



152nd WHO Executive Board Meeting | 30/01 – 07/02/2023 | Geneva

Agenda Item 20: Budget and finance matters

Statement of Belgium

Belgium aligns itself with the statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

We warmly thank the secretariat for the draft proposed programme budget 2024-2025 and its efforts for more transparency and a more user-friendly presentation. We also commend the secretariat on the timely presentation of the draft budget.

Belgium especially welcomes that the proposed programme budget takes into account a first 20% increase of the assessed contributions, implementing the landmark decision of the 75th WHA. As the proposed base programmes budget in this draft is equivalent to the 2022-2023 revised programme budget, this increase marks a first but significant step towards a more sustainably funded WHO.

We look forward to further pursuing the progressive increase in assessed contributions until they constitute half of the base budget in the biennium 2030-2031, such as agreed by all Member States. This will increase predictability and sustainability of WHO funding.

With this important shift in funding, we hope that WHO will be able to address the “pockets of poverty” that are still very much present. This will allow WHO to fully finance the implementation of the GPW.

We would like to raise the attention in particular to one of those pockets, namely Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights-related research, policy development and service delivery. The gaps in this field continue to cause an enormous burden of disease and deaths at national and global level, but it is only mentioned once in the document presenting the draft Programme-budget. We sincerely hope that increased sustainable funding can remediate the funding gap for this particular field of work.