

Provisional agenda (annotated)

1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda

During the opening of the session, Members of the Executive Board will be invited to also consider the adoption of special procedures to regulate the conduct of the virtual sessions of the Executive Board allowing it to pursue its work in a virtual format.

2. Report by the Director-General

3. Report of the regional committees to the Executive Board

In decision WHA65(9) (2012), the Health Assembly endorsed the proposal that the chairpersons of the regional committees routinely submit to the Board summary reports of the committees' deliberations. The Board will be invited to consider the recommendations and comments of the regional committees.

4. Report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board

The Board will receive at the opening of its session the report of the thirty-third meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee, which is scheduled to be held from 13 to 15 January 2021.

Pillar 1: One billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage

5. Global action on patient safety

Patient safety is a growing global challenge and is a prerequisite for strengthening health care systems and making progress towards effective universal health coverage under Sustainable Development Goal 3. In response to the request in resolution WHA72.6 (2019), the Director-General will submit a draft global patient safety action plan. The report will outline the purpose, vision, guiding principles, framework for action with strategic objectives, and the global patient safety targets. The Board will be invited to consider a draft decision recommending that the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly endorse the global action plan.

6. Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

A report will be submitted in response to the request in decision WHA72(11) (2019) to the Director-General "to consolidate reporting on the progress achieved in the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and the promotion of mental health with an annual report ..., annexing reports on implementation of relevant resolutions, action plans and strategies, in line with existing reporting mandates and timelines". The report will also include the biennial report on the implementation of the commitments made in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition, adopted at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (2014). The Board will be invited to note the report and its annexes, adopt the proposed updates to the appendices of WHO's comprehensive mental health action plan 2013–2030, and provide guidance on the continued relevance of WHO's global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020 and the global coordination mechanism on the prevention and

control of noncommunicable diseases. In this exercise, the Board will be able to take into account the outcomes of two evaluations, the executive summaries of which will be submitted by the Evaluation Office in separate reports.

- Oral health

At the recommendation of the Officers of the Executive Board, the Director-General will submit a report outlining the challenges to global public health posed by oral diseases, recent oral health activities of the Secretariat, and actions towards better oral health by 2030 as part of the work on noncommunicable diseases and universal health coverage. The Board will be invited to note the report and provide guidance on the way forward.

7. Expanding access to effective treatments for cancer and rare and orphan diseases, including medicines, vaccines, medical devices, diagnostics, assistive products, cell- and gene-based therapies and other health technologies; and improving the transparency of markets for medicines, vaccines and other health products

At the recommendation of the Officers of the Executive Board in 2019,¹ and pursuant to resolutions WHA70.12 (2017) and WHA72.8 (2019), the Director-General will submit a report on progress that includes access to health products for rare and orphan diseases. The Board will be invited to note the progress made and to provide further guidance on optimizing access to cell- and gene-based therapeutics and other health products for rare and orphan diseases.

8. Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property

In response to the request in decision WHA73(11) (2020), the Director-General will submit a report on progress made in implementing the decision, including an update on the informal consultations referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3) of the decision. The Board will be invited to note the report.

9. Antimicrobial resistance

Pursuant to resolution WHA72.5 (2019), the Director-General will submit a report that: outlines progress in implementing the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance; provides an update on activities towards achieving the five strategic objectives of the global action plan, on progress in global coordination and tripartite partnership efforts; and highlights the main country-level and global challenges in programme implementation. The Board will be invited to note the report and provide guidance on accelerating Member States' implementation of national action plans on antimicrobial resistance and on enhancing feedback from health ministries on the process to review the Codex Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance.

10. Substandard and falsified medical products

Pursuant to resolution WHA65.19 (2012) a report based on the outcomes of the eighth and ninth plenary meetings of the Member State mechanism on substandard and falsified medical products will be submitted to the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly through the Board. It will include a review of the progress made in implementing the workplan (list of prioritized activities) for the period of 2020–2021. The Board will also receive information on the one-year extension of the current composition of the Steering Committee in order to align the term of office of the Steering Committee with the timespan of the workplan.

¹ See Note for the Record of the meeting of the Director-General and the Officers of the Executive Board on 5 and 6 October 2019 (https://apps.who.int/gb/gov/assets/NFR_5-6-10-2019_en.pdf, accessed 14 December 2020).

