

Chair's Summary and Proposed Way Forward

Informal consultation on governance reform, 12-13 September 2018

Outcome of discussions on items "A" through "F" of the document "Governance reform – Paper for consultation with Members States"

On item A - Preparation of the agenda of the World Health Assembly by the Executive Board

- In light of the views expressed by delegations, the proposal for an explanatory memorandum seems to enjoy consensus along the following lines:
 1. Under this proposal, any item proposed for inclusion on the provisional agenda of the Health Assembly to be prepared by the Board in January, would have to be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum.
 2. From a practical point of view, it is proposed that memoranda should be received no later than 4 weeks before the opening of the January Board session. They should also be limited to 500 words in order to facilitate translation into all the other official languages and timely distribution.
 3. In January, such explanatory memoranda would support the Board in preparing the provisional agenda of the Health Assembly.
 4. The Secretariat will present revised draft amendments to the relevant rules of procedure of the World Health Assembly, reflecting what I have just outlined, at the consultation in October.
- Some level of support was also expressed for introducing the same requirement for supplementary items proposed under Rules 11 and 12 of the Health Assembly's rules. That is to say, any supplementary item proposed after the January Board session would also have to be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum. Such explanatory memoranda would support the General Committee in making recommendations to the Plenary on the Health Assembly's agenda
- With reference to Options 1 and 2, I will try and elaborate, with the assistance of the Secretariat, a proposal for a way forward to be considered at the consultation in October.

On item B - Time-limits for tabling draft resolutions and/or decisions to the Executive Board or World Health Assembly

In light of the views expressed by delegations, the following proposals seem to enjoy some level of support:

1. Firstly, the proposal to *encourage* Member States to submit draft resolutions and/or decisions at least 15 days before the opening of a regular session of the Board or Health Assembly and, in any case, no later than the first day, as required by the current rules.
 - a. So, early submission of draft resolutions and decisions would be encouraged as a matter of good governance but would not become mandatory under the rules of procedure.
 - b. The Secretariat will present revised draft amendments to the relevant rules of procedure of the Board and Health Assembly, reflecting what I have just described, at the next consultation in October.
2. Secondly, the proposal to provide the Health Assembly with the authority to exceptionally permit the late introduction of draft resolutions and/or decisions, even beyond the first day of the regular session, an authority that the Board already enjoys under the rules. To this end, Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly would have to be amended in order to read, at the end, that “the Health Assembly may, if it deems it appropriate, permit the late introduction of proposals.”

On item C - Alignment of the terminology used in the Rules of Procedure of the governing bodies with that used in the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors

While some delegations conveyed support for the proposal outlined in the consultation paper, other delegations did not support it. At the Chairperson’s request, the Secretariat will prepare a document to support and advance discussions on this matter at the October consultation.

On item D - Submission of written statements in lieu of/in addition to the delivery of oral interventions

Delegations present conveyed support for continuing to follow the current practice under which Member States can submit written statements for posting on a dedicated WHO webpage in the language of submission, without such statements being included in the official records of the governing bodies. The existing disclaimer will remain.

Furthermore, delegations expressed support for the following proposals:

1. First, the proposal to align the duration of publication on the website of written statements submitted by Member States and those submitted by non-State actors in official relations.
2. Secondly, the proposal to request the Secretariat to develop “guidelines” or a code of conduct for Member States to be applied before posting a written statement on the dedicated website.

On item E - Participation of non-State actors in governing body meetings

Several suggestions were made to allow for more meaningful and effective participation of non-State actors in the governing bodies. The discussions held during EB 143 about time allocation for statements for EB members and non-members is also relevant for better

organizing NSA's participation in such meetings. The idea of a "forum" of non-State actors that could potentially take place before the Health Assembly session in May was also raised. Another suggestion is to allow NSAs to present their positions on WHA's agenda items before WHA meetings, in a dedicated website.

The Secretariat will prepare a document to support and advance discussions on this matter at the October consultation.

On item F - Methods of work of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board

The Secretariat is to prepare a technical paper on streamlining reporting of resolutions and decisions and agenda management for our consideration in October. This paper should set out the possible scope, criteria, methodology and objectives of the sunseting exercise, as well as options on how to streamline draft resolutions and decisions presented to governing bodies.