

Financial period 2006–2007: implementation of resolution WHA58.4

Fourth report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to the Sixtieth World Health Assembly

1. The sixth meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee was held in Geneva on 10 and 11 May 2007 under the chairmanship of Ms J. Halton (Australia).¹
2. The Committee reviewed the reports on implementation of resolution WHA58.4,² submitted as requested by the Health Assembly in that resolution.
3. The Committee noted the progress made in the recently established mechanism for tracking the implementation of audit recommendations, but stressed the need for greater accountability regarding full implementation of such recommendations.
4. Regarding the efficiency initiatives (document A60/43 Add.1), the Committee sought clarification about the US\$ 7 million additional investment required to complete the information technology aspects necessary for the efficient functioning of the new global management system. Clarifications were provided that this investment primarily related to completing the deployment of the Global Private Network telecommunications infrastructure to all offices and to increasing the network's capacity to handle the increased amount of data that would be generated by the global management system. In addition, costs in relation to the hosting of global management system needed to be financed, as well as those for the continued operation of the legacy systems until mid-2009 when the new system will be fully implemented across all WHO offices.
5. These costs were included, in full, in the Programme budget 2006–2007 and, although they have not changed, the required income in 2006–2007 will not be realized, notably because of a shortfall in the Special Account for Servicing Costs, from which this area of work is substantially financed.
6. The Committee asked whether sufficient Miscellaneous Income could be earned, above that required under the terms of resolution WHA58.4, such that a maximum of US\$ 7 million could be spent on these infrastructure costs for the global management system. An explanation was provided that it was expected that sufficient Miscellaneous Income would be generated in the current biennium,

¹ For list of participants, see document A60/41.

² Documents A60/43 and A60/43 Add.1.

owing to exceptional circumstances. The Committee emphasized the risks to the implementation of the new system, if this financing were not available.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

7. The Committee noted that, although investment costs crucial to the successful launch of the global management system were included in the Programme budget 2006–2007 (and that these costs have not changed), the available income was insufficient in 2006–2007 to finance such costs. It further noted that surplus Miscellaneous Income of about US\$ 7 million is expected to be earned in 2006–2007 above the amount required under resolution WHA58.4, being US\$ 31.8 million.

8. After examining on behalf of the Executive Board the report on Financial period 2006–2007: implementation of resolution WHA58.4 contained in document A60/43 Add.1, the Committee recommends to the Sixtieth World Health Assembly adoption of the following resolution:

The Sixtieth World Health Assembly,

Having examined the report on Financial period 2006–2007: implementation of resolution WHA58.4,¹

DECIDES that any surplus Miscellaneous Income in 2006–2007 over and above the initial US\$ 31.8 million authorization specified in resolution WHA58.4 (up to a maximum of US\$ 7 million) may be used for financing crucial information technology and other investment costs relating to the implementation of the global management system.

9. One member of the Committee did not support this recommendation because the proposal was received late and concerned amounts in excess of the amounts contained in the appropriation resolution relevant to the regular budget. It was the view of that member that this did not show budgetary discipline. This view was not held by the rest of the Committee.

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¹ Document A60/43 Add.1.