



Informal consultation on the End-to-end design of the Governing Bodies meeting cycle – Part 2

23 September 2024

Promote **health** | Keep the world **safe** | Serve the **vulnerable**

Decision EB154(3)

Decided:

(1) to request the Director-General, in consultation with Member States and taking note of paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 7 of document EB154/33 Add.1, to hold informal consultations with Member States to further elaborate on the end-to-end design of the governing bodies meeting cycle, including the respective roles of the Executive Board and existing committees, before any further proposals are presented;

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Update on technology projects
3. Presentation on agenda management
4. Reflections on options for and approaches to improving the methods of work of the governing bodies
5. Questions and answers
6. Closing

Technology projects – Mandates on multilingualism

- **Resolution WHA71.15 on Multilingualism:**

- Timely delivery of documents in all official languages

(8) to request the Director-General to take the necessary steps to ensure (...) the timely translation into all official languages of the essential technical information of the Organization and WHO guidelines, whether in written, audiovisual or digital form, making such information more widely accessible without undue delay.

- Proposed actions (A72/53)

20. In response to the request in resolution WHA71.15, the Secretariat is working in cooperation with the United Nations languages services to develop cost-neutral approaches. (...) WHO is also an active participant in the United Nations Semantic Interoperability Framework, a project that is expected to result in gains in the form of more timely production and more accessible governing bodies documentation in all languages.

- **Decision WHA75(8) on Sustainable financing:**

- Proposed actions (EB152/34)

26. Improve multilingualism by providing all documents in all six official languages: pilot the translation of the summary records of one meeting, to be completed with an evaluation of its acceptability.

Technology projects - Multilingualism

1. WHO's language services have deployed **UN's purpose-built tools** to maximize the benefits technology offers in terms of automating the more repetitive aspects of document processing
2. Systematic use of **AI translation** by the professional translators
3. Pilot is being scheduled to provide **summary records** with the use of AI translation in one meeting

Technology projects – Mandates on governance reform

- **Decision EB153(2) on matters emanating from the AMSTG on strengthening WHO's governance**
 - (e) when addressing the Task Group's recommendations, to develop a project plan, with associated costs for the implementation of digital solutions for governing bodies services' interactions with Member States, including an option for a **searchable online database of WHO resolutions and decisions.**
- **Decision WHA69(8) on Governance reform:**
 - Improvement of information technology tools for better access
 - (6) to request the Director-General to continue strengthening, and making more user-friendly, the use of existing and new information technology tools in order to improve timely and cost-effective **access to governing body meetings and documentation**, both pre- and post-session (...)
 - **Agenda management**
 - (1) to request that the Director General develop a six-year, forward-looking planning schedule of expected agenda items for the Executive Board, (..) based on standing items, requirements established by decisions and resolutions of the governing bodies (...)
- **Decision EB152(15) on recommendations of the AMSTG on strengthening WHO's governance**
 - (e) to develop a project plan with associated costs for the **implementation of digital solutions for governing bodies services'** interactions with Member States, including the **proposed digital portal**;

Technology projects – Governance reform

1. Portal of governing bodies **resolutions and decisions** (WHA, EB, RC's) which facilitates **enhanced search** and long-term preservation.
2. Online mandate tracking tool to **support agenda management**
3. Business Case on GBS' digital transformation focused on the following outputs:
 - a) An adequate **tool for Contact Management and official correspondence**, as the basis for management of broader engagement.
 - b) A **community portal** that provides Member States with a one-stop service for the Governing Bodies

Governing body meeting agendas

Number of items:

Year	EB	No. of items	WHA	No. of items
2024	EB154	48	WHA77	71
2023	EB152	54	WHA76	71
2022	EB150	55	WHA75	74
2021	EB148	48	WHA74	77
2020	EB146	57	WHA73	61
2019	EB144	47	WHA72	65
2018	EB142	36	WHA71	58
2017	EB140	58	WHA70	77
2016	EB138	59	WHA69	75
2015	EB136	58	WHA68	72

Governing body meeting agendas

Number of items, accounting for bullet points:

Year	EB	No. of items (bullet points)	WHA	No. of items
2024	EB154	48 (7) = 55	WHA77	71
2023	EB152	54 (19)= 73	WHA76	71
2022	EB150	55 (7 +10)= 72	WHA75	74
2021	EB148	48 (12)= 60	WHA74	77
2020	EB146	57 (5)= 63	WHA73	61
2019	EB144	47 (16)= 62	WHA72	65
2018	EB142	36 (8)= 44	WHA71	58
2017	EB140	58 (7)= 65	WHA70	77
2016	EB138	59 (11)= 70	WHA69	75
2015	EB136	58 (4)= 62	WHA68	72

