



Provision of time-limit for resolutions

Report by the Director-General

The report of the Executive Board Working Group on the WHO Response to Global Change¹ recommended that the methods of work of the governing bodies (resolution WHA47.14) be streamlined and that to this end, *inter alia*, all resolutions should contain a provision for time-limit. Subsequent resolutions and decisions reinforced the recommendation of the Working Group on Global Change. In his report, the Director-General proposes that the concept of a time-limit be applied retrospectively, as well as prospectively, and that the reporting requirements contained in World Health Assembly or Executive Board resolutions, to date, be reviewed. The Programme Development Committee is invited to consider the methods proposed in this document for the termination of reporting requirements on resolutions that are obsolete or that have outlived their purpose.

BACKGROUND

1. In May 1993, the Executive Board, in resolution EB92.R2, endorsed the concepts and principles of the final report¹ of the Executive Board Working Group on the WHO Response to Global Change which contained, *inter alia*, recommendations on the methods of work of the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly, with the aim of improving procedures. It noted, in particular, that "in many cases ... resolutions contain no time limit for validity (i.e. 'sunset clause') or indication of intended evaluation and reporting on implementation."

2. It then recommended:

*to establish a routine procedure for prior review of all resolutions proposed to the World Health Assembly that have potential impact on the objectives, policy and orientations of WHO, or that have implications in terms of staffing costs, budgetary resources and/or administrative support. The Executive Board and the Director-General will ensure that resolutions proposed to the World Health Assembly are accompanied by the necessary background information, and that the text of the proposed resolutions includes **provision for time limit**, evaluation and reporting, as appropriate [emphasis added].*

¹ See document EB92/1993/REC/1, Annex 1, section 4.2.1.1.