11. Standardization of medical devices nomenclature

As agreed by the Board at its 145th session,¹ the Director-General will submit a report on further work undertaken and the outcome of consultations. It will include an analysis of existing systems and confirmation that WHO will neither develop a new nomenclature of medical devices nor adopt a proprietary system but will harmonize with the European Medical Device Nomenclature, which will support regulation, assessment and management of medical devices to improve access. The Board will be invited to note the progress made and provide further guidance, for instance on the next steps.

12. Immunization Agenda 2030

Following the request in decision WHA73(9) (2020), the Director-General will submit a report on the finalization of the operational elements outlined in the Immunization Agenda 2030. The Board will be invited to note the report and to provide guidance on the proposed frameworks for ownership and accountability and for monitoring and evaluation.

13. Integrated people-centred eye care, including preventable vision impairment and blindness

Pursuant to resolution WHA73.4 (2020), the Director-General will submit a report with recommendations for feasible global targets for 2030 on effective coverage of both treatment of refractive error and cataract surgery, for consideration by the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly. The Board will be invited to note the report and provide further guidance.

Pillar 2: One billion more people better protected from health emergencies

14. Public health emergencies: preparedness and response

14.1 COVID-19 response

Further to the document submitted to the Executive Board at its fifth special session (on the COVID-19 response),² the Director-General will submit a report to provide the Board with an update on the Secretariat's activities to combat the pandemic of coronavirus (COVID-19).

14.2 WHO's work in health emergencies

Pursuant to requests in resolution EBSS3.R1 (2015), decision WHA68(10) (2015) and resolution WHA73.8 (2020), the Director-General will submit a report which will: provide updates on all public health emergencies of international concern, Grade 3 and United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee Level 3 emergencies in which WHO took action in 2020 (up to August) and on the progress made to improve research and development for potentially epidemic diseases; and describe the work WHO is undertaking at global, regional and country levels in order to prepare for, prevent, detect and respond to health emergencies, including its role as health cluster lead. The Board will be invited to note the report.

- Strengthening WHO's global emergency preparedness and response

At the recommendation of the Officers of the Executive Board, the Director-General will submit a report on strengthening WHO's global emergency preparedness and response. It is intended that the report will support a discussion on the opportunities for making progress on strengthening the capacity of the WHO Secretariat and Member States to fulfil their respective roles in preventing, detecting and responding to health emergencies,

¹ Document EB145/2019/REC/1, summary record of the first meeting, section 5.

² Document EBSS/5/2.

including outbreaks, in order to protect and improve global public health by full implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005).

- Strengthening preparedness for health emergencies: implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)

Pursuant to requests made by the Health Assembly in resolutions WHA73.1 (2020) and WHA73.8, on September 2020 the Director-General convened the Review Committee on the functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) during the COVID-19 response. The Director-General will transmit the Review Committee's interim progress report to the Executive Board for its consideration.

14.3 Mental health preparedness and response for the COVID-19 pandemic

At the recommendation of the Officers of the Executive Board, the Director-General will submit a report on addressing the mental health dimension of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the essential place that mental health should have in all preparedness actions and responses to COVID-19, and on ensuring that mental health is included in universal health coverage as countries recover from the pandemic. The Board will be invited to note the report and provide further guidance.

14.4 The public health implications of implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

Pursuant to decision WHA72(13) (2019), the Director-General will submit a report on current pathogen-sharing practices and arrangements, the implementation of access and benefit-sharing measures, and the potential public health outcomes and other implications of implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The Board will be invited to note the report and consider recommending that the Health Assembly request the Secretariat to continue its work in this area.

15. Poliomyelitis

15.1 Poliomyelitis eradication

In line with the request in resolution WHA61.1 (2008), the Director-General will submit an update on: efforts to interrupt remaining wild poliovirus transmission; the responses to outbreaks due to circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 and the introduction of novel oral polio vaccine type 2; the impact of COVID-19 on the polio eradication programme; a review of the governance of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and the process for developing a new strategy; and the financing situation at end-2020. The Board will be invited to note the report.

15.2 Polio transition planning and polio post-certification

Pursuant to decision WHA70.9 (2017), the Director-General will provide a status update on the implementation of WHO's Strategic Action Plan on Polio Transition for the period 2019–2023, with a focus on measures taken to address those COVID-19 restrictions that risk impeding its implementation, as well as a summary of progress with priority country action plans. The Board will be invited to note the report.

