



107th Session

EB107.R8

Agenda item 3.6

19 January 2001

Health systems performance assessment

The Executive Board,

Having analysed *The world health report 2000: health systems: improving performance*, published on 24 June 2000, which included a health system performance index and an overall attainment index as exercises comparing the performance of the health systems of WHO's 191 Member States;

Taking note of the report on assessment of health systems' performance¹ and of the report by the Chairman of the Executive Board;²

Considering the importance of health in the development and well-being of populations;

Bearing in mind the importance of health systems in improving health conditions and the quality of life;

Recognizing the important role of evaluation of the performance of national health systems in improving quality, equity, and other criteria relevant to these systems;

Appreciating the potential for such evaluations to raise awareness of the needs of health systems and the main policy issues faced, and to help seek additional resources for health;

Aware that such evaluation exercises should be based on science and evidence and be as participatory as possible, seeking inputs from all Member States;

Bearing in mind the resolution of the United Nations Economic and Social Council entitled "Basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits at all levels", dated 28 August 2000, which emphasized that such basic indicators should be developed with the full participation of all countries and approved by the relevant intergovernmental bodies;³

¹ Document EB107/9.

² Document EB107/35 Rev.1.

³ Resolution E/2000/27.

Noting the presentations made by the Secretariat during the 103rd and 105th sessions of the Executive Board on trends and challenges in world health;¹

Taking account of resolution CD42.R5, entitled “*The world health report 2000*”, adopted by the 42nd Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization and by the 52nd Session of the Regional Committee of the Americas on 26 September 2000, and resolution EM/RC47/R.2 of the Regional Committee of the Eastern Mediterranean Region;

Bearing in mind that the first stage of such comparative assessment should be a broad agreement on its framework, design and data sources, that seeks inputs from all Member States;

Taking account of the many methodological considerations and technical improvements that have already been introduced by Member States on the framework, design and data sources used in order to compile indexes on the performance of Member States’ health systems published in *The world health report 2000: health systems: improving performance*;

Aware of the technical difficulties and political sensitivities associated with comparing the performance of national health systems; and

Recognizing that WHO, within its mandate, has a historical and important role to play in conducting these evaluations and issuing recommendations on health policy;

Further recognizing that evaluation of performance of national health systems has relevance for health systems planners and policy-makers,

1. TAKES NOTE with satisfaction of the measures proposed by the Director-General to help Member States contribute to the WHO assessment of their health system performance regularly, namely:

- (1) to establish a technical consultation process, bringing together personnel and perspectives from Member States in different WHO regions, supported jointly by staff from WHO at country, regional and global level;
- (2) to ensure that each Member State is consulted on the best data to be used for assessing health system performance, and is provided advance information on the indicator values that WHO obtains using these data;
- (3) to establish a small advisory group, including some members from the Executive Board and the Advisory Committee on Health Research, that can help monitor WHO’s support for the assessment of health system performance;
- (4) to compile a report on the performance of Member States’ health systems every two years;
- (5) to complete the next draft report by May 2002 for publication, after consultation, in October 2002;

¹ Documents EB103/3 and EB105/4.

(6) to ensure that Member States receive the reports before they are made available to the general public;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to initiate a scientific peer review of health systems performance methodology as part of the technical consultation process including updating on methodology and new data sources relevant to the performance of health systems;

(2) to ensure that WHO consults with Member States and shares the results of the scientific peer review and its recommendations;

(3) to develop a multi-year plan for further research and development of the framework and its relevant indicators to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of health systems as part of the technical consultation process;

(4) to develop a plan to improve data quality to be used to assess health systems performance;

(5) to report to Member States on the impact of health systems performance reports on Member States' policy and practice;

(6) to provide the reports to health authorities of Member States 15 days before the intended date of publication.

Tenth meeting, 19 January 2001
EB107/SR/10

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