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## Report of the Executive Board on its 133rd and 134th sessions

1. The Executive Board held its 133rd session on 29 and 30 May 2013 and its 134th session from 20 to 25 January 2014. This report summarizes the main outcomes.

### 133RD SESSION (29 AND 30 MAY 2013)

2. The Board recommended to the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly the adoption of a resolution on **comprehensive and coordinated efforts for the management of autism spectrum disorders**, and adopted a resolution on **psoriasis**. It noted the report on the evaluation of the **global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property** and endorsed the proposed continuation of work.

3. The Board confirmed **amendments to the Staff Rules** concerning the effective date of amendments, unused annual leave and retirement, and appointed two new members of the **Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee**. It further noted reports on the eighteenth meeting of the **Programme, Budget and Administration Committee, evaluation** (annual report), the **corporate risk register**, and **meetings of five expert committees** as well as the **statement by the representative of the WHO staff associations**.

### 134TH SESSION (20–25 JANUARY 2014)

4. Despite the length and complexity of the **agenda**, the Board agreed to include two supplementary agenda items (making a total of 52 items) and decided that evening meetings would be necessary.

### WHO reform

5. Members acknowledged the progress made in WHO reform and welcomed the report of the second stage of the **independent evaluation** and its recommendations. A revised version of the **reform implementation plan** will be submitted to the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly.

6. The Board recommended that the Health Assembly decide to introduce webcasting of the proceedings of its main committees, approve exploration of an electronic voting system for the election of the Director-General, and amend its Rules of Procedure regarding proposals relating to agenda items. It also approved the proposal to webcast future public meetings of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee and sessions of the Executive Board. It requested the Director-General to continue work on improving **communication with Member States**.

7. The Board decided that, whenever possible, a document tabulating the **financial and administrative implications** for the Secretariat of the adoption of draft resolutions being considered at a session should be prepared and issued in advance of governing body meetings. The projected financial and administrative costs for the Secretariat of the resolutions adopted by the Board at its 133rd session were US\$ 2.95 million for the biennium 2014–2015, of which US\$ 1.80 million would have to be mobilized. At its 134th session, the Board adopted 20 resolutions, 14 recommending draft resolutions to the Health Assembly for consideration or adoption, and six decisions with cost implications. The projected costs to the Secretariat for the biennium 2014–2015 were US\$ 202.1 million, of which US\$ 37.8 million were not included in the Programme budget 2014–2015.<sup>1</sup>

8. In the discussion of **engagement with non-State actors** and the proposed framework, the Board noted the report, supported the five principles of engagement, and requested the Director-General to organize an informal consultation with Member States on WHO's engagement with non-State actors.

9. The Board affirmed the importance of the **financing dialogue**, endorsed the establishment of a working group on **strategic resource allocation**, and agreed to extend the twentieth meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee in May 2014 in order to allow for full consideration of the matter.

## **Technical and health matters**

### *Communicable diseases*

10. The Board noted the report on the global strategy and targets for **tuberculosis prevention, care and control after 2015**. It recommended the Health Assembly to adopt the global strategy and targets. In the discussion of the report on the **global vaccine action plan**, many speakers underlined the importance of good-quality data.

### *Noncommunicable diseases*

11. The Board noted the report on the **follow-up to the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases**. It endorsed the nine indicators for the WHO global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases (2013–2020) and recommended their adoption by the Health Assembly. It forwarded to the Health Assembly the report of the formal meeting of Member States on the terms of reference of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, and requested the Director-General to convene a second formal meeting of Member States on the global coordination mechanism before the end of April 2014.

12. The Board noted the advances made in **maternal, infant and young child nutrition** and recommended a decision to endorse seven indicators for monitoring progress. The Board also requested the Director-General to establish a working group to develop the core set of indicators as well as an extended set; to convene informal consultations on risk assessment and management tools for conflicts of interest in nutrition; and to work with FAO on preparations for the Second International Conference on Nutrition and the establishment of a joint working group to develop an outcome document for the Conference.

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<sup>1</sup> See document EBPBAC20/2.

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13. The Secretariat assured the Board that its guidance would be taken into account in revising the draft action plan on **disability** for submission to the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly.

