WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

World Health Organization

JOURNAL

Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly

Journal No. 1 18 May 2026

This Journal is intended to give delegates, representatives and other participants advance indications of the Health Assembly's programme of work. Additional information can be found in the *Guide for delegates to the World Health Assembly* (document A79/DIV./2)

The Journal does not constitute an official record of the Health Assembly's proceedings. The Journal is published in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish on every working day during the Health Assembly.

N° 1 Programme of meetings for Monday, 18 May 2026

Time	**Plenary** *Assembly Hall, Palais des Nations*	**Committee A** *Auditorium, Building B, SS3, WHO HQ*	**Others** *Building A Room XII, Palais des Nations*
09:00	First Plenary meeting		
Immediately after conclusion of the High-level welcome in Plenary			General Committee
14:30	Second Plenary meeting		
18:30		First Meeting	

Table of contents

1. Dates and working hours
2. Programme of work of the Health Assembly
3. Strategic roundtables, official side-events and other meetings
4. Arrangements for conduct of discussion in meetings
5. Announcements
6. Provisional list of speakers for the general discussion in Plenary

Shuttle services between WHO HQ and UNOG Building A

A shuttle service will be available to transport delegates between the following stops:

WHO HQ: parking P15 bis, near the cafeteria terrace. To facilitate access, delegates wearing a WHA badge will be able to enter the WHO premises through the terrace and cafeteria.

UNOG: in front of the VIP entrance of Building A, door 14, at the rear of the Assembly Hall.

1. Dates and working hours

The Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly will open on Monday, 18 May 2026 at 09:00. The working hours of the Health Assembly are from 09:00 to 12:00 and 14:30 to 17:30 (CEST). The Health Assembly will close no later than Saturday, 23 May 2026, as decided by the Executive Board at its 158th session.

2. Programme of work of the Health Assembly

Monday, 18 May 2026

First Plenary meeting — Assembly Hall, Palais des Nations

09:00

Item 1

Opening of the Health Assembly

- **Item 1.1**

  Appointment of the Committee on Credentials

- **Item 1.2**

  Election of the President

- **Item 1.3**

  Election of the five Vice-Presidents, the Chairs of the main committees, and establishment of the General Committee

High-level welcome

General Committee[1] — Building A Room XII, Palais des Nations

Immediately after conclusion of the High-level welcome in Plenary

Examination and submission to the Health Assembly of recommendations on such questions as:
- Adoption of the agenda
- Addition of supplementary items, if any, to the agenda
- Initial allocation to the main committees of items of the agenda
- Programme of work of the Health Assembly

Second Plenary meeting — Assembly Hall, Palais des Nations

14:30

- Presidential address

Item 1 *continued*

Opening of the Health Assembly

- **Item 1.4**

  Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items to the main committees
  - Documents A79/1 Rev.1, A79/1 Rev.1 Add.1 and A79/1 Rev.1 Add.2

[1] Rules 30 and 31 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly define membership of and attendance at the General Committee. Web link: http://apps.who.int/gb/gov/.

Item 2

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

- Document A79/2 Rev.1

Item 3

Address by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General

- General discussion
  - Document A79/3

Item 4 *(to be taken up at 17 :00)*

Invited speaker

First meeting of Committee A — Auditorium, Building B, SS3, WHO Headquarters

18:30

Item 10

Opening of the Committee[2]

Item 13 (Protect health)

Public health emergencies: preparedness and response

- **Item 13.3**

  Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the WHO Pandemic Agreement
  - Documents A79/8 and A79/8 Add.1

If time permits:

Agenda item 11 and sub-item 12.3 will be taken together:

Item 11 (Provide health)

Recommitting to accelerate progress towards malaria elimination

- Document A79/4

Item 12 (Provide health)

Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board

- **Item 12.3**

  Communicable diseases
  - Immunization Agenda 2030
  - Document A79/5
  - Road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030
  - Document A79/5
  - End TB Strategy
  - Documents A79/5 and EB158/2026/REC/1, decision EB158(3)

[2] Including election of the Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur.