Pillar 3: One billion more people enjoying better health and well-being

16. Social determinants of health

At the recommendation of the Officers of the Executive Board,¹ the Director-General will submit a report on addressing social determinants of health, namely, the conditions in which people grow, learn, live, work and age

¹ See document EB146/1 (annotated).

that have negative consequences on many health outcomes and on health equity, as illustrated by COVID-19. The Board will be invited to note the report and provide further guidance.

Pillar 4: More effective and efficient WHO providing better support to countries

17. Budget and finance matters

17.1 Proposed programme budget 2022–2023

Using input provided by the regional committees, the draft Proposed programme budget 2022–2023 will be submitted for consideration by the Board. In response to requests made at recent meetings of the governing bodies, the Board will also receive information on progress towards achieving the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP).

- Sustainable financing

In response to comments made during the discussions at the thirty-second meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board, and in Committee B of the Seventy-third World Health Assembly (resumed), the Director-General will submit a report to enable the Board to discuss the subject of sustainable funding.

17.2 Update on the financing and implementation of the Programme budget 2020–2021

The Director-General will submit a report on the financing and implementation of the Programme budget 2020–2021, which the Board will be invited to note.

17.3 Scale of assessments 2022–2023

The Board will be invited to consider the scale of assessments for 2022–2023, together with a draft resolution recommending adoption of the scale by the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly.

17.4 Status of collection of assessed contributions, including Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution

The Director-General will submit a report on status of collection of assessed contributions, including Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution.

17.5 Amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules [if any]

18. Update on the Infrastructure Fund

18.1 Update on information management and technology

In response to comments made during discussions of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board at its thirty-second meeting,¹ the Director-General will submit a report on the Secretariat's management of cybersecurity.

¹ Document EB146/3.

18.2 Geneva buildings renovation strategy

In line with decisions WHA69(18) (2016) and WHA70(16) (2017), and as requested by the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board,¹ the Director-General will submit a report to update the Board on the status of the construction and renovation projects, and will provide details of progress made against previously reported timelines and cost updates.

19. Governance matters

19.1 WHO transformation

In response to the recommendation made by the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board,¹ with which the Executive Board had concurred at its 146th session,² the Director-General will submit a report to update the Board on progress made in implementing the transformation agenda.

19.2 WHO reform

- WHO reform: governance

Further to the Board's request in decision EB146(21) (2020), the Director-General will submit recommendations drawn up after informal consultations with Member States on governance reform, held on 26 November 2020 and 8 December 2020. Member States considered establishing end dates for reporting on resolutions and decisions that have unspecified reporting requirements, and consolidating and managing reporting requirements on similar subjects. The Board will be invited to note the report and consider a draft decision.

- WHO reform: World health days

In response to comments made during the deliberations of Committee B of the Seventy-third World Health Assembly (resumed), the Director-General will submit a report in order to enable the Board to discuss the subject of world health days in the context of WHO reform.

- WHO reform: involvement of non-State actors in WHO's governing bodies

In February 2020 the Executive Board at its 146th session, noted the proposals for improving involvement of non-State actors in WHO governing bodies, and requested the Secretariat to submit a revised version of the report to the Board at its 148th session.³ This report responds to that request, and in particular provides further information and proposals for the informal meeting between non-State actors, WHO technical units and Member States. The Board is invited to note the report and decide if the proposed new approach to non-State actor involvement and the informal meeting should be tested at the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly.

19.3 Global strategies and plans of action that are scheduled to expire within one year

- WHO global disability action plan 2014–2021: better health for all people with disability

As requested in decision WHA73(15) (2020) regarding global strategies or action plans that are scheduled to expire within one year, the Director-General will submit a report on the WHO global disability action plan 2014–2021.

¹ Document EB146/3.

² See document EB146/2020/REC/2, summary record of the second meeting, section 3.

³ See document EB146/2020/REC/2, summary record of the fourteenth meeting, section 5.

It will describe the progress made in implementing resolution WHA67.7 (2014) and the lessons learned. The Board will be invited to take note of the report and provide further guidance.

- The global health sector strategies on, respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, for the period 2016–2021

As requested in decision WHA73(15) (2020) regarding global strategies or action plans that are scheduled to expire within one year, the Director-General will submit a report on the implementation of resolution WHA69.22 (2016) describing progress made in tackling HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, the challenges faced in achieving the 2030 goals, and the lessons learned to date. The Board will be invited to take note of the report and provide further guidance.

