiterated that monitoring and evaluation processes played a critical role both in strengthening the Organization and in ensuring accountability. While he recognized that the evaluation function was underfunded, he expressed concern that the draft evaluation policy appeared to provide for earmarked funding thereof; the Secretariat should have the prerogative to allocate funds as needed.

The representative of SUDAN said that the Executive Board should focus on strategic issues, while the Secretariat and the Director-General should be responsible for how funds were allocated.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL explained that discussion of the draft evaluation policy had been deferred to ensure that the amendments reflected the nature of evaluation as an oversight function and that oversight was made as progressive and modern as possible as part of the transformation agenda. He stressed that the revised draft was a compromise that could be used until a better evaluation policy was instituted as part of the new operating model under development. The phrase “within the range

¹ Decision 143(8).

² See summary record of the second meeting.

recommended by the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit” had been added after “adequate resources” in paragraph 37; that should be acceptable to Member States, because it would ensure that the evaluation workplan was funded in line with a study by that Unit. In paragraph 41(e), “including its budget” had been added after “workplan” and before “consider”, thus shifting responsibility for approving the evaluation workplan budget from the Health Assembly to the Executive Board. As the workplan itself was submitted to the Board, it made sense that the Board should also approve the associated budget. As WHO reform progressed, all oversight functions should be better positioned and considered as a package. Oversight and evaluation, both internal and external, would be essential going forward, as they would help the Organization to identify and address gaps and challenges.

In reply to a query from the representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, the DIRECTOR-GENERAL confirmed that the proposed amendments read out in the previous day’s session had been accepted.

At the invitation of the CHAIRMAN, the CHEF DE CABINET read out the proposed amendments agreed the previous day. A new sentence would be added to the end of paragraph 43, which would read: “The head of the Evaluation Office serves for a fixed term of four years with a possibility of reappointment only once for a further term of four years, and is barred from re-entry into the Organization after the expiry of his/her term.” A new paragraph 43*bis* would read: “Additionally, the Director-General, regional directors, senior management and programme directors across the Organization also play a critical role in promoting a culture of evaluation. These roles and responsibilities are detailed in the evaluation practice handbook.”

In response to a query from the representative of NORWAY, the DIRECTOR-GENERAL confirmed that subparagraph 42(k), “submitting an annual report on evaluation activities to the Executive Board”, had been agreed the previous day and was included among the proposed amendments.

The CHAIRMAN took it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision approving the evaluation policy.

The decision was adopted.¹

2. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION: Item 6 of the agenda.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL congratulated all participants on a successful session and thanked them for their advice, guidance and support.

After the customary exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRMAN declared the 143rd session of the Executive Board closed.

The meeting rose at 15:10.

¹ Decision EB143(9).

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