

2014 Ebola virus disease outbreak and follow-up to the Special Session of the Executive Board on Ebola

Draft decision proposed by the Secretariat

Further to the submission of the reports on 2014 Ebola virus disease outbreak and follow-up to the Special Session of the Executive Board on Ebola (documents A68/24, A68/25, A68/26 and A68/27), the Health Assembly is invited to consider the following draft decision.

The Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly, having recalled the resolution adopted by the Executive Board in its Special Session of 25 January 2015,¹

Interim assessment

- Welcomed the preliminary report of the Ebola Interim Assessment Panel appearing in document A68/25;
- Thanked the Ebola Interim Assessment Panel for its work to date;
- Requested the Ebola Interim Assessment Panel to continue its work, and to issue a final report to be made available to the Director-General not later than 31 July 2015.

International Health Regulations (2005)

- Requested the Director-General to establish a Review Committee under the International Health Regulations (2005) to examine the role of the International Health Regulations (2005) in the Ebola outbreak and response, with the following objectives:
 - to assess the effectiveness of the International Health Regulations (2005) with regard to the prevention of, preparedness for and response to the Ebola outbreak, with a particular focus on notification and related incentives, temporary recommendations, additional measures, declaration of a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and national core capacities;
 - to assess the status of implementation of recommendations from the previous Review Committee in 2011² and related impact on the current Ebola outbreak;

¹ Resolution EBSS3.R1.

² See document A64/10.

- to recommend steps to improve the functioning, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of the International Health Regulations (2005) and to strengthen preparedness and response for future emergencies with health consequences, with proposed timelines for any such steps.
- Requested the Director-General to convene the International Health Regulations (2005) Review Committee in July 2015, and to report on its progress to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly in May 2016;
- Agreed to support west and central African States and other at-risk States to achieve full implementation International Health Regulations (2005) by June 2019;
- Endorsed the proposal of the Ebola Interim Assessment Panel that peer review or other equivalent external validation be part of any assessment of the status of national core capacities under the International Health Regulations (2005).

Global health emergency workforce

- Welcomed and concurred with the Director-General’s conceptual plan for a Global Health Emergency Workforce to respond to acute or protracted risks and emergencies with health consequences;
- Requested the Director-General to report on progress on the establishment, coordination and management of the Global Health Emergency Workforce to the Executive Board at its 138th session in January 2016.

Contingency fund

- **[Welcomed the parameters described in document A68/26, which include the guiding principles that must govern the fund, such as: size, scope, sustainability, operations, sources of financing and accountability mechanisms;] (Panama)**
- Decided to create a **[specific,] (Finland) [revolving] (Egypt)** contingency fund

[merging the existing two WHO funds¹,] (Finland)

with a target capitalization of US\$ 100 million **[[in fully flexible funds] / [, fully funded by flexible voluntary contributions] (Spain, Portugal, Italy),**

[so as to provide enhanced response to all possible concurrent emergencies] (Egypt)

to reliably[, transparently and in an accountable manner, including financial reporting, and applying the principles and practices of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence of good humanitarian donorship in its use,] (Finland)

¹ [WHO’s Rapid Response Account and WHO-Nuclear Threat Initiative Emergency Outbreak Response Fund.] (Finland)

finance and rapidly scale up WHO's initial response[, **including through other partners, (UK)**

to [[emergencies with health consequences] / **[an escalating health emergency, using the objective criteria set out in the ERF]] (UK)** for a period of **[up to]** three [to six] months [from the start of an emergency of grade 2¹ or higher and to address, if and when necessary, factors that could prevent the escalation of a given emergency or risk] **(UK)**;

- Decided that the Contingency Fund would be under the authority of the Director-General [, **or his or her delegate] (UK)**, with disbursement at his or her discretion;
- **[Requested the Director-General to establish a mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of the operations of the contingency fund.] (Panama)**
- Thanked Member States for contributions already committed to the Contingency Fund;
- Requested the Director-General to approach donors to encourage contribution to the Contingency Fund, including through the next round of the Financing Dialogue;
- Requested the Director-General to report on the performance of the Contingency Fund, including amount raised and spent, and for what purpose, to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly in May 2016, through the Executive Board at its 138th session in January 2016.
- **[Requested the Director-General, in consultation with the Executive Board, to establish procedures for transparency and submission of accounts.] (Panama, Argentina, Mexico)**
- **Requested the Director-General to prioritize in-field operations in affected countries when using contingency fund. (Panama, Mexico)**

Research and development

- Appreciated the key coordination role played by WHO for ongoing work in development of vaccines, diagnostics and medicines for the Ebola virus disease;
- Endorsed the development of a framework for advancing research and development of medical products for other infectious diseases of epidemic potential, taking into account other relevant work streams within WHO.

Health systems strengthening

- Welcomed the development of the robust, costed national health system recovery plans for Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, which were presented at the World Bank Spring Meetings on 17 April 2015, as the basis for donor coordination and strategic investments;
- Requested WHO to continue its coordination role in support of national administrations as they prepare for the United Nations Secretary General's high-level pledging conference on Ebola, to be held on 10 July 2015;

¹ [As per the criteria articulated in WHO's Emergency Response Framework.]

- Acknowledged the leadership shown by the Ministries of Health of the three countries in focusing, with support of WHO country offices, on early recovery through emphases on infection prevention and control, reactivation of essential services, immediate health workforce priorities and integrated disease surveillance;
- Requested the Director-General to continue and enhance the work of the Organization in supporting Member States to be better prepared to respond to emergencies with health consequences by strengthening national health systems.

Way forward

- Welcomed the Director-General's commitment to reform the work of WHO in emergencies with health consequences;
- Requested the Director-General to report on progress on these reforms, and on the other decisions taken herein, to the Executive Board at its 138th session in January 2016.

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