

Future sessions of the Executive Board and the Health Assembly

Report by the Director-General

EXECUTIVE BOARD, 148TH SESSION

1. Article 26 of the Constitution of WHO provides that “The Board shall meet at least twice a year and shall determine the place of each meeting.” Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board provides that the Board “shall determine at each session the time and place of its next session”.
2. It is proposed to convene the 148th session of the Executive Board on Monday, 1 February 2021, at WHO headquarters, Geneva, and to close the session no later than Tuesday, 9 February 2021. It is further proposed that the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board should hold its thirty-third meeting from Wednesday to Friday, 27 to 29 January 2021, at WHO headquarters.
3. The draft provisional agenda of the 148th session of the Executive Board will be circulated to Member States for their consideration within four weeks after the May meeting of the 147th session, in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.¹

SEVENTY-FOURTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

4. Article 13 of the Constitution of WHO provides that “The Health Assembly shall meet in regular annual session”. Article 14 further provides that “The Health Assembly, at each annual session, shall select the country or region in which the next annual session shall be held, the Board subsequently fixing the place.” In accordance with Article 15, “The Board ... shall determine the date of each annual ... session.” In its decision WHA30(xvi), the Thirtieth World Health Assembly requested the Executive Board to fix the duration of each session.
5. Assuming that the Seventy-third World Health Assembly decides that the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly should be held in Switzerland, it is proposed to convene the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly on Monday, 24 May 2021 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, and to close the Health Assembly no later than Tuesday, 1 June 2021. Should the Board agree to this, it is proposed that the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board should hold its thirty-fourth meeting from Wednesday, 19 May to Friday, 21 May 2021, at WHO headquarters.

¹ See document EB147/12.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

6. The Board may wish to consider adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision 1:

The Executive Board decided that its 148th session should be convened on Monday, 1 February 2021, at WHO headquarters, Geneva, and should close no later than Tuesday, 9 February 2021. The Board further decided that the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board should hold its thirty-third meeting from Wednesday to Friday, 27 to 29 January 2021, at WHO headquarters.

Draft decision 2:

The Executive Board decided that the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly should be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, opening on Monday, 24 May 2021, and should close no later than Tuesday, 1 June 2021. The Board further decided that the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board should hold its thirty-fourth meeting on Wednesday, 19 May to Friday, 21 May 2021, at WHO headquarters, Geneva.

Draft decision 3:

The Executive Board decided that in the event that limitations to physical meetings preclude the holding of the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly, the 148th session of the Executive Board and the thirty-third and thirty-fourth meetings of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board in 2021 as envisaged, adjustments to the arrangements for these governing bodies meetings should be made by the Executive Board or, exceptionally, by the Officers of the Board, in consultation with the Director-General.

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