



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD
113th Session
Geneva, 19-24 January 2004

EB113/1(annotated)
20 November 2003

Provisional agenda (annotated)

1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda

2. Report by the Director-General

- Discussion on issues raised

3. Technical and health matters

3.1 Revision of the International Health Regulations

In response to resolution WHA56.28 the document describes progress made in revising the International Health Regulations. It submits to the Board for its agreement the proposed process for preparation of the draft Regulations and arrangements for an intergovernmental working group in November 2004 to finalize them.

3.2 HIV/AIDS

In response to resolution WHA56.30 the document informs the Board of the elements of the global “3 x 5” strategy, including establishment of emergency response teams at country level, and provides information on a number of new initiatives intended to strengthen and support the health sector’s response.

3.3 *Transferred to section 8, as item 8.10*

3.4 Surveillance and control of *Mycobacterium ulcerans* disease (Buruli ulcer)

At the request of a Member State, the document reviews current knowledge about *Mycobacterium ulcerans* disease, or Buruli ulcer, an infectious disease that remains poorly understood and controlled, and describes the control strategy recommended by WHO.

3.5 *At the consultation between the Director-General and the Officers of the Board,¹ convened in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, it was agreed to defer to the 114th session of the Board an item on cancer control requested by a Member State.*

¹ 12 November 2003.

3.6 Health promotion and healthy lifestyles

This item was deferred by the Board at its 111th session and its scope has been broadened at the request of a Member State. The report highlights the evidence-based, settings approach to health promotion and the need to strengthen capacity at national and local levels for planning and implementing the gender- and culturally sensitive, comprehensive promotion of healthy lifestyles.

3.7 Integrated prevention of noncommunicable diseases

In response to resolution WHA55.23 the report provides information on progress made in the integrated prevention of noncommunicable diseases, including establishment of the Global Forum for NCD Prevention and Control and regional networks, implementation of prevention measures, and strengthening of capacity-building.

In further response to resolution WHA55.23 a draft global strategy on diet, physical activity and health, drawn up within the framework of WHO's strategy for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, is submitted to the Board for its consideration. The covering document describes the process of consultation with Member States and other partners in preparing the strategy and contains a draft resolution.

3.8 *At the consultation between the Director-General and the Officers of the Board,¹ convened in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, it was agreed to defer to the 114th session of the Board an item on disability, including treatment and rehabilitation requested by a Member State.*

3.9 Road safety and health

At the request of two Member States the document examines the problem of road-traffic injuries and suggests a multisectoral approach to prevention, highlighting the contribution of public health to improving road safety.

3.10 Family health in the context of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

At the request of a Member State the document reviews WHO's current approaches to family health, including the active participation of families and communities in promoting and protecting their own health, the principles contained in the Strategy for Child and Adolescent Health and Development, the emphasis on reproductive health, and promotion of equity between sexes in health care.

3.11 Reproductive health

At the request of several Member States and in pursuance of resolution WHA55.19, the report introduces the strategy for accelerating progress towards attainment of the Millennium Development Goals related to reproductive health. Highlighting the five core dimensions of reproductive and sexual health, it elaborates on action points for countries and specific support on the part of WHO.

3.12 Quality and safety of medicines, including of blood products

At the request of a Member State the document describes the regulatory situation in Member States with regard to assurance of the quality and safety of medicines, including of blood products. It emphasizes the need to tackle substandard or counterfeit medicines with new public health initiatives.

¹ 12 November 2003.

- WHO medicines strategy

At the request of a Member State the document provides information on the revision of the WHO medicines strategy for the period 2004 to 2007 in the light of the new socioeconomic environment and the process of globalization, and within the context of national health systems.

3.13 Health systems, including primary health care

At the request of several Member States, the report examines health systems, focusing on services at the level of first contact as the key to improving outcomes. It reviews progress made and lessons learned in implementing the principles of primary health care, in the context of improving the precision and reliability of indicators for monitoring health systems' performance.

In response to resolution WHA56.6, a separate document reports on the outcome of the global technical meeting (Madrid, October 2003) convened to suggest future strategic directions for primary health care.

3.14 *At the consultation between the Director-General and the Officers of the Board,¹ convened in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, it was agreed to defer to the 114th session of the Board an item on recruitment of health workers from the developing world requested by a Member State.*

3.15 Influence of poverty on health

At the request of a Member State the document highlights the relationship between poverty and health on the basis of WHO's contribution to the debate, and examines such questions as the role of primary health care as an effective mechanism to address the health needs of the poor.