19.4 Process for the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization

In the context of the relevant Rules of Procedure, resolutions and decisions, the Note by the Legal Counsel will provide additional details on: the proposal of candidates, leave status of internal candidates, electoral campaign activities at sessions of the regional committees, candidates' forums, support for nominated candidates in the period between the relevant sessions of the Executive Board and the Health Assembly. Additionally, the Board will receive information on the process from an information management and technology perspective. The Board will be invited to note the Note by the Legal Counsel and to consider requesting the Secretariat to conduct a study on optical scanners with a view to reporting to the Seventy-fourth Health Assembly, and recommending that nominated candidates address the Health Assembly before the vote and that financial support for travel be provided to all candidates participating in the candidates' forums.

19.5 Engagement with non-State actors

- Report on the implementation of the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors

In accordance with resolution WHA69.10 (2016) and the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (subparagraph 68(a)), the Director-General will submit the annual report on WHO's implementation of the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors, illustrating engagements with entities and reporting on the different aspects of the implementation of the Framework at the three levels of the Organization. The Board will be invited to note the report.

- Non-State actors in official relations with WHO

In line with the provisions of the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors, the Executive Board is mandated, through its Programme, Budget and Administration Committee, to consider applications for admittance of non-State actors into official relations and to review collaboration with one third of the non-State actors in official relations in order to decide whether to maintain, defer the review or discontinue their official relations. The Board will be invited to note the report and to consider a draft decision.

19.6 Provisional agenda of the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly and date and place of the 149th session of the Executive Board

20. Committees of the Executive Board

20.1 Foundation committees and selection panels

The Director-General will submit reports summarizing the outcomes of the meetings of the selection panels and committees of the foundations for the prizes to be awarded in 2021, including the nominations received, recommendations of the panels and/or committees.

21. Staffing matters

21.1 Statement by the representative of the WHO staff associations

21.2 Report of the Ombudsman

21.3 Human resources: update

The Director-General will provide an update on the implementation of the Organization-wide human resources strategy and its three pillars (attracting talent, retaining talent and an enabling working environment), together with an analysis of workforce data. In response to requests made at recent meetings of the governing bodies, and in the context of its consideration of human resources matters, the Board will also receive information on progress towards achieving the relevant aspects of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP).

21.4 Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules

Amendments to the Staff Rules made by the Director-General will be submitted for confirmation by the Board in accordance with Staff Regulation 12.2. Proposed amendments to the Staff Regulations will be presented for consideration by the Board for submission to the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly. The Board will be invited to note the report and consider three draft resolutions.

21.5 Report of the International Civil Service Commission

The Director-General will make the Commission's report and recommendations available to the Board. The Secretariat will provide the Board with a verbal summary of the salient points.

22. Report on meetings of expert committees and study groups

- Expert advisory panels and committees and their membership

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

In addition, the Director-General will provide details of both meetings and membership in respect of expert committees that met in 2020.

23. Closure of the session

Note:

1. *At their virtual meeting with the Director-General on 16 September 2020, convened in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Officers of the Executive Board discussed, among other things, the draft provisional agenda that had been transmitted to Member States for comment on 19 June 2020. They considered the implications for the agenda arising from the written silence procedure, together with a number of proposals for items to be added to the agenda, and agreed to make various recommendations.*

2. *The Secretariat explained that the written silence procedure, completed on 3 August 2020, had enabled four resolutions and eight decisions to be adopted. Of those, resolution WHA73.4 (on eye care) and decision WHA73(9) (on the Immunization Agenda 2030) requested the Director-General to take actions that were to be*

considered by the Executive Board at its 148th session. A further decision thus adopted – WHA73(15) (on WHO reform: governance) – requested the Director-General to “systematically include as substantive items on the agendas of meetings of the WHO governing bodies any global strategies or action plans that are scheduled to expire within one year in order to allow Member States to consider whether global strategies or action plans have fulfilled their mandates, should be extended and/or need to be adjusted.” As a result, the following needed to be considered by the Executive Board in January 2021:

- WHO global disability action plan 2014–2021: better health for all people with disability (resolution WHA67.7) (2014). As one of the additional items, proposed by the Governments of Mexico, Israel and New Zealand, concerned dealing with challenges faced by persons with disabilities in times of emergency, this could be taken up on the Provisional agenda under either Pillar 1 or Pillar 4;
- The global health sector strategies on, respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, for the period 2016–2021 (resolution WHA69.22) (2016).

