



# WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
**105th Session**  
**Provisional agenda item 2**

**EB105/6**  
**14 December 1999**

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## **Programme budget priorities for 2002-2003**

### **Note by the Director-General**

1. Every two years, as the Organization moves into the planning stage for the next biennial budget, there is a need to determine the priorities to be taken into account in formulation of the proposed programme budget and the subsequent allocation of resources.
2. For the proposed programme budget 2002-2003, it is suggested that the Executive Board may wish to debate priorities at an earlier stage of preparation than in the past, to enable the Director-General to take account of the Board's views in her decisions on the budget.
3. In preparation for the debate, the Board may wish to consider the following issues:
  - the time factor: priorities identified in 2000 may not necessarily be priorities in 2002-2003;
  - the status of existing priorities and their relevance to the 2002-2003 budget;
  - the proportion of budgetary financing which would be allocated to priorities, and the implications of the combined funding (regular budget and extrabudgetary resources) for priority setting;
  - the relevance of the corporate strategy for the WHO Secretariat,<sup>1</sup> and in particular its four strategic directions;
  - evidence (such as the burden of disease, WHO's particular role and its advantages compared to others) to support selection of particular areas as priorities;
  - the need to identify real priorities, that is, a small number of clearly identified areas of special needs.
4. The opening day of the 105th session will be devoted to a series of items which will assist the Board in its consideration of priorities. The Director-General's statement on that day will also identify specific directions.

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB105/3.