

White paper on governance reform- Parts 1 and 2 (FOR INFORMATION)

The Executive Board at its 143rd session took up agenda item 4.1 WHO reform: governance and considered several proposals¹. The Chairperson identified the following proposals appearing under Part 1 as “low hanging fruit” that would not require any changes to the Rules of Procedure and the Executive Board agreed that the Secretariat should proceed in implementing the proposals.

Part 1

- a) The Chairperson should exercise his or her discretion to ensure an effective and efficient discussion, including with respect to the time allotted for statements. Both Executive Board Members and non-Members should have the opportunity to speak. Member States need adequate and timely notice of allocation of time for interventions.
- b) Officers of the Board may meet in person and as needed to carry out their mandate, with careful consideration to cost implications. Consistent with current practice, notes for the record of any such meetings would be made available on the WHO website.
- c) WHO should track and share information on gender balance in relation to the officers and presiding officers of governing bodies meetings.
- d) The Secretariat should provide in advance of each session a document listing each agenda item, outlining the corresponding action requested of the Board. In consultation with the EB Bureau, the Secretariat should propose how each item will be handled. The Secretariat would also provide more detail in its reports regarding the action requested, such as by outlining specific questions or identifying the points on which guidance is requested and relevant timeframes.
- e) The Secretariat develop a more robust methodology for accurately determining the resource implications of proposed resolutions and decisions.
- f) Future governing body meetings will be paperless, unless documents are ordered in advance. The Secretariat should identify potential cost implications of possible ways forward, such as providing ipads.

In addition, the Chairperson further identified the following items appearing under Part 2 as “low hanging fruit” that would require changes to the Rules of Procedure. The Executive Board adopted [decision EB143\(7\)](#), which amended the rules of procedure of the Executive Board and recommended to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly a draft decision on amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly.

- a) Proposal to replace gender-specific language with gender-neutral language throughout the Rules of Procedure, as appropriate to each language version.
- b) Proposal to allow for the possibility of electronic voting, where appropriate systems are secure, available, on the understanding that provision for electronic voting should in no way be seen as compromising the consensus-based approach usually taken by WHO’s governing bodies.
- c) Proposal to amend the Rules of Procedure so as to establish a process for consideration of credentials that relies on the scanned copy of credentials uploaded onto the Secretariat’s online registration system or hard copy originals of credentials.
- d) Proposal to amend the Rules of Procedure so as to clarify that only delegates and alternates may be designated to vote in plenary meetings of the Health Assembly, while any member of the delegation may be designated to vote in committee meetings.

¹ see documents EB143/2 and EB143/3 at http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_eb143.html

- e) Proposal to make provision in the Rules of Procedure for a “motion to suspend the debate” on an item under discussion.
- f) Proposal to rename “open” meetings of the Board as “private”, to align the terminology with that of the Health Assembly.