



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD
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Status of collection of assessed contributions, including Members in arrears to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution

Report by the Director-General

1. In order that WHO may deliver the approved programme budget in full, contributions from Member States must be received in full and on time. Payments are due as of 1 January for the year to which they relate. Low annual rates of collection have been of serious concern to successive Executive Boards and Health Assemblies.
2. In 1999 the rate of collection was 85%, the highest rate for the last 14 years and a considerable improvement over 78% in 1998 (see Annex 1, Figure 1). Annex 2 lists all Member States, the amount due from each, and period over which it has become due.
3. As at 31 December 1999, 114 Member States (59%) had paid in full; a further 24 Members (12%) had paid in part (see Annex 1, Figure 2). This is a considerable improvement compared with 1998. The number of Members which had made no payment is at its lowest in percentage terms for the past 10 years.
4. Unpaid contributions include amounts that are due as at 31 December each year, and amounts due under special arrangements authorized by the Health Assembly but which may be paid in the future under an instalment scheme. On 31 December 1999 a total of US\$ 164.8 million (39% of the regular budget for 1999) was owing from Member States, including US\$ 7.6 million due under special arrangements referred to above (see Annex 2, Sections 2 and 3). The equivalent figure at 31 December 1998 was US\$ 185.9 million (44% of the regular budget).
5. Despite the improvement in 1999, programme activities could not be fulfilled without significant recourse to internal borrowing and the Working Capital Fund. The continuing high amount due for earlier years continues to inhibit efficient management and reform in WHO.
6. However, payments received in advance for 2000 are 119% higher than for 1999 (see Annex 2, Section 4). Sixteen Members have paid their contributions in full for 2000, whereas only five did so for 1999. A further four countries paid in full on 1 January 2000 as a result of a credit from Casual Income.
7. Article 7 of the Constitution states that "If a Member fails to meet its financial obligations to the Organization ... the Health Assembly may ... suspend the voting privileges to which a Member is entitled".

8. In accordance with previous Health Assembly resolutions, the voting privileges of the 23 Member States listed in Annex 3 have been suspended, the suspension to continue at the Fifty-third and subsequent Health Assemblies until the arrears have been reduced to a level below the amount which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution. As at 31 December 1999, none of these Member States had yet made payments that would result in the restoration of their voting privileges.

9. Pursuant to the adoption by the Fifty-second World Health Assembly of resolutions WHA52.3 and WHA52.4, with the required two-thirds majority, the voting privileges of Liberia and Guinea respectively will be suspended as from the opening of the Fifty-third World Health Assembly on 15 May 2000 if at that time these Members are still in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution.

10. Nine other Members are in arrears in the payment of their contributions in amounts which equal or exceed the amounts due from them for the preceding two full years, as listed in Annex 3.

11. Pursuant to resolution WHA41.7, unless there are exceptional circumstances justifying a different measure, the Fifty-third World Health Assembly will adopt a decision under which the voting rights of these Members will be suspended as from the opening day of the Fifty-fourth World Health Assembly in May 2001, if at that time the Members concerned are still in arrears to the extent referred to in paragraph 10 above.

12. An analysis of all Members subject to Article 7 is shown in Annex 4. The Director-General will report further to the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee of the Executive Board on the nine Members referred to in paragraph 10 immediately before the opening of the Fifty-third World Health Assembly so that the Committee can formulate recommendations to the Health Assembly based on the provision of resolution WHA41.7 and the status of the arrears at that time.

13. The Director-General will continue to increase efforts to collect the unpaid arrears of contributions from the Members concerned.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

14. Having heard the advice of the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee on the status of collection of assessed contributions, the Board may wish to formulate an appropriate resolution to the Health Assembly.

15. No action is required of the Board in respect of those Members whose voting privileges remain suspended under previous Health Assembly resolutions, or of those Members which may lose their voting privileges as from 15 May 2000 under resolutions WHA52.3 and WHA52.4.

