World Health Organization

Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly

Provisional agenda item 2 A79/2

27 April 2026

Report of the Executive Board on its 157th and 158th sessions

1. The Executive Board held its 157th session from 28 to 29 May 2025 and its 158th session from 2 to 7 February 2026. Both sessions took place with face-to-face meetings. This report summarizes their main outcomes.

157th session (28–29 May 2025)

2. The Board adopted its **agenda** containing 18 items and subitems, with 22 accompanying documents. It adopted three resolutions and 11 decisions.

3. Following discussions, the Board noted the report on the **outcome of the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly**. It also decided to amend Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

4. The Board noted the report of the **forty-second meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee** and the guidance provided therein.

5. The Board further noted the report of the sixth meeting of the **Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response.**

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

6. The Board noted the **annual report on evaluation** and decided to approve the revised WHO evaluation policy (2025). It further noted the report on **improving the effectiveness of the WHO governing bodies** with regard to implementation of the discretionary mandate on the postponement of agenda items. Concurring with the recommendations of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee, the Board noted the report on **matters emanating from the Agile Member States Task Group on Strengthening WHO's Budgetary, Programmatic and Financing Governance**, including the results of the questionnaire on the preparation of draft resolutions and decisions, and the report on **proposals for improving the effectiveness of the governing bodies**.

7. Having noted the report on the **process for the nomination and appointment of Regional Directors**, the Board adopted the draft decision contained therein. It further noted the report on and review of **hosted partnerships**.

8. The Board appointed members to fill the seven vacant positions on the **Programme, Budget and Administration Committee**, five on the **Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response** and three on the **foundation committees and selection panels**. It also appointed its representatives at the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly.

9. Having noted the report on **amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules**, the Board decided to amend Financial Rule 104.4.

10. The Board appointed Dr Mohamed Yakub Janabi as Regional Director for Africa as from 30 June 2025 and expressed its sincere appreciation to Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu for his services as Acting Regional Director for Africa.

11. The Board considered the statement by the **representative of the WHO staff associations** and noted the report on the meetings of three **expert committees** and one **study group**.

158th session (2–7 February 2026)

12. The Board adopted its **agenda** containing 51 items and subitems, with 78 accompanying documents. It adopted eight resolutions and 25 decisions.

13. In his report, the Director-General provided an overview of WHO's achievements under the key priorities of promoting, providing, protecting, powering and performing for health, including the landmark adoption of the WHO Pandemic Agreement and the approved increase in assessed contributions. He also highlighted challenges facing the Organization as a result of significant funding cuts, including the funding shortfall for the base budget for the biennium 2026–2027 and the need to mobilize further resources to secure the Organization's long-term stability, sustainability and independence. Turning to the future of the Organization, he discussed the importance of refocusing on WHO's core mandate and comparative advantage, including through strengthened normative and technical leadership, reformed governance, a reshaped global health ecosystem and reinforced solidarity.

14. The Board noted the report of the **regional committees.**

15. The Board also noted the recommendations contained in the **report of the forty-third meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee** and the **report of the seventh meeting of the Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response.**

Provide health

16. Following a full discussion, the Board noted the report on the **follow-up to the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases** and recommended that the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly adopt a decision welcoming the political declaration of the fourth high-level meeting and requesting support for its implementation. It further recommended that the Health Assembly adopt two resolutions on global action to advance health equity for people with haemophilia and other bleeding disorders, and on steatotic liver disease: a missing piece in the global noncommunicable disease response.

17. The Board noted the report on **mental health**, highlighting the importance of community-based mental healthcare and the need to reduce fragmentation among specialities. Turning to **communicable diseases**, it noted the reports on the **Immunization Agenda 2030**, the **road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030** and the **End TB Strategy** and recommended that the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly adopt a decision requesting the development of a post-2030 tuberculosis strategy.

18. With regard to **universal health coverage**, the Board noted the report on the **draft global strategy for integrated emergency, critical and operative care, 2026–2035** and recommended that the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly adopt the strategy.

19. The Board noted the reports on **increasing availability, ethical access and oversight of transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs**, on **rare diseases: a global health priority for equity and inclusion**, on **primary healthcare** and on **health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. It recommended that the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly adopt a decision on deferring consideration of the proposed global strategy on donation and transplantation to the Eightieth Health Assembly. The Board further recommended that the Health Assembly adopt four resolutions on: precision medicine: a path towards targeted, personalized and equitable care; strengthening equitable access to diagnostic imaging through teleradiology; reducing the burden of stroke: strengthening prevention, acute care, rehabilitation and health system readiness; and advancing smart, efficient pharmacovigilance as an essential tool for robust, sustainable, resilient and responsive health systems, for everyone, everywhere.

20. The Board noted the report on **substandard and falsified medical products** containing the report of the fourteenth meeting of the Member State mechanism on substandard and falsified medical products. Having noted the **report of the Expert Advisory Group on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel**, the Board adopted a decision in which it reiterated its support for the Code and called for its strengthened implementation in line with the Expert Advisory Group's recommendations.

21. The Board further noted the reports on the **draft updated global action plan on antimicrobial resistance 2026–2036** and **harmonization of regulatory approaches, governance and standards for data, digital health and artificial intelligence in the health sector**. It decided that informal intersessional consultations on the draft global action plan on antimicrobial resistance 2026–2036, and specifically on the subject of voluntary and mutually agreed technology transfer, would continue to be facilitated by the Secretariat in an inclusive and transparent manner, with a view to enabling the adoption of the action plan at the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly.