Tuesday, 19 May 2026

Third and fourth Plenary meetings — Assembly Hall, Palais des Nations

09:00 and 14:30

Item 3 *continued*

- General discussion

Second and third meetings of Committee A — Auditorium, Building B, SS3, WHO Headquarters

09:00 and 14:30

The following 2 sub-items will be taken together: 13.1 & 13.2

Item 13 (Protect health) *continued*

Public health emergencies: preparedness and response

- **Item 13.1**

  Report of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme
  - Document A79/6

- **Item 13.2**

  Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)
  - Documents A79/7, A79/INF./2 and A79/INF./3

The following 2 sub-items will be taken together: 14.1 & 14.2

Item 14 (Protect health)

Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board

- **Item 14.1**

  WHO's work in health emergencies
  - Documents A79/9, A79/9 Add.1 and A79/A/CONF./1

- **Item 14.2**

  Strengthening the evidence base for public health and social measures
  - Document A79/5

- **Item 14.3**

  Poliomyelitis
  - Document A79/5

- **Item 14.4**

  Implementation of resolution WHA75.11 (2022)
  - Documents A79/10 and A79/A/CONF./1

Committee on Credentials — Building A Room XII, Palais des Nations

14:00

Wednesday, 20 May 2026

Fifth Plenary meeting — Assembly Hall, Palais des Nations

09:00

- Report of the Committee on Credentials

Item 5

Admission of new Members and Associate Members [if any]

Item 7

Awards

- Document A79/INF./1

Item 3 *continued*

- General discussion

Fourth and fifth meetings of Committee A — Auditorium, Building B, SS3, WHO Headquarters

Immediately after the conclusion of Item 7 and 14:30

Item 14 (Protect health) *continued*

Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board

- **Item 14.3**

  Poliomyelitis
  - Document A79/5

- **Item 14.4**

  Implementation of resolution WHA75.11 (2022)
  - Document A79/10*]*

The following item and sub-item will be taken together: 11 & 12.3

Item 11 (Provide health)

Recommitting to accelerate progress towards malaria elimination

- Document A79/4

Item 12 (Provide health)

Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board

- **Item 12.3**

  Communicable diseases
  - Immunization Agenda 2030
  - Document A79/5
  - Road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030
  - Document A79/5
  - End TB Strategy
  - Documents A79/5 and EB158/2026/REC/1, decision EB158(3)

The following sub-items will be taken together: 12.1 & 12.2

- **Item 12.1**

Follow-up to the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

  - Documents A79/5, A79/INF./6 and EB158/2026/REC/1, resolution EB158.R1, decisions EB158(1) and EB158(2)

- **Item 12.2**

Mental health

  - Document A79/5

- **Item 12.4**

Universal health coverage

  - Documents A79/5 and EB158/2026/REC/1, resolutions EB158.R2, EB158.R3, EB158.R4 and EB158.R5

  - Draft global strategy for integrated emergency, critical and operative care, 2026–2035
  - Documents A79/5 and EB158/2026/REC/1, decision EB158(4)

  - Increasing availability, ethical access and oversight of transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs
  - Documents A79/5 and EB158/2026/REC/1, decision EB158(5)

  - Rare diseases: a global health priority for equity and inclusion
  - Document A79/5

If time permits:

The following sub-items will be taken together: 12.5 & 12.8

- **Item 12.5**

Primary healthcare

  - Document A79/5

- **Item 12.8**

Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel

  - Documents A79/5, A79/5 Add.3 and A79/5 Add.5

First meeting of Committee B — Assembly Hall, Palais des Nations

14:30

Item 16

Opening of the Committee[3]

The following sub-items will be taken together: 17.1 & 17.2

Item 17

Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

- **Item 17.1**

Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

  - Document A79/11

- **Item 17.2**

Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem

  - Documents A79/12 and EB158/2026/REC/1, resolution EB158.R6

[3] Including election of Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur

If time permits:

The following sub-items will be taken together: 18.1, 18.2 & 18.14 (document A79/21 Add.1 only)

Item 18 (Power and performance)

Review and update on matters considered by the Executive Board and the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board

Budget and finance matters

- **Item 18.1**

  Results Report (Programme budget 2024–2025: performance assessment) and financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025
  - Documents A79/13, A79/14, A79/27 and A79/INF./4

- **Item 18.2**

  Financing, implementation and performance framework of the Programme budget 2026–2027
  - Documents A79/15, A79/27 and A79/INF./5
  - Reporting on operational efficiencies
  - Documents A79/16 and A79/27

Staffing matters

- **Item 18.14**

  Human resources: annual report
  - Document A79/21 Add.1

General Committee — Building A Room XII, Palais des Nations

17:30

Thursday, 21 May 2026

Sixth and seventh meetings of Committee A — Auditorium, Building B, SS3, WHO Headquarters