#### *Preparedness, surveillance and response*

14. After extensive informal discussions on **viral hepatitis**, the Board adopted a draft resolution for further discussion before adoption by the Health Assembly. The Board welcomed the report and recommendations of **the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework Advisory Group** and noted the report on **implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)**. It also recommended that the Health Assembly adopt an updated version of Annex 7 of the Regulations, in particular relating to vaccination against yellow fever.

15. Recognizing the gravity of the threat posed globally to health by **resistance to antimicrobial agents**, the Board recommended a resolution which included a request to the Director-General to develop a draft global action plan.

16. The Board extensively discussed **poliomyelitis: intensification of the global eradication initiative**, agreed on continued vigilance and expressed its solidarity with health workers engaged in that work.

#### *Promoting health through the life course*

17. The Board adopted a resolution on **the public health impacts of exposure to mercury and mercury compounds: the role of WHO and ministries of public health in the implementation of the Minamata Convention**, which included a request to the Director-General to provide the relevant support for the signature, ratification and implementation of the Convention. It noted the report on **contributing to social and economic development: sustainable action across sectors to improve health and health equity**, and recommended the adoption of a resolution on the subject. Although a draft resolution on **addressing the global challenge of violence, in particular against women and children** had been tabled, more discussions were needed.

18. The Board noted the report and related documents on **monitoring the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals, newborn health and health in the post-2015 United Nations development agenda**, and the **International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management**. Board members provided guidance and suggestions for a global strategy for **ageing and health**.

#### **Health systems**

19. The Board recommended that the Health Assembly adopt resolutions on **traditional medicine** and on the **strengthening of palliative care as a component of integrated treatment within the continuum of care**. It noted the report of the second meeting of the Member State mechanism on **substandard/spurious/falsely-labelled/falsified/counterfeit medical products**.

20. It also recommended that the Health Assembly consider two resolutions on **regulatory system strengthening for medical products** and **access to biotherapeutic products and ensuring quality, safety and efficacy**, in both of which, however, further discussions were needed before the Health Assembly on text that remained in square brackets.

21. Observing the links with resource allocation, the Board recommended adoption of a resolution on **health intervention and technology assessment in support of universal health coverage**. It also recommended a resolution on **access to essential medicines**, which included a request to the Director-General to promote the recognition of the importance of effective national medicines policies. It further recommended the adoption of a resolution on **follow-up of the Recife Political Declaration on Human Resources for Health: renewed commitments towards universal health coverage**.

22. After considering the two reports on the **follow-up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination**, the Board requested the Director-General to start convening meetings to develop plans for the research and development demonstration projects and to mobilize financial resources, to monitor progress in their implementation, and to develop indicators of success to be submitted to the Health Assembly.

### **Staffing matters**

23. The Board appointed Dr Poonam Khetrepal Singh as **Regional Director for South-East Asia**, expressing its gratitude and appreciation to Dr Samlee Plianbangchang for his contribution as Regional Director to the work of WHO. It reappointed Dr Shin Young-soo as **Regional Director for the Western Pacific**.

24. The Board confirmed **amendments to the Staff Rules** concerning the remuneration of staff in the professional and higher grades and the level of the education grant, and recommended that the Health Assembly establish the **salaries of staff in ungraded posts and of the Director-General**. It noted the **statement by the representative of the WHO staff associations** and the **report of the International Civil Service Commission**. With regard to **human resources**, members of the Board expressed concern about the liabilities associated with the extent of the human resources engaged in polio eradication.

### **Management, financial and legal matters**

25. After considering the report on **relations with nongovernmental organizations** and review of one third of all nongovernmental organizations in official relations, the Board decided upon a series of actions. It decided to admit into official relations nine bodies, including, after close examination of information submitted, the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition. Official relations with six nongovernmental organizations were discontinued.

26. The Board noted reports on: **evaluation: update report and proposed workplan for 2014–2015; real estate: update on the Geneva buildings renovation strategy; hosted health partnerships; and follow-up on the report of the Working Group on the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization**. It approved the amended **provisional agenda for the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly**, and decided that the **135th session of the Executive Board** would be held in Geneva on 26 and 27 May 2014.

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