

WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATIONORGANISATION MONDIALE  
DE LA SANTÉ

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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## PROCEDURE FOR EXAMINING THE REPORTS OF EXPERT COMMITTEES

Note by the Director-General

The method adopted by the Executive Board for the consideration of the reports of Expert Committees and the implications of any such procedure on the relationship of the World Health Assembly to these reports after they had been dealt with by the Board, are matters of very great importance. It may appear to the Board that whatever detailed procedure may be adopted, the following principles might well be observed:

(1) Any comments by the Board under Article 28(e) and (h) of the Constitution and by inference under Articles 38, 39 and 40, on the work of these Expert Committees should be a corporate opinion of the Board rather than a majority, minority or individual opinion. For this reason it would appear desirable that the comments of the Executive Board to be included in the reports as published should take the form of a resolution duly voted upon.

(2) It would appear desirable that the World Health Assembly should treat the reports of Expert Committees, including the comments of the Executive Board, as one of their major sources of information in arriving at their decisions rather than as propositions to be debated or items on the agenda on which decisions have to be taken.

(3) If the Board believes its comments might ever take the form of severe criticism amounting even to recommendations for changes, then it would appear wise for the Board to debate the question of the procedure for sending a report back to a Committee for reconsideration in the light of new circumstances of which the Expert Committee may have been unaware.