
Meeting report

1. The Agile Member States Task Group on strengthening WHO's budgetary, programmatic and financing governance ("the Task Group") met in a hybrid format from 12 to 13 July 2022 and was co-facilitated by Mr José Acacio of Australia and Ms Philomena Bawelile Simelane of Eswatini. The Task Group was established by decision EB151(1) (2022) to strengthen WHO's budgetary, programmatic and financing governance, and to analyse challenges in governance for transparency, efficiency, accountability and compliance, and to devise recommendations.
2. The Task Group first considered its method of work, focus and tentative timeline, within the mandate identified by the Working Group on Sustainable Financing in its recommendations. In this regard, the Secretariat provided an overview of a proposed method of work, with a tentative timeline, based on the relevant provisions of decisions WHA75(8) (2022) and EB151(1) and the practices developed in connection with WHO's other intergovernmental processes. Subsequently, both general and specific comments on the proposed method of work, including a tentative timeline, were invited by the co-facilitators. In response, many Member States took the floor to share their views. Following a rich discussion, the Task Group agreed to a revised method of work, including a tentative timeline.¹
3. The Task Group then considered an initial overview of the challenges in governance for transparency, accountability, compliance and efficiency, and the proposed process to come up with recommendations for long-term improvements as proposed in document EB/AMSTG/1/4. In this regard, the Secretariat elaborated on the process it used to generate the overview of challenges, which included consideration of previous governing bodies meetings and other Member State processes. The Secretariat also described work it had undertaken or was under way on some of the actions recommended by the Working Group on Sustainable Financing, including with regard to the feasibility of a replenishment mechanism, strengthening the process to develop the programme budget, including enhancement of priority setting as well as a visual and detailed presentation of the programme budget (including a new approach of modular presentation).
4. The co-facilitators invited the Task Group to consider and provide feedback on the initial overview of challenges in governance for transparency, accountability, compliance and efficiency. Member States noted that the document² prepared by the Secretariat on this provides a helpful starting point for discussions of the Task Group. It was further noted that many areas and elements would require further unpacking and detailed consideration and discussion. Some Member States provided concrete examples of additional challenges and actions that could be added to the list. It was noted that further discussion would be required to clarify those reform elements that are a joint responsibility of Member States and the Secretariat, as well as those that are under the sole remit of the Secretariat.

¹ See document EB/AMSTG/1/3 Rev.1.

² Document EB/AMSTG/1/4 Rev.1.

5. The Task Group was reminded to make use of the designated email address to share any further inputs in writing by 14 August 2022, including any specific proposals that were raised during the discussions at the meeting, linking them, if possible, to the specific challenge they are intended to solve. Member States' written submissions would be received by co-facilitators, and shared with fellow Member States^{1,2} unless the author specified otherwise.

6. The Task Group concluded its discussions and noted that it would meet again in September or early October 2022 to continue its deliberations.

= = =

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.