3.16 Genomics and world health: report of the Advisory Committee on Health Research

This item was deferred by the Board at its 112th session. The document summarizes the main points contained in the ACHR report and its recommendations on ways to tackle the different concerns raised by advances in genomics.

3.17 Human organ and tissue transplantation

At the request of several Member States, the document reports on the process of expert consultation on the ethics of, access to, and safety of, cell, tissue and organ transplantation. It describes points of current consensus and proposes a plan for gathering and analysing data, and making policy recommendations.

4. Programme and budget matters

4.1 *At the consultation between the Director-General and the Officers of the Board,¹ convened in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, it was agreed to defer to the 114th session of the Board an item on the Meeting of Interested Parties, 2003.*

¹ 12 November 2003.

4.2 Programme budget 2004-2005: progress report

Since the Director-General took office in July 2003, he has reviewed the Programme budget for 2004-2005 as adopted by the Health Assembly. The review, which involved all levels of the Organization, took into consideration his decision to strengthen the work of WHO in countries. The document sets out the results of that review, and is submitted for information.

4.3 Regular budget allocations to regions

Resolution WHA51.31 calls for an evaluation of the current model for establishing regular budget allocations at regional and country levels in order to ensure adequate response to changing health needs and equitable allocation of WHO's resources. Accordingly, the document provides information on implementation of the resolution, showing the financial evolution of its application, and reflects observations expressed at sessions of the regional committees in 2003.

5. Financial matters

5.1 Status of collection of assessed contributions

The report sets out the payment status of Member States and Associate Members in respect of current-year contributions to the effective working budget of the Organization. It also provides an update on the Member States that are in arrears of contributions to an extent that their voting rights at the Health Assembly might be suspended. The report is reviewed by ABFC before submission to the Board.

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

6. Staffing matters

6.1 Human resources

- Annual report

The preview as at 30 September 2003 of the Organization's staffing profile provides data on, *inter alia*, distribution of staff by gender, geographical representation, age profile, retirement age, and nature of appointment. The annual report as at 31 December 2003 will be submitted to the Fifty-seventh World Health Assembly.

- Recruitment strategy integrating gender and geographical balance

In response to resolutions WHA56.17 and WHA56.35 this report describes the action plan established in order to achieve the targets set by the Health Assembly for recruitment of women and of nationals from developing countries.

- Report by the International Civil Service Commission

The annual report of the International Civil Service Commission is submitted for the Board's information in accordance with Article 17 of the Commission's Statutes. Its major focus is the review of the pay and benefits system.

- Amendments to the Staff Rules

Amendments to the Staff Rules made by the Director-General (if any) are submitted for confirmation by the Board in accordance with Staff Regulation 12.2.

6.2 Statement by the representative of the WHO staff associations

7. Other management matters

7.1 Appointment of the Regional Director for South-East Asia

The document sets forth the Regional Committee's proposal to the Board for appointment of the Regional Director.

7.2 Appointment of the Regional Director for the Western Pacific

The document sets forth the Regional Committee's proposal to the Board for appointment of the Regional Director.

7.3 Reports of the Executive Board committees, including awards

The Board will receive at the opening of its session the reports of the tenth meeting of the Programme Development Committee (PDC), the twentieth meeting of the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee (ABFC), and the ninth meeting of the Audit Committee (AC), which are to be held during the week preceding the session.

During its session the Board will receive the report of the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations, which contains, *inter alia*, the recommendations of the Committee on requests from organizations for admission into official relations with WHO, and the review of collaboration between WHO and one-third of the organizations in official relations during the period 2001-2003.

It will also receive a restricted document containing short biographies of the laureates for the prizes of the Ihsan Dogramaci Family Health Foundation, Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, United Arab Emirates Health Foundation, and Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation to be awarded in 2004.

7.4 Policy for relations with nongovernmental organizations

In response to decision WHA56(10) the policy governing relations with nongovernmental organizations is resubmitted to the Board for its consideration. *Inter alia* it defines the objectives and principles guiding collaboration with nongovernmental organizations, criteria for accreditation, and the role of the Board in deciding on applications and the privileges conferred on an accredited organization.

7.5 Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

- Recent reports

In accordance with the new modality for following up reports of the Joint Inspection Unit, the document introduces to the Board, through its Audit Committee, reports issued during 2002 and 2003. It provides in tabular form a summary of, and the Secretariat's comments on, each recommendation of the Unit contained in those reports considered to be of relevance to WHO.

