

Reform of the global health architecture and the UN80 Initiative

Report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly

1. The Secretariat introduced the report,¹ expressing gratitude to Member States for their active participation and suggestions, which had informed and guided the design of the proposal for the WHO-hosted, Member State-led joint process to support reforms of the global health architecture.
2. The Committee conveyed appreciation to the Secretariat for the work done to develop the report and expressed support for the guiding principles set out therein. It recognized WHO as the central and leading authority in global health, with a commensurate role to play in the global health architecture. At a time of increasing fragmentation and financial constraint, inclusiveness and transparency were vital. The Committee expressed support for the proposed objectives, emphasizing the importance of aligning mandates and capacities of global health stakeholders to enhance collaboration and reduce duplication. Emphasis was also given to the importance of ensuring that national priorities, including the strengthening of national health systems, and regional and global priorities were considered as key drivers of the reform. The Committee recommended that Member State co-chairs of the task force should be composed of one representative from a developing country and one from a developed country, that global consultations with Member States should be held in Geneva, and that expectations for an interim report and final report of the task force should be specified more clearly.
3. In response to questions regarding the composition of the proposed joint task force, and modalities for the selection of Member State representatives, the Secretariat stated that the composition of the task force would come from proposals put forward by the regions. It clarified that the role of the task force would be to generate options and recommendations and that decision-making would rest with the Member States and the Health Assembly. Other global health initiatives and United Nations entities may consider recommendations through their respective governance mechanisms. The Secretariat also indicated that the process would take into account outcomes of the UN80 Initiative as deemed appropriate and relevant. The need for the close

¹ Document A79/24.

engagement of low- and middle-income countries was acknowledged. A proposal on the resources required to service the work of the task force would be shared in the near future.

Recommendation to the Health Assembly

4. The Committee, on behalf of the Executive Board, recommended that the Health Assembly should note the report contained in document A79/24 and adopt the following draft decision, as amended:

The Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly, having considered the report by the Director-General;²

Decided:

(1) to establish the proposed joint process to support reforms of the global health architecture with the following clarifications:

- (a) that the two Member State co-chairs of the task force will be composed of one representative from a developing country and one representative from a developed country;
- (b) that the monthly global consultation and information sessions, as appropriate, with Member States will be held in Geneva;
- (c) that the two reports developed by the task force are:
 - (i) an interim report that will be considered by the Boards of the Global Health Initiatives and the United Nations entities on the task force, and the WHO governing bodies, between November 2026 and February 2027 for their consideration and feedback to the task force; and
 - (ii) a final report, of which an advance copy will be shared with the Boards of the Global Health Initiatives prior to its submission to the Eightieth World Health Assembly, through the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee at its forty-sixth meeting, for Member States' final decision.

(2) to request the Director-General to convene relevant stakeholders, to commence implementation of the joint process and to submit a final report for the consideration of the Eightieth World Health Assembly in 2027, through the Executive Board at its 160th session.

² Document A79/24.