Governing body meeting agendas

Number of items, accounting for resolutions and decisions:

Year	EB	No. of items (bullet points)	Resolutions	Decisions
2024	EB154	48 (7) = 55	9	23 =32
2023	EB152	54 (19)= 73	7	29 =36
2022	EB150	55 (7 +10)= 72	9	23 =32
2021	EB148	48 (12)= 60	6	19 =25
2020	EB146	57 (5)= 63	10	29 =39
2019	EB144	47 (16)= 62	12	15 =27
2018	EB142	36 (8)= 44	9	17 =26
2017	EB140	58 (7)= 65	9	16 =25
2016	EB138	59 (11)= 70	13	12 =25
2015	EB136	58 (4)= 62	15	20 =35

Governing body meeting agendas

Number of items, days and evening sessions:

Year	WHA	No. of items	No. of days	No. of evening sessions
2024	WHA77	71	6	11
2023	WHA76	71	8	4
2022	WHA75	74	6	9
2021	WHA74	77	8	1
2020 (<i>de minimus + resumed sessions</i>)	WHA73	61	(2+6)	-
2019	WHA72	65	8	2
2018	WHA71	58	6	3

Governing body meeting agendas

Number of resolutions/decision with reporting requirements:

Year	WHA	No. of items	No. of resolutions/ decisions	No. with reporting requirements
2024	WHA77	71	17/20	20
2023	WHA76	71	19/23	23
2022	WHA75	74	20/25	22
2021	WHA74	77	17/30	18
2020 (<i>de minimus + resumed sessions</i>)	WHA73	61	10/33	19
2019	WHA72	65	16/24	17
2018	WHA71	58	16/16	18

WHA Decisions on reporting

Decision WHA72(22)WHO reform- decided that resolutions and decisions should provide for clear reporting requirements, including reporting cycles of up to six years, with biennial reports, unless otherwise advised by the Director-General.

Decision WHA73(15) WHO reform: governance- decided to request that the Director-General systematically include as substantive items on the agendas of meetings of the WHO governing bodies any global strategies or action plans that are scheduled to expire within one year in order to allow Member States to consider whether global strategies or action plans have fulfilled their mandates, should be extended and/or need to be adjusted.

Decision WHA74(17) WHO reform: governance- decided to “sunset” reporting requirements with unspecified mandates

EB 156 Draft provisional agenda

- 1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Report by the Director-General**
- 3. Report of the regional committees to the Executive Board**
- 4. Report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board**
- 5. Report of the Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response**

Pillar 1: One billion more people benefiting from universal health coverage

- 6. Universal health coverage**
 - Primary health care
- 7. Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases**
 - Reducing the burden of noncommunicable diseases through strengthening prevention and control of diabetes
 - Oral health
 - Comprehensive mental health action plan 2013–2030
 - Global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem and its associated goals and targets for the period 2020–2030

EB 156 Draft provisional agenda

8. Global road map on defeating meningitis by 2030

9. Substandard and falsified medical products

10. Standardization of medical devices nomenclature

11. Health and care workforce

- WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel
- Global strategy on human resources for health: workforce 2030

12. Draft global traditional medicine strategy (2025–2034)

Pillar 2: One billion more people better protected from health emergencies

13. WHO's work in health emergencies

14. Universal health and preparedness review

15. Implementation of resolution WHA75.11 (2022)

16. Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

17. Poliomyelitis

EB 156 Draft provisional agenda

Pillar 3: One billion more people enjoying better health and well-being

18. The impact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health

19. Updated road map for an enhanced global response to the adverse health effects of air pollution

Pillar 4: More effective and efficient WHO providing better support to countries

20. Budget and finance matters

20.1 Financing and implementation of the Programme budget 2024–2025

20.2 Proposed programme budget 2026–2027

20.3 Scale of assessments 2026–2027

20.4 Amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules [if any]

EB 156 Draft provisional agenda

21. Management and governance matters

21.1 Prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment

21.2 Governance reform

- Member State-led governance reform
- Process of handling and investigating potential allegations against WHO Directors-General
- Draft terms of reference to strengthen the effectiveness of the functioning of the Officers of the Executive Board
- Secretariat Implementation Plan on reform