- Implementation of earlier recommendations

Following a new format agreed between the Unit and WHO, namely, a follow-up matrix or tracking chart to gauge progress made on implementation, the document provides more detail of the action taken by the Secretariat on the Unit's recommendations contained in previous reports of relevance to WHO.

7.6 Governing body matters

- Executive Board retreat: Chairman's report

The Chairman of the Board will report on the Board's retreat held in Accra on 19 and 20 November 2003.

- Governing body sessions: timing and duration

In response to resolution EB112.R1 the document reviews the background to, and sets out options for, changes to the timing and duration of sessions of the Board and of its standing committees, namely, PDC, ABFC and AC.

- Executive Board: committee system

Pursuant to resolution EB112.R1 the note provides background to, and sets out terms of reference of, the Board's standing committees, including on nongovernmental organizations, together with foundation committees and selection panels, and the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health.

- Provisional agenda of the Fifty-seventh World Health Assembly and date and place of the 114th session of the Executive Board

The document also includes the provisional daily timetable of the Fifty-seventh World Health Assembly.

7.7 Awards: establishment of new prize foundations

In response to decision EB111(13) the Statutes of the State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion are submitted to the Board for its approval. In accordance with the recommendation contained in resolution EM/RC50/R.13, the Board is invited to consider establishment of a Foundation for the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

8. Matters for information

8.1 Expert committees and study groups

In compliance with Regulation 4.23 of the Regulations for Expert Advisory Panels and Committees, the Director-General submits to the Board for its consideration his report on meetings of expert committees and study groups, including a summary of the recommendations contained in the reports of expert committees, and his observations on their significance for public health policies and implications for the Organization's programmes.

In compliance with Regulation 2.2 of the Regulations for Expert Advisory Panels and Committees, the addendum informs the Board of the establishment or disestablishment of expert advisory panels and their membership as at December 2003, and lists the meetings of expert committees convened during the year.

8.2 Reducing global measles mortality

In response to resolution WHA56.20 the document reports on progress towards reducing measles mortality, which was reviewed at a joint global WHO/UNICEF meeting (Cape Town, South Africa, October 2003). Representatives of the countries which account for over 95% of measles deaths reached a consensus and adopted the Cape Town Declaration for Sustainable Measles Mortality Reduction.

8.3 Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)

In response to resolution WHA56.29 the document reviews knowledge acquired during the SARS outbreak, discusses its significance for economies, societies, and public health, and assesses the impact of control measures. It briefly explains the role of travel recommendations and their epidemiological rationale, and outlines post-outbreak recommendations and rapid and effective responses.

8.4 Smallpox eradication: destruction of variola virus stocks

In pursuance of resolution WHA55.15 the document reports on the fifth meeting of the WHO Advisory Committee on Variola Virus Research (Geneva, November 2003) which reviewed progress on research using live variola virus conducted since its previous meeting.

8.5 Eradication of poliomyelitis

The status report covers progress on containment and provides an overview of the new Strategic Plan 2004-2008. It sets out the critical factors for interrupting virus transmission in the remaining endemic areas, the rationale for, and issues involved in, ceasing the use of oral poliovirus vaccine after certification of eradication, and implications of the continuing financing gap.

8.6 Quality of care: patient safety

In response to resolution WHA55.18 the document reviews the work on patient safety undertaken throughout WHO. It covers three main areas – systemic factors, product safety and safety of services. Work is geared to concerted action at country level, including creation of a global alliance for patient safety.

8.7 Infant and young child nutrition and progress in implementing the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes

In accordance with resolution WHA33.32 and Article 11.7 of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, the document informs the Board on the current global burden of malnutrition in infants and young children, and on progress in protecting, promoting and supporting appropriate infant and young child feeding and implementing the International Code.

8.8 High Level Forum on Health, Nutrition and Population-Related MDGs

At the request of a Member State the document provides information on the establishment of a new high-level forum intended to help accelerate progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals related to health, nutrition and population. The Forum will be facilitated by WHO and the World Bank.

8.9 Intellectual property rights, innovation and public health: terms of reference for review group

At the request of a Member State and in line with resolution WHA56.27, the document outlines the terms of reference for a time-limited body to analyse the subject of intellectual property rights, innovation and public health.

8.10 Control of human African trypanosomiasis

In response to resolution WHA56.7 the document reports on progress being made by WHO and other partners, including the private sector, to improve the surveillance and control of human African trypanosomiasis and to mobilize resources for this purpose. It also describes recent activities of the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign and their contribution to WHO's goals.

9. Closure of the session

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