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## **Committees of the Executive Board**

### **Participation in the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board**

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

1. In January 2020, the Executive Board at its 146th session adopted decision EB146(5), in which it decided to amend the terms of reference of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee. Paragraph 1 bis of the revised terms<sup>1</sup> listed the set of observers<sup>2,3</sup> permitted to attend meetings of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee without the right to vote and subject to the further conditions set out in paragraph 1 ter of the revised terms. The Executive Board further decided that additional observers may be added to the list provided in paragraph 1 bis of the revised terms of reference, if so decided by the Board itself, and requested the Director-General to report to the Executive Board at its 150th session on the implementation of decision EB146(5).

2. Paragraphs 1 bis and ter of the revised terms of reference of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee have been applied since the closure of the 146th session of the Executive Board. Accordingly, the set of observers mentioned in paragraph 1 bis of the revised terms of reference were invited to attend the thirty-second, thirty-third and thirty-fourth meetings of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee in October 2020, January 2021 and May 2021, respectively.<sup>4</sup>

3. In advance of the 150th session of the Executive Board, the Secretariat sought feedback on the implementation of decision EB146(5) both from Member States and from the observers listed in paragraph 1 bis of the revised terms of reference of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> See document EB146/2020/REC/1, Annex 4.

<sup>2</sup> References in the present document to “Gavi” should be understood as referring to “Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance”.

<sup>3</sup> The Holy See, Palestine, Gavi, the Order of Malta, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations with which WHO has established effective relations under Article 70 of the Constitution; and the European Union.

<sup>4</sup> In accordance with the lists of participants related to these meetings (and the order followed therein), the following entities attended meetings of the Committee: the European Union, Palestine, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) attended the thirty-second meeting in October 2020; the European Union, Gavi, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Palestine, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) attended the thirty-third meeting in January 2021; the European Union, Gavi, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Palestine, the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF), the World Food Programme (WFP), UNAIDS, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and South Centre attended the thirty-fourth meeting in May 2021.

4. In their comments, Member States and the observers referred to above did not suggest any further amendments to the terms of reference of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee. One Member State emphasized that attendance of observers should be in line with both the mandates of the entities concerned and the mandate of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee. Another suggested considering the development of a “code of conduct” for observers, intended to further regulate their attendance and interventions in meetings of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee.

5. In respect of the comments received from Member States, it should be further noted that the following are already part of current practice or are covered by the new provisions:

- the presence of observers is not taken into account for the purpose of determining whether the quorum at meetings of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee is met;
- the duration of potential interventions by observers is a matter to be addressed by the Chair during the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee meetings;
- in accordance with paragraph 1 ter of the revised terms of reference, observers are requested to make interventions at the Board and not to do so at the Committee for the purpose of efficient and effective conduct of Committee business. In an exceptional case where the Chair determines that the efficient and effective conduct of Committee business will not be affected in any way, the Chair may, as appropriate, invite observers to make interventions with respect to items on the agenda that are of particular concern to them or relevant to their mandate. To date, no interventions have been made by observers in the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee meetings they have attended;
- Programme, Budget and Administration Committee meetings are only accessible to Member States and observers attending the meeting pursuant to paragraph 1 bis of the revised terms of reference. However, reports of the meetings of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee, summarizing the discussions, form part of the documentation to be considered by the Executive Board and Health Assembly and are published on WHO’s governance website.

## **ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

6. The Executive Board is invited to note this report and provide any further guidance it may deem appropriate on the application of the revised terms of reference in respect of the participation of observers in the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board.

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