

2014 Ebola virus disease outbreak and follow-up to the special session of the Executive Board on Ebola: options for a contingency fund to support WHO's emergency response capacity

Report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly

1. The Committee welcomed the proposal for the establishment of a WHO contingency fund to support WHO's initial response to emergencies.
2. The Committee stressed that the contingency fund should be used to catalyse the initial phase of WHO's emergency response, limited to a duration of up to three months from the start of an emergency.
3. The Committee advised that it is appropriate that the activation trigger be linked to the principles of WHO's emergency response framework, rather than a strict Grade 2 grading, in order to allow the fund to be used to prevent further escalation.
4. The Committee took note of the Secretariat's clarification of the relationship between the contingency fund and:
 - (i) WHO's programme budget, noting that the contingency fund aims to support the Outbreak and crisis response component of WHO's programme budget;
 - (ii) existing funds at WHO headquarters, namely, the Rapid Response Account and the WHO-Nuclear Threat Initiative Emergency Outbreak Response Fund, noting that these will be merged with the contingency fund; and
 - (iii) the Regional Funds, noting that these emergency funds fulfil a different purpose to that of the contingency fund, and are funded through amounts set aside from the respective regional programme budgets.

5. The Committee emphasized the need to ensure sustainability of the fund, and supported the need for transparency and regular reporting and review on use of the funds to facilitate replenishment and sustainability.

6. The Committee requested the Secretariat to revise the draft decision point on the contingency fund proposed in document A68/51, taking into account the amendments proposed by Committee members, and to make those proposals available to the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly in order to further advance debate on this item.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

7. The Committee, on behalf of the Executive Board, recommended that the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly consider the proposed revisions to the draft decision point.

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