Protect health

22. After a full discussion, the Board noted the reports on **WHO's work in health emergencies**, on **strengthening the evidence base for public health and social measures**, on the **Global Health and Peace Initiative** and on **poliomyelitis**, highlighting the importance of predictable and adequate financing, political commitment and solidarity to sustain polio eradication efforts, as well as the need to increase the evidence base for public health and social measures, emphasize the mutually reinforcing intersection between health and peace, and continue building national health emergency preparedness and response capacities.

23. Following a vote by show of hands, the Board noted the report on the **implementation of resolution WHA75.11 (2022)** and requested the Secretariat to organize an informal intersessional Member State briefing on the matter.

24. The Board noted the report on **health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem**. Following two recorded votes on, respectively, a proposed amendment to the draft resolution on health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and the draft resolution as originally tabled, the Board adopted the original version of the draft resolution, recommending that the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly adopt, mutatis mutandis, the resolution EBSS7.R1 (2023) with some textual amendments.

Promote health

25. The Board discussed and noted the reports on **strengthening rehabilitation in health systems**, on **well-being and health promotion** and on the **outcome of the WHO Commission on Social Connection**. Having noted the report on the **draft global plan of action for the health of Indigenous Peoples**, the Board recommended that the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly adopt a decision on deferring consideration of the draft global plan of action to the Eightieth World Health Assembly in order to allow additional time for further consultations.

26. The Board, having noted the reports on **maternal, infant and young child nutrition** and **economics of health for all**, recommended that the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly adopt the draft strategy on the economics of health for all. It further recommended that the Health Assembly adopt a resolution on radiation and health: strengthening global protection, preparedness and response.

Power and performance

Budget and finance matters

27. Concurring with the recommendations and guidance of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee, the Board noted the report on **financing and implementation of the Programme budget 2024–2025 and outlook on the Programme budget 2026–2027**.

Management and governance matters

28. The Board concurred with the guidance of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee and noted the reports on **prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment**, the **evaluation: update and proposed workplan for 2026–2027**, and the **update on the Infrastructure Fund**, specifically the Geneva buildings renovation strategy and an update on information management and technology. It decided to approve the Organization-wide evaluation workplan for 2026–2027.

29. Having noted the reports on **Member State-led governance reform**, the Board adopted an amended decision on piloting agreed reform measures led by the Officers of the Executive Board. It also adopted a decision on a sustainable model for Member State-led governance reform.

30. The Board further noted the reports on the **Secretariat implementation plan on reform**, including on **Cost recovery mechanisms for voluntary contributions**, the **template and recommended timeline for proposing resolutions and decisions**, and **implementation of the process for handling and investigating potential allegations against WHO Directors-General**.

31. Concurring with the recommendations of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee, the Board noted the report on **proposed amendments to the process for the selection of the External Auditor** and recommended that the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly adopt a decision on that matter.

32. With regard to WHO's engagement with non-State actors, the Board concurred with the recommendations of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee and noted the reports on **implementation of the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors** and on **non-State actors in official relations with WHO**. Following discussions, the Board adopted an amended decision in which it decided to admit one entity into official relations with WHO, discontinue official relations with two others, and renew the engagement of 65 others.

Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations

33. Turning to **reform of the global health architecture and the UN80 Initiative**, the Board concurred with the recommendations of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee and noted the report. It adopted an amended decision in which it requested the Director-General to design a proposal on a joint, inclusive, transparent, time-bound, resource effective and efficient process, hosted by WHO, which is led by Member States, to facilitate convergence and consensus-building in order to support the transformation of the current global health architecture, enhance coordination and leverage the comparative advantages of diverse actors, for consideration by the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly.

34. The Board noted the report on **communications of the United Nations Secretary-General as depositary of the Constitution of the World Health Organization** concerning the notification of withdrawal of the Argentine Republic and the United States of America, respectively, from the World Health Organization. The Board recommended that the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly adopt a resolution presented by a Board Member on acknowledging the withdrawal of the Argentine Republic from the World Health Organization, effective as of 17 March 2026.

Governance implications for WHO arising from the reassignment of a Member State from one region to another

35. The Board noted the report on **governance implications for WHO arising from the reassignment of a Member State from one region to another**.

Provisional agenda of the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly and date and place of the 159th session of the Executive Board

36. Following discussions, the Board noted the report on the dates and venue of the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly and decided that it would be convened from 18 to 23 May 2026. It approved the **draft provisional agenda of the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly** with two amendments.

37. The Board further decided that the **159th session of the Executive Board** would be convened on 25 and 26 May 2026 at WHO headquarters.

Committees of the Board

38. The Board noted the report on the mandates and functions of the different governance and oversight mechanisms for health emergencies, including the **Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response**. It further noted the report on **foundation committees and selection panels** and adopted an amended decision on the administration of public health prizes and awards.

39. Four **prizes** and one **award** were conferred by the Board.

Staffing matters

40. The Board considered the **statement by the representative of the WHO staff associations** and the **report of the Ombudsperson**.

41. Concurring with the recommendations of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee, the Board noted the reports on **human resources**, including the implications of the WHO prioritization and realignment process on the Organization's projected staffing, and the report on **amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules**. It adopted a resolution relating to remuneration of staff in the Professional and higher categories and recommended that the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly adopt a resolution on remuneration of staff in ungraded positions and of the Director-General.

42. The Board concurred with the recommendations of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee and noted the **report of the International Civil Service Commission**.

Report on meetings of expert committees and study groups

43. The Board noted the report on the meetings of two **expert committees** and on **expert advisory panels and committees and their membership**.