21.3 Global strategies or action plans that are scheduled to expire within one year

- Global strategic directions for nursing and midwifery 2021–2025
- Global strategy on digital health 2020–2025

21.4 Engagement with non-State actors

- Report on the implementation of the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors
- Non-State actors in official relations with WHO

EB 156 Draft provisional agenda

22. Provisional agenda of the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly and date and place of the 157th session of the Executive Board

23. Committees of the Executive Board

23.1 Foundation committees and selection panels

23.2 Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee: membership renewal [if any]

23.3 Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response

24. Staffing matters

24.1 Appointment of the Regional Director for Africa

24.2 Appointment of the Regional Director for Europe

24.3 Statement by the representative of the WHO staff associations

24.4 Report of the Ombudsperson

24.5 Human resources: update

24.6 Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules [if any]

24.7 Report of the International Civil Service Commission

EB 156 Draft provisional agenda

25. Report on meetings of expert committees and study groups

- Expert advisory panels and committees and their membership

26. Closure of the session

Agenda management- recent approaches *(see document EB154/33)*

Length of the Agenda

- Development of criteria for adding new agenda items
- “Sunsetting” reporting requirements
- Discretion of the Chair to postpone discussions on certain items

Management of the discussion

- Briefing notes/advance information on agenda management
- Grouping of items
- Guiding questions

Management of proposals for resolutions and decisions

- Revised deadlines for the submission of resolutions/decisions
- Piloting the new checklist, template and timelines

Other options and approaches for improving the methods of work

- Session length
- Time limits for speaking
- Limits on the length of resolutions/decisions
- Overall structure of discussions pertaining to each pillar

Thank You

Annex: Measures adopted by the governing bodies aimed at improving the methods of work (see document EB154/33) - already implemented (1/3)

- establishing guidelines for written statements submitted to the Executive Board and the Health Assembly (decision EB149(3) (2021) and decision WHA75(12) (2022), respectively));
- setting end dates for reporting on resolutions and decisions with previously unspecified reporting requirements (decisions EB146(21) (2021) and WHA74(17) (2021));
- establishing a process for extending or adjusting global strategies or action plans scheduled to expire within one year (decision WHA73(15) (2020));
- clarifying the process for informal consultations on proposed global strategies and action plans at the regional level (decision WHA73(15) (2020));
- developing a forward-looking planning schedule of proposed agenda items for the Board, its standing committees and the Health Assembly (decision WHA69(8) (2016) and EB144(3) (2019));
- clarifying time limits for tabling draft resolutions and decisions (decisions EB144(3) (2019) and WHA72(22) (2019));

Annex: Measures adopted by the governing bodies aimed at improving the methods of work (see document EB154/33) - already implemented (2/3)

- aligning the terminology used in the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly with that used in the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (decisions EB144(3) (2019) and WHA72(22) (2019));
- allowing for the possibility of submitting credentials electronically (decision WHA72(23) (2019));
- allowing for the possibility of electronic voting for recorded votes (decisions EB143(7) (2018) and WHA72(23) (2019));
- amending the Rules of Procedure to replace or supplement gender-specific language, so as to indicate both feminine and masculine forms in the English language only, and to follow United Nations' practice for the other five official and working languages of WHO's governing bodies (decisions EB144(4) (2019) and WHA72(21) (2019));
- amending the procedure for preparing the agenda of the Health Assembly by the Board and recommending the introduction of a word count limit for the explanatory memorandum referred to in Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly (decision WHA72(22) (2019));

Annex: Measures adopted by the governing bodies aimed at improving the methods of work (see document EB154/33) - already implemented (3/3)

- clarifying that resolutions and decisions should provide for clear reporting requirements, including reporting cycles of up to six years, with biennial reports, unless otherwise advised by the Director-General (decision WHA72(22) (2019));
- clarifying travel entitlements for the Chair of the Executive Board and other Board members (decision WHA73(13) (2020));
- strengthening the involvement of non-State actors in WHO's governing bodies (decision EB150(12) (2022));
- preparing an informal document prior to sessions of the Executive Board and the Health Assembly outlining how items on the agenda are to be handled;
- adopting a silent written procedure to elect a Vice-Chair or Rapporteur between the sessions of the Executive Board (decision EB153(4) (2023));
- providing more detail in governing body reports by the Director-General on the action requested from the governing bodies, including by outlining specific questions or identifying the points on which guidance is requested. A recent, additional step has involved projecting the guiding questions on screen during deliberations on the relevant agenda item.