3. After discussing the outcome of the written silence procedure and the additional agenda items proposed by Member States, the Officers decided to recommend that the following items be included in the Provisional agenda, on the understanding that it was realistic and feasible for the Executive Board to deal with its agenda as amended:

- following the written silence procedure:
 - (i) Immunization Agenda 2030, as new item 12
 - (ii) Integrated people-centred eye care, including preventable vision impairment and blindness, as new item 13
 - (iii) the global instruments listed in paragraph 4 above, through the creation of a new item 19.3, entitled “Global strategies and plans of action that are scheduled to expire within one year”;
- the item on **oral health**, proposed by the Government of Sri Lanka, which would be added as a **bullet** under **existing item 6**;
- the item on **mental health preparedness and response for the COVID-19 pandemic**, proposed by the Government of Thailand, under **Pillar 2** in view of the strong links with emergency preparedness, with the Secretariat to decide on its exact positioning within **item 14**;
- the item on **strengthening WHO’s global emergency preparedness and response**, proposed by the Government of the United States of America, which would be added as a **bullet** under **existing item 14.2**.

4. Following an explanation from the Secretariat, the Officers also recommended that the following items be deleted from the Provisional agenda:

- **Item 12.3 on Pandemic influenza preparedness: sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits** as the Secretariat had submitted a report to be considered by the Seventy-third World Health Assembly at its resumed session,¹ in which the Secretariat explained that it had fully implemented the recommendations of the 2016 review to develop clear, harmonized and simplified reporting on implementation of the PIP Framework, and that all actions under resolution WHA64.5 and section 7.4.1 of the PIP Framework had been addressed;

¹ Document A73/4 Add.1.

- **Item 18.1 on Membership of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee** as matters concerning membership needed to be discussed at the 149th session of the Executive Board.

5. At a further virtual meeting with the Director-General, convened on 27 November 2020, the Officers of the Bureau, among other things, reviewed an updated version of the draft Provisional agenda of the 148th session of the Executive Board, which had been prepared in order to indicate changes proposed to the draft Provisional agenda currently posted on the web. The proposed changes fell into two categories:

- changes recommended by the Bureau at its previous meeting in September (including those mandated by resolutions and decisions adopted in August through the written silence procedure)¹
- changes stemming from recommendations of the thirty-second meeting of the PBAC in October and resolutions and decisions adopted at the resumed sessions of the Health Assembly in November.

6. The following changes were proposed, relating to mandates provided by the October and November sessions of the governing bodies:

- following adoption of resolution WHA73.8, a second bullet point to be added under the subitem on WHO's work in health emergencies, entitled "Strengthening preparedness for health emergencies: implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)";
- following the discussions at the thirty-second meeting of PBAC and in Committee B of the Seventy-third World Health Assembly (resumed), a bullet point to be added under the subitem on the Proposed programme budget 2022–2023, entitled "Sustainable financing";
- following the adoption of decision WHA73(31), under the item on Budget and finance matters, a new subitem 17.4 to be added, entitled "Status of collection of assessed contributions, including Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution";
- following the PBAC's request to the Secretariat, at its thirty-second meeting, to submit a report on cybersecurity, the title of the item on Geneva buildings renovation strategy to be changed to read "Update on the Infrastructure Fund", with the old item title becoming the title of a second subitem; a new first subitem to be added, entitled "Update on information management and technology";
- following the discussion in Committee B of the Seventy-third World Health Assembly (resumed), under the item on Governance matters, a bullet point to be added below the subitem on WHO reform, entitled "WHO reform: World Health Days".

7. **United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP).** In respect of requests made by PBAC and in Committee B of the Seventy-third World Health Assembly, the Secretariat did not propose to add an item on the UN-SWAP process, as the matter could be covered under the relevant section of the Proposed programme budget and under the subitem on the human resources update.

8. The Officers of the Board **agreed** that the Provisional agenda should be finalized by making the changes mentioned above.

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¹ See the Note for the Record of the meeting of the Director-General with the Officers of the Executive Board on 16 September 2020 (https://apps.who.int/gb/gov/en/chair-and-officers-of-the-executive-board_en.html).