
Report of the Executive Board on its 139th and 140th sessions

1. The Executive Board held its 139th session on 30 and 31 May 2016 and its 140th session from 23 to 31 January 2017. This report summarizes the main outcomes of the two sessions.

139TH SESSION (30 AND 31 MAY 2016)

2. The Board decided to request the development of a draft global action plan on the **public health response to dementia**, with clear goals and targets, for consideration by the Seventieth World Health Assembly, through the Executive Board at its 140th session (see paragraph 19 below). The Board also resolved to recommend the Seventieth World Health Assembly to request the development of an action plan for **prevention of deafness and hearing loss**.

3. Noting the report on the process for the **election of the Director-General**, the Board designated a date in November 2016 for the candidates' forum. It also decided that the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee would conduct the **review of non-State actors** applying to be in official relations and of renewals, having noted the report of the Committee's twenty-fourth meeting. It also noted the reports on **improving access to assistive technology**; an **update on the eleventh revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems**; **the use of mobile wireless technologies for public health**; **the annual report on evaluation**; the meetings of five **expert committees**; and the **statement by the representative of the WHO staff associations**. The Board also noted the report on health and climate change, requesting the Secretariat to report regularly on progress in implementing the workplan for WHO's provision of technical support. The Board appointed members to fill the vacant positions on the **Programme, Budget and Administration Committee** and **foundation committees and selection panels**.

140TH SESSION (23–31 JANUARY 2017)

4. The Board adopted an **agenda** with 46 items and 57 accompanying documents. Throughout the session, the Board adopted nine resolutions and 16 decisions.

5. After considering options for the conduct of the election to the **post of Director-General**, the Board decided to use a paper-based voting system for its nomination process and recommended that the Health Assembly follow the same approach for the appointment of the Director-General. The Board then met in private meetings, before announcing the names of the three candidates whose nomination was submitted to the Seventieth World Health Assembly. It also adopted a resolution submitting the draft contract for the Director-General to the Health Assembly, recommending its adoption.

Technical and health matters

Preparedness, surveillance and response

6. Under the agenda items on **health emergencies** and **implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)**, the Board noted the report of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme and the reports on WHO's response in severe, large-scale emergencies, on health workforce coordination in emergencies with health consequences, and on research and development for potentially epidemic diseases. Concerns were expressed about the funding gap for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme. The Board agreed that the Secretariat would revise the draft plan for global implementation of the recommendations of the Review Committee on the Role of the International Health Regulations (2005) in the Ebola Outbreak and Response in the light of the Board's comments before its submission to the Seventieth World Health Assembly.

7. The Board noted the report on **antimicrobial resistance** and the work to identify priorities for research and development. Member States expressed strong support for the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance and the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on antimicrobial resistance; WHO would continue to work closely with the United Nations Secretary-General on coordination. Under the same agenda item the Board also considered and noted a report on improving the **prevention, diagnosis and clinical management of sepsis**, adopting a resolution on the subject, which inter alia called for greater awareness of the risk and public health impact of sepsis.

8. Having noted the reports on **poliomyelitis** and an update of WHO **human resources** funded by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, the Board adopted a decision. Inter alia it emphasized the need for an effective endgame effort to eradicate polio and effective transition planning, and it requested the Director-General to prepare for Member States both a report that outlines the programmatic, financial and human-resource-related risks resulting from the current winding down and eventual discontinuation of the Initiative, and an update on actions taken and planned to mitigate those risks while ensuring that essential polio-related functions are maintained.

9. The Board also noted the reports on the review of the **Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework** and the **public health implications of the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol** in the context of the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005). It also decided to extend the provisions of decision EB131(2) (2012) and to request the Director-General to draft a new proposal for the division of resources between preparedness and response and to continue consultations on access to pathogens and sharing of benefits. The Board also agreed that the Secretariat should consolidate and combine the various regular reports to the governing bodies on the items under discussion.

Health systems

10. The Board noted the report on **human resources for health and implementation of the outcome of the United Nations' High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth**. Members recognized the need to implement the immediate actions recommended by the Commission. In a decision it adopted, the Board requested the Director-General to submit a five-year action plan to support implementation of those recommendations.

11. The Board's comments on the report on **principles for global consensus on the donation and management of blood, blood components and medical products of human origin**, which it noted, and the results of further consultations would be taken into account in revising the report, and in particular the wording of the principles, for submission to the Seventieth World Health Assembly. The Board decided to expand the scope of the agenda item on **global shortages of medicines and vaccines to include access to medicines**. That report would also be updated in the light of the Board's comments for the Health Assembly.