09:00 and 14:30

Item 12 (Provide health) *continued*

Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board

The following sub-items will be taken together: 12.5 & 12.8

- **Item 12.5**

  Primary healthcare
  - Document A79/5

- **Item 12.8**

  Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel
  - Documents A79/5, A79/5 Add.3 and A79/5 Add.5

The following sub-items will be taken together: 12.7 & 12.9

- **Item 12.7**

  Substandard and falsified medical products
  - Document A79/5

- **Item 12.9**

Draft updated global action plan on antimicrobial resistance
  - Documents A79/5, A79/5 Add.2 and EB158/2026/REC/1, decision EB158(6)

The following sub-items will be taken together: 12.6 & 12.10

- **Item 12.6**

Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
  - Document A79/5

- **Item 12.10**

Harmonization of regulatory approaches, governance and standards for data, digital health and artificial intelligence in the health sector
  - Document A79/5

If time permits:

Item 15 (Promote health)

Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board

The following sub-items will be taken together: 15.1, 15.3 & 15.4

- **Item 15.1**

Strengthening rehabilitation in health systems
  - Document A79/5

- **Item 15.3**

The health of Indigenous Peoples
  - Documents A79/5 and EB158/2026/REC/1, decision EB158(10)

- **Item 15.4**

Maternal, infant and young child nutrition
  - Document A79/5

Second and third meetings of Committee B — Assembly Hall, Palais des Nations

09:00 and 14:30

Item 18 (Power and performance) *continued*

Review and update on matters considered by the Executive Board and the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board

The following agenda sub-items will be taken together: 18.1, 18.2 & 18.14 (document A79/21 Add.1 only)

Budget and finance matters

- **Item 18.1**

Results Report (Programme budget 2024–2025: performance assessment) and financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025
  - Documents A79/13, A79/14 and A79/INF./4

- **Item 18.2**

Financing, implementation and performance framework of the Programme budget 2026–2027
  - Documents A79/15 and A79/INF./5
    - Reporting on operational efficiencies
  - Document A79/16

Staffing matters

- **Item 18.14** *continued*

Human resources: annual report

- Document A79/21 Add.1

The following agenda sub-items will be taken together: 18.3, 18.4, 18.5 & 18.6

- **Item 18.3**

Status of collection of assessed contributions, including Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution

- Documents A79/17 and A79/28

- **Item 18.4**

Special arrangements for the settlement of arrears [if any]

- **Item 18.5**

Assessment of new Members and Associate Members [if any]

- **Item 18.6**

Amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules [if any]

The following agenda sub-items will be taken together: 18.7, 18.8, 18.9 & 18.10

Audit and oversight matters

- **Item 18.7**

Report of the External Auditor

- Documents A79/18 and A79/29

- **Item 18.8**

Report of the Internal Auditor

- Documents A79/19 and A79/29

- **Item 18.9**

External and internal audit recommendations: progress on implementation

- Documents A79/20 and A79/29

- **Item 18.10**

Proposed amendments to the process for the selection of the External Auditor

- Documents A79/5 and EB158/2026/REC/1, decision EB158(19)

The following agenda sub-items will be taken together: 18.11, 18.12 & 18.13

Management, legal and governance matters

- **Item 18.11**

Prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment

- Document A79/5

- **Item 18.12**

Governance reform

  - Secretariat implementation plan on reform
- Document A79/5

- **Item 18.13**

Update on the Infrastructure Fund

  - Geneva buildings renovation strategy
    - Document A79/5
  - Update on information management and technology
    - Document A79/5

The following agenda sub-items and item will be taken together: 18.14, 18.15, 18.16 & 19

Staffing matters

- **Item 18.14 continued**

Human resources: annual report

  - Documents A79/21, A79/27 and A79/30

- **Item 18.15**

Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules

  - Documents A79/5 and EB158/2026/REC/1, resolution EB158.R8

- **Item 18.16**

Report of the International Civil Service Commission

  - Document A79/5

Item 19 (Power and performance)

Appointment of representatives to the WHO Staff Pension Committee

  - Document A79/22

Friday, 22 May 2026

Sixth Plenary meeting — Assembly Hall, Palais des Nations

09:00

Item 6

Executive Board: election

Eighth and ninth meetings of Committee A — Auditorium, Building B, SS3, WHO Headquarters

Immediately after conclusion of Item 6 in Plenary and 14:30

Item 15 (Promote health)

Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board

The following sub-items will be taken together: 15.1, 15.3 & 15.4

- **Item 15.1**

Strengthening rehabilitation in health systems

  - Document A79/5

- **Item 15.3**

The health of Indigenous Peoples

  - Documents A79/5 and EB158/2026/REC/1, decision EB158(10)

- **Item 15.4**

Maternal, infant and young child nutrition
  - Document A79/5

The following sub-items will be taken together: 15.2 & 15.5

- **Item 15.2**

Well-being and health promotion
  - Documents A79/5 and EB158/2026/REC/1, decision EB158(9)
  - Outcome of the WHO Commission on Social Connection
  - Document A79/5

- **Item 15.5**

Draft strategy on the economics of health for all
  - Documents A79/5, A79/5 Add.1 and EB158/2026/REC/1, decision EB158(8)

Fourth and fifth meetings of Committee B — Assembly Hall, Palais des Nations

Immediately after conclusion of Item 6 in Plenary and 14:30

The following item and sub-item will be taken together: 20 & 20.1

Item 20 (Power and performance)

Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations
  - Document A79/23

- **Item 20.1**

Reform of the global health architecture and the UN80 Initiative
  - Documents A79/24 and A79/31

- **Item 20.2**

Communications of the United Nations Secretary-General as depositary of the Constitution of the World Health Organization
  - Documents A79/5, A79/5 Add.4 and EB158/2026/REC/1, decision EB158(12)

Item 21 (Power and performance)

Agreements with intergovernmental organizations [if any]

Item 22 (Power and performance)

*(**THREE discussions;** (i) Provide Health; (ii) Protect Health & Power and Performance; and (iii) Promote Health)*

Matters for information: progress reports

  - Documents A79/26 and A79/26 Add.1

Provide health

A. Social participation for universal health coverage, health and well-being (resolution WHA77.2 (2024))
B. Increasing access to medical oxygen (resolution WHA76.3 (2023))
C. Public health dimension of the world drug problem (decision WHA75(20) (2022))
D. The global health sector strategies on, respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections (resolution WHA75.20 (2022))
E. Improving access to assistive technology (resolution WHA71.8 (2018))
F. Eradication of dracunculiasis (resolutions WHA64.16 (2011) and WHA78.14 (2025))

G. Reproductive health: strategy to accelerate progress towards the attainment of international development goals and targets (resolution WHA57.12 (2004))
H. Availability, safety and quality of blood products (decision WHA75(17) (2022))
I. WHO strategy on research for health (resolution WHA63.21 (2010))
J. Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property (resolution WHA75.14 (2022))

Protect health & Power and performance

K. Strengthening laboratory biological risk management (resolution WHA77.7 (2024))
L. Pandemic Influenza Preparedness: sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits (resolution WHA64.5 (2011))
M. Smallpox eradication: destruction of variola virus stocks (resolution WHA60.1 (2007))
R. Strategy for integrating gender analysis and actions into the work of WHO (resolution WHA60.25 (2007))

Promote health

N. Reducing public health risks associated with the sale of live wild animals of mammalian species in traditional food markets – infection prevention and control (decision WHA75(23) (2022))
O. WHO global strategy for food safety (decision WHA75(22) (2022))
P. Accelerating efforts for preventing micronutrient deficiencies and their consequences, including spina bifida and other neural tube defects, through safe and effective food fortification (resolution WHA76.19 (2023))
Q. Decade of Healthy Ageing 2020–2030 (decision WHA73(12) (2020))

Saturday, 23 May 2026

Tenth meeting of Committee A — Auditorium, Building B, SS3, WHO Headquarters

09:00

Finalization of resolutions/decisions and reports

Sixth meeting of Committee B — Assembly Hall, Palais des Nations

09:00

Finalization of resolutions/decisions and reports

Seventh Plenary meeting — Assembly Hall, Palais des Nations

Immediately after conclusion of Committees A and B

Item 8

Reports of the main committees

Item 9

Closure of the Health Assembly

3. Strategic roundtables, official side-events and other meetings

Strategic roundtables, official side-events and other meetings will be held during the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly. These are listed on the governing bodies website:

https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA79-other-meetings/A79_other_meetings.pdf

Video streaming

The strategic roundtable sessions will be webcast in the six UN languages. The webcasts can be viewed on Mac and PCs, as well as all mobile devices including iPhone, iPad, Android and Windows-enabled phones.

