

Method of work, including a tentative timeline

1. In May 2022, through decision EB151(1) (2022), the Executive Board, taking into consideration the outcome of the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly, in particular the adoption of the recommendations of the Working Group on Sustainable Financing by decision WHA75(8) (2022) and noting that paragraph 40 of those recommendations, established an agile Member States task group on strengthening WHO's budgetary, programmatic and financing governance (the "Task Group").
2. Structurally, the Task Group will operate as a committee of the Executive Board to recommend long-term improvements.¹
3. In line with decision EB151(1), the Task Group determined at its first meeting its method of work and focus, within the mandate identified by the Working Group on Sustainable Financing in its recommendations.² The method of work, with a tentative timeline, based on the relevant provisions of decisions WHA75(8) and EB151(1) and the practices developed in connection with WHO's other intergovernmental processes, is provided in the Annex.

METHOD OF WORK

Objectives

4. The Task Group will:
 - (a) focus on strengthening WHO's budgetary, programmatic and financing governance;³
 - (b) analyse the challenges in governance for transparency, accountability, compliance and efficiency; and

¹ Decision EB151(1), operative paragraph (2).

² Decision EB151(1), operative paragraph (3).

³ The following were identified as possible elements for the Task Group and include, but are not limited to: the role of governing bodies to prioritize topics for inclusion on the provisional agenda of the Health Assembly; enhancing transparency, improving the budgeting process for WHO based on best practices used in the United Nations system, including ways in which the budget is presented; the costing of resolutions and decisions and other initiatives using a results-based approach; the use of guidelines and thresholds for earmarking and of deadlines for achieving the thresholds; exploring inclusion of non-State contributors in accordance with the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors; efficiency gains; guidelines for ensuring equity in resource allocation to all levels and departments of WHO; and standardizing reporting procedures for small donors.

- (c) develop recommendations aimed at long-term improvements, building upon the recommendations of the Working Group on Sustainable Financing as adopted by the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly.

Reporting

- 5. Pursuant to decision EB151(1), the Task Group will report to the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly, through the Executive Board at its 152nd session and the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board at its thirty-seventh meeting in January 2023.

Participation and conduct of business

- 6. The Task Group will be open to all WHO Member States^{1,2} and will work in an inclusive manner.
- 7. The Task Group will conduct its business (including the activities of subgroups, if any) on the basis of consensus and in line with the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.
- 8. To advance its work, the Task Group may decide to seek input through additional short phases of work and frequent reassessment and adaptation of plans, including written submissions and informal consultations (inter alia at the regional level), and/or to pursue discussions on specific topics through informal subgroups in between meetings of the Task Group. Such intersessional work will be open to all interested Member States and a summary of such meetings will be shared with all Member States.

Meetings of the Task Group

- 9. Meetings of the Task Group and informal consultations will be held in hybrid format or virtually, as appropriate.
- 10. The Task Group held its first meeting on 12 and 13 July 2022 to agree on its leadership and determine its method of work, focus and timelines, consistent with decisions EB151(1) and WHA75(8) and based on the principles of inclusiveness, transparency, efficiency, Member State leadership and consensus.
- 11. The Task Group will hold additional meetings with a view to preparing the report to be submitted to the Executive Board at its 152nd session, through the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board at its thirty-seventh meeting. As specified in decision EB151(1), this report will contain recommendations on long-term improvements.
- 12. Additional meetings and consultative processes will be held at the request of the co-facilitators as frequently as necessary.
- 13. The co-facilitators will support the work of the Task Group, for instance by:

¹ Pursuant to Rules 3 and 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, this term shall be read to include Associate Members with respect to the Task Group.

² And regional economic integration organizations, as appropriate.

- (a) facilitating meetings of the Task Group, informal consultations and intersessional work, as necessary;
- (b) making proposals on the way forward to facilitate the overall work of the Task Group; and
- (c) identifying and proposing expert inputs for consideration by the Task Group, as appropriate.

Support from the WHO Secretariat

14. The Secretariat will provide support to the Task Group by:

- (a) convening its meetings at the request of the co-facilitators, as frequently as necessary; and
- (b) furnishing the Task Group with the necessary services and facilities for the performance of its work, including complete, relevant and timely information and advice.

ANNEX

TENTATIVE TIMELINE AND DELIVERABLES

Timeline of meetings and intersessional work	Expected deliverables
First meeting of the Agile Member States Task Group 12 and 13 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agreement on the co-facilitators. – Determination of the method of work and focus of the Task Group, within the mandate identified by the Working Group on Sustainable Financing. – Preliminary consideration of the challenges in governance for transparency, accountability, compliance and efficiency.
July–September 2022	Intersessional work, as needed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A period is opened for the reception by the Secretariat of additional written comments to be shared with fellow Member States^{1,2} unless the author advises otherwise, with a deadline of 14 August 2022. – The Secretariat initially analyses the additional written comments and possible actions arising from them. – The Secretariat initially analyses the challenges (see document EB/AMSTG/1/4 Rev.1) and how to respond to them. The analysis may include progress to date, if any, and address the feasibility of implementation of reforms by the Secretariat.
Second meeting of the Agile Member States Task Group September 2022 (dates to be announced)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Task Group considers the analysis prepared by the Secretariat and agrees on deliverables on what work should be undertaken, with a prioritized approach. – The Secretariat will also provide further information on the actions that lie within the sole remit of the Secretariat, including progress to date. – The Task Group initiates discussion on its first draft of the report to the Executive Board regarding recommendations on the long-term improvements.
September–November 2022	Intersessional work, as needed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Secretariat prepares a draft version of the implementation plan on reforms within its remit, which may be informed by discussions from the second meeting of the Task Group. – The Task Group continues discussions on its preparation of the draft report to the Executive Board at its 152nd session in January 2023 regarding recommendations on the long-term improvements. – Informal consultation sessions are convened, as required.

¹ Pursuant to Rules 3 and 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, this term shall be read to include Associate Members with respect to the Task Group.

² And regional economic integration organizations, as appropriate.

Third meeting of the Agile Member States Task Group November 2022 (dates to be announced)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Task Group considers the draft version of the Secretariat’s implementation plan on reforms within its remit. – The Task Group considers its draft report with recommendations for long-term improvements to be submitted to the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board at its thirty-seventh meeting and the Executive Board at its 152nd session.
January 2023	Programme, Budget and Administration Committee: thirty-seventh meeting
January 2023	Executive Board: 152nd session
February–May 2023	Intersessional work, as needed
May 2023	Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly

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