ANNEX 1

Figure 1. Rate of collection of contributions
Percentage collected as at 31 December,
from 1990 to 1999

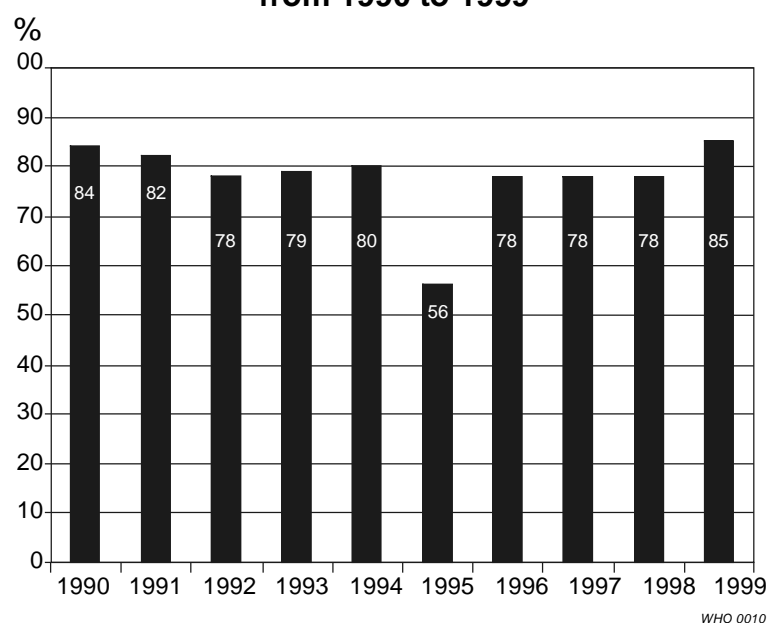
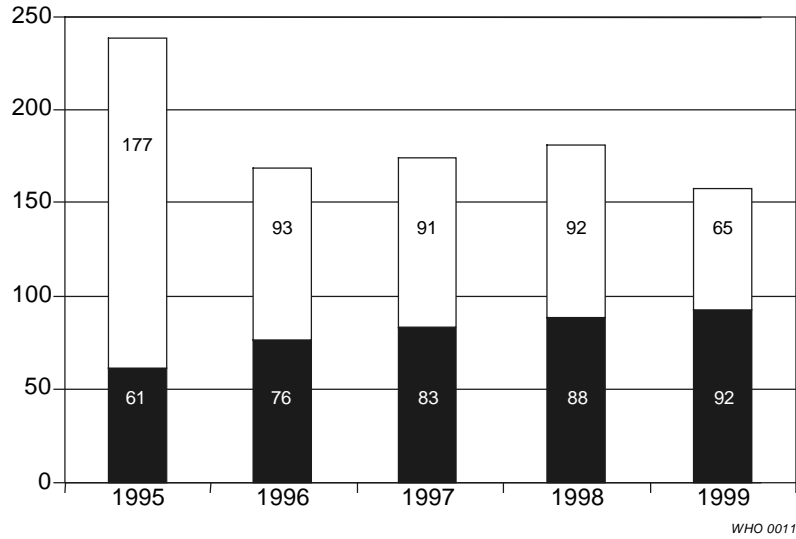


Figure 2. Payment status of Member States and Associate Members in respect of current-year contributions to the effective working budget

	Number of Members which had paid contributions in full	Number of Members which had paid contributions in part	Number of Members which had made no payment	Total number of Members and Associate Members
31 December 1990	93	23	46	162
31 December 1991	90	22	50	162
31 December 1992	87	27	66	180
31 December 1993	95	20	71	186
31 December 1994	99	16	72	187
31 December 1995	96	13	78	187
31 December 1996	102	27	63	192
31 December 1997	105	26	61	192
31 December 1998	105	25	63	193
31 December 1999	114	24	55	193

Figure 3. Unpaid contributions due as at 31 December, from 1995 to 1999

US\$ in millions



□ Current year contributions
■ Arrears of contributions