Arabic: https://player.4am.ch/who/20260518-23_Strategic_Roundtables/index.html?lang=ar
Chinese: https://player.4am.ch/who/20260518-23_Strategic_Roundtables/index.html?lang=zh
English: https://player.4am.ch/who/20260518-23_Strategic_Roundtables/index.html?lang=en
French: https://player.4am.ch/who/20260518-23_Strategic_Roundtables/index.html?lang=fr
Russian: https://player.4am.ch/who/20260518-23_Strategic_Roundtables/index.html?lang=ru
Spanish: https://player.4am.ch/who/20260518-23_Strategic_Roundtables/index.html?lang=es

4. Arrangements for conduct of discussion in meetings

Plenary: theme of general discussion: "Reshaping Global Health: A Shared Responsibility".

Member States, Associate Members, Observers, invited representatives of the United Nations and of other participating intergovernmental organizations will be provided with the opportunity to take the floor under agenda item 3 Address by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General.

Member States can inscribe on the list of speakers for the general debate through this link. Copies of statements to be made in the general discussion should be submitted to the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of the Health Assembly by email (interpret@who.int). Please specify in the "Subject" and at the top of the statement, the name of the country and the meeting: "General Discussion".

Verbal statements

Member State delegations are asked to observe the time limit for verbal statements during the sessions: individual statements by Member States and Associate Members will be limited to **two minutes** (220 words), Regional and group statements will be limited to **three minutes** (330 words).

Statements by Observers, invited representatives of the United Nations and other participating intergovernmental organizations, and non-State actors in official relations with the Organization will be limited to **one minute** (110 words). Non-State actor constituency statements will be limited to **two minutes** (220 words).

To ensure that statements are interpreted as clearly as possible, delegates are requested to submit a copy of their statements at least **30 minutes** in advance by email to interpret@who.int.

Written statements

Member States and Associate Members are invited to submit written statements for posting on the website in the language of submission in accordance with the guidelines for written statements in decision WHA75(12).

Observers, invited representatives of the United Nations and of other participating and intergovernmental organizations are also invited to submit written statements in accordance with those guidelines. Non-State actors are invited to submit written statements as per the practical information for representatives of non-State actors in official relations with WHO.

In accordance with the guidelines, statements may be provided in any of the six WHO official languages and should be limited to 500 words for individual statements and 800 words for group statements. They should be submitted to statements@who.int, (non-State actors are asked to copy nsastatements@who.int), clearly indicating the relevant agenda item or sub-item in the subject line.

Interpretation

Interpretation will be provided in the official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) to help delegates to follow the discussions. Delegates are requested to speak clearly and at a moderate speaking pace to enable clear and accurate interpretation. Copies of all statements should be submitted at least 30 minutes in advance by email to interpret@who.int. Clearly indicate the name of the country delegation/group in the subject line of the email.

Note: a statement of three minutes at a moderate speaking pace is equivalent to approximately 330 words.

5. Announcements

Video streaming

The public sessions will be webcast in the six UN languages. The webcasts can be viewed on Mac and PCs, as well as all mobile devices including iPhone, iPad, Android and Windows-enabled phones.

Arabic:	https://player.4am.ch/who/20260518-23_WHA79/index.html?lang=ar
Chinese:	https://player.4am.ch/who/20260518-23_WHA79/index.html?lang=zh
English:	https://player.4am.ch/who/20260518-23_WHA79/index.html?lang=en
French:	https://player.4am.ch/who/20260518-23_WHA79/index.html?lang=fr
Russian:	https://player.4am.ch/who/20260518-23_WHA79/index.html?lang=ru
Spanish:	https://player.4am.ch/who/20260518-23_WHA79/index.html?lang=es

Documents

Documents for the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly can be accessed on the Internet through the WHO website (https://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha79.html).

WHO Bookshop

The WHO bookshop is located at WHO Headquarters, on the lower level mezzanine (sous-sol 1) of the main building (Building A), next to the café “A place to be”. The latest publications and information products issued by WHO and its regional offices are available at a 50% discount. WHO souvenirs are also on sale. During the Assembly period, the bookshop operates with extended hours, open Monday through Friday from 09:00 to 12:00 and from 13:00 to 19:00.

WHA App

The World Health Assembly application allows you to receive updates on the WHA79 programme of work and access documentation directly on your mobile device. Scan the QR code or search for “**WHO Meetings**” in the Apple or Google Stores on your phone. Please note that you should uninstall previous versions of the WHA app.

6. Provisional list of speakers for the general discussion in Plenary

Delegates can view the speaker's list at any given time:

https://extranet.who.int/dataformv6/index.php/reporting/module/index/sid/168292

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