12. Having noted the report on **evaluation and review of the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property**, the Board decided to approve the proposed terms of reference of the overall programme review of the strategy and plan of action. It also requested the submission to the Seventy-first World Health Assembly of information on funding requirements and potential costs of recommendations stemming from that review.

13. The Board noted both the report on **follow-up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination** and the **terms of reference of the expert committee on health research and development** submitted by the Secretariat.

14. The Board considered and noted the report of the fifth meeting of the **Member State mechanism on substandard/spurious/falsely-labelled/falsified/counterfeit medical products**. It endorsed the definitions set out in the report and decided to recommend that the Health Assembly confirm that endorsement and use the term "substandard and falsified medical products" in the name of the Member State mechanism. That term should also be used in all future documentation on the subject of medical products of this type.

15. The Board took note of the report on **promoting the health of refugees and migrants** and adopted a decision that was the outcome of extensive informal discussions. The Board requested the Director-General to undertake several actions, including, most immediately, the preparation through a consultative process of a draft framework of priorities and guiding principles to promote the health of refugees and migrants, to be considered by the Seventieth World Health Assembly.

Communicable diseases

16. Although the Board noted the report on the **global vaccine action plan**, it did not reach consensus on a draft resolution. Instead it agreed to further consultations among Member States with a view of submission of an agreed text to the Seventieth World Health Assembly.

17. The Board welcomed the renewed attention to vector control. After noting the report on **global vector control response**, it agreed that the Secretariat would draft a resolution for consideration by the Seventieth World Health Assembly.

Noncommunicable diseases

18. Having considered the report on **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**, the Board recommended a draft resolution for the consideration of the Health Assembly.

19. The Board decided to recommend that the Seventieth World Health Assembly endorse **the draft global action plan on the public health response to dementia (2017–2025)**.

20. In its discussion of **revitalizing physical activity for health**, the Board agreed that the Secretariat should prepare a report and draft action plan on physical activity to be submitted, through the Board at its 142nd session, for consideration by the Seventy-first World Health Assembly.

21. The Board noted the reports on the **public health dimension of the world drug problem** and the draft implementation plan to guide further action on the recommendations in the **Report of the Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity**. Although it noted the report on **cancer prevention and control in the context of an integrated approach**, the best efforts of an informal working group were insufficient to reach consensus on a draft resolution. It was agreed that discussion on paragraphs on which agreement had not been reached would continue before the Seventieth World Health Assembly.

Promoting health through the life course

22. The Board noted the report on **progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. The draft road map in the report on the **role of the health sector in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond**, which the Board noted, would be updated in the light of comments made by Member States between the Board's session and the Seventieth World Health Assembly.

23. The Board noted the report on **the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health**, with its focus on adolescents' health. For submission to the Health Assembly, the report would be revised in the light of the Board's comments, updated with information about progress in implementation of the Global Strategy, cover the monitoring of the indicators in the Monitoring Framework, and expanded with a section on the High-level Working Group on Health and Human Rights of Women, Children and Adolescents.

Programme and budget matters

24. The Board noted the report by the Secretariat providing an update on the financing and implementation of the **Programme budget 2016–2017**. After an extensive discussion covering issues such as financial sustainability, transparency, accountability and prioritization, it was agreed that the Secretariat would take into consideration the Board's comments and concerns in finalizing the **Proposed programme budget 2018–2019** for consideration by the present Health Assembly. The Secretariat would also elicit further comments through intersessional consultations.

Financial matters

25. The Board adopted the scale of assessments for 2018–2019.

Management and governance matters

26. The Board considered and noted the report on an **overview of WHO reform implementation**. Member States provided guidance on the report on **Governance reform: follow-up to decision WHA69(8) (2016)**, which was based on the agreed recommendations of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Meeting on Governance Reform in 2016, and which was noted by the Board.

27. After noting the two reports on **engagement with non-State actors**, including the review of one third of the non-State actors in official relations with WHO, the Board adopted a decision on the outcome of that review, including the admission into and discontinuance of those relations with several bodies.

28. Having considered the reports of the various selection panels or prize committees concerned, the Board awarded four **foundation or health prizes**.

Staffing matters

29. The Board appointed Dr Mahmoud Fikri as **Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean**, expressing its gratitude and appreciation to Dr Ala Din Alwan, the outgoing Regional Director, for his contribution to the work of WHO.

30. The Board confirmed **amendments to Staff Rules** concerning the revised compensation package, related entitlements, and salaries for staff. The Board could not reach consensus on the issues surrounding the extension of the mandatory age of separation to 65 years for serving staff members, and decided to defer further consideration to its 141st session.

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