

Template and recommended timeline for proposing resolutions and decisions

The Executive Board, having considered the report on matters emanating from the Agile Member States Task Group on Strengthening WHO's Budgetary, Programmatic and Financing Governance;¹ having established, through decision EB151(1) (2022), an Agile Member States Task Group on strengthening WHO budgetary, programmatic and financing governance, to analyse challenges in governance for transparency, efficiency, accountability and compliance, and to devise recommendations; recognizing the need to address the significant preparatory work by Member States and the Secretariat in the weeks leading up to governing body meetings, and that deadlines for the proposal of new resolutions and decisions to the Executive Board in the current Rules of Procedure can exacerbate demands on Member States and the Secretariat during this period; and noting its decision EB152(15) (2023) to request the Director-General to give effect to those recommendations of the Task Group where actions are proposed ahead of their consideration by the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly,

Decided:

- (1) to note that Member States agreed, in developing proposed Health Assembly resolutions and decisions for consideration by the Executive Board at its 154th or 156th session, without prejudice to existing Rules of Procedure, which this decision does not change:
 - (a) to demonstrate their commitment to better governance practices in the lead-up to governing body meetings, by developing any such proposals, in accordance with the timeline set out in the Appendix to Annex 2 of document EB153/4 and the deadlines therein;
 - (b) that, if such proposals miss the deadlines set out in that timeline, the proposing Member State will share the rationale with all Member States via email regarding the urgency of having their proposal considered in the current cycle and the consequences of delaying its consideration until the following governing body cycle;
 - (c) to be guided by a template, to be prepared by the Secretariat, in preparing the zero draft of such proposals for the Health Assembly;

¹ Document EB153/4.

- (2) to request the Director-General:
- (a) in preparation for the 154th and 156th sessions of the Executive Board, by the end of September 2023 and September 2024, respectively:
 - (i) to organize the Secretariat's planning and support for Member States, in the development and consideration by Member States of proposed resolutions and/or decisions, in accordance with the timeline set out in the Appendix to Annex 2 of document EB153/4;
 - (ii) to prepare a template to guide Member States in their preparation of Health Assembly resolutions and/or decisions and circulate this to Member States in accordance with the timeline set out in the Appendix to Annex 2 of document EB153/4;
 - (iii) to develop and maintain a checklist to guide Member States in their preparation of resolutions and/or decisions (in order, amongst other things, to address duplication and/or synergies with other resolutions or decisions, together with the applicability of sunset clauses), and to circulate this in accordance with the timeline set out in the Appendix to Annex 2 of document EB153/4;
 - (b) following the 154th session of the Executive Board, and again following the 156th session of the Executive Board, to invite Member States to respond to a written questionnaire assessing their experience with the use of the aforementioned templates, timeline and checklist;
 - (c) by the end of March 2024, to submit the questionnaire results with respect to the 154th session of the Executive Board to Member States for information;
 - (d) to prepare a report for consideration by the Executive Board at its 157th session that includes the questionnaire results with respect to the 154th and 156th sessions of the Executive Board, and to prepare a report for consideration by the Executive Board at its 158th session with guidance on the steps required (such as, potentially, changes to the Rules of Procedure) to advance the preparation of Member State draft resolutions and/or draft decisions for consideration by the Executive Board and recommendation to the Health Assembly;
 - (e) when addressing the Task Group's recommendations, to develop a project plan, with associated costs for the implementation of digital solutions for governing body services' interactions with Member States, including an option for a searchable online database of WHO resolutions and decisions.

First meeting, 31 May 2023
EB153/SR/1

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