World Health Organization

Executive Board
160th session

Geneva, 25 January–2 February 2027 EB160/1 (annotated)

20 November 2026

Provisional agenda (annotated)

1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda

2. Report by the Director-General

3. Report of the regional committees to the Executive Board

The Board will be invited to consider the recommendations and comments of the regional committees in the reports submitted pursuant to decision WHA65(9) (2012).

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 forty-fifth meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee, which is scheduled to be held from 20 to 22 January 2027.

Power and performance

5. Post of Director-General

5.1 Nomination of candidates

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

5.3 Draft contract

Provide health

6. Preparations for the United Nations high-level meeting on universal health coverage

In preparation for the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on universal health coverage to be held in 2027, the Director-General will submit a report on progress, challenges and evidence-based strategic priorities to advance universal health coverage and equitable, resilient health systems. The Board will be invited to note the report and provide further guidance.

7. Follow-up to the political declaration of the fourth high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and the promotion of mental health and well-being

In response to decisions WHA74(17) (2021) and WHA79(16) (2026) as well as to resolutions WHA57.17 (2004), WHA74.4 (2021), WHA74.5 (2021), WHA78.5 (2025), WHA78.6 (2025) and

WHA79.10 (2026), the Director-General will submit a consolidated report on the progress made in implementing the political declaration of the fourth high-level meeting across several priority areas. The report will also describe ongoing work to update the menu of policy options and cost-effective interventions for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases in accordance with decision WHA76(9) (2023). The Board will be invited to note the report and provide further guidance.

8. Mental health

Pursuant to decision WHA78(11) (2025) calling for a dedicated report on mental health, the Director-General will submit an annual report outlining progress made on decision WHA74(14) (2021) relating to the implementation of the comprehensive mental health action plan 2013–2030 and on resolution WHA77.3 (2024) on strengthening mental health and psychosocial support before, during and after armed conflicts, natural and human-caused disasters and health and other emergencies. The report will also outline the progress made in implementing the intersectoral global action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders 2022–2031 and the global alcohol action plan (2022–2030) pursuant to decision WHA75(11) (2022); and the global action plan on the public health response to dementia 2017–2025, extended to 2031, pursuant to decisions WHA70(17) (2017) and WHA78(23) (2025). The Board will be invited to note the report and provide further guidance.

9. Draft global plan of action on public health responses to skin diseases

Pursuant to resolution WHA78.15 (2025), the Director-General will submit to the Board for consideration and further submission to the Eightieth World Health Assembly a report that includes a draft global action plan for skin diseases, developed in consultation with Member States and stakeholders. The Board will be invited to note the report and consider a draft decision.

10. Draft global strategy on donation and transplantation

Pursuant to decision WHA79(18) (2026) and resolution WHA77.4 (2024), the Director-General will submit to the Board for consideration and further submission to the Eightieth World Health Assembly a draft global strategy on donation and transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs, developed in consultation with Member States and stakeholders. The Board will be invited to note the report and consider a draft decision.

11. Substandard and falsified medical products

Pursuant to resolution WHA65.19 (2012), the Director-General will transmit a report on the outcome of the fifteenth meeting of the Member State mechanism on substandard and falsified medical products. The report will include a review of the progress made in implementing activities prioritized for the period 2025–2026 that align with WHO's strategy to prevent, detect and respond to substandard and falsified medical products. The Board will be invited to note the report.

12. International classification of diseases

Pursuant to resolution WHA72.15 (2019), the Director-General will submit a report on progress in implementing the eleventh revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, including an outlook on future developments. The Board will be invited to note the report and consider a draft decision.

13. Draft global strategy on digital health 2028–2033

Pursuant to decision WHA78(22) (2025), the Director-General will submit to the Board for consideration and further submission to the Eightieth World Health Assembly a draft global strategy on digital health 2028–2033, developed in consultation with Member States and stakeholders. The Board will be invited to note the report and consider a draft decision.

13.1 Safe and trustworthy artificial intelligence in health

The Director-General will submit a report on safe and trustworthy artificial intelligence in health, outlining key opportunities, challenges and considerations for its responsible development and use. The Board will be invited to note the report and provide guidance on WHO's work to support the safe, ethical and equitable use of artificial intelligence in health.

Protect health

14. Poliomyelitis

The Director-General will submit a report that provides an update on implementation and financing of the Polio Eradication Strategy 2022–2026, extended to 2029, and on preparing for a lasting polio-free world. The Board will be invited to note the report and provide further guidance.

15. WHO's work in health emergencies

The Director-General will submit a report describing WHO's response in 2026 to 48 graded health emergencies across 95 countries and territories and the concurrent operational challenges. WHO will continue to coordinate the health response, collaborate with partners, provide support to Member States in building critical capacities and advocate for sustainable financing to address the increasing humanitarian health needs. The Board will be invited to note the report and provide guidance on how to meet demand within challenging operational and funding environments.

16. Implementation of resolution WHA79.6 (2026)

Pursuant to resolution WHA79.6 (2026), the Director-General will submit a report outlining the public health implications arising from disruptions related to attacks and regional tensions and affecting health services, essential infrastructure and health supply chains in Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Jordan. The Board will be invited to note the report and provide further guidance.

17. Implementation of resolution WHA75.11 (2022)

Pursuant to decision WHA79(11) (2026), the Director-General will submit a report to the Board on the implementation of resolution WHA75.11 (2022), as well as the related regional and wider than regional health impacts, including the adverse effects on the attainment of the objective and functions of WHO. The Board will be invited to note the report and provide further guidance.

18. Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem

Pursuant to decision WHA79(9) (2026), the Director-General will submit a report on the public health implications of the catastrophic humanitarian crisis in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem. The Board will be invited to note the report and provide further guidance.

Promote health

19. Draft global action plan on lead mitigation

Pursuant to resolution WHA78.27 (2025), the Director-General will submit to the Board for consideration and further submission to the Eightieth World Health Assembly a draft global action plan on lead mitigation, developed in consultation with Member States and stakeholders. The Board will be invited to note the report and consider a draft decision.

20. Draft global plan of action for the health of Indigenous Peoples

Pursuant to resolution WHA76.16 (2023) and decision EB158(10) (2026), the Director-General will submit to the Board for consideration and further submission to the Eighteenth World Health Assembly a draft global plan of action for the health of Indigenous Peoples. The Board will be invited to note the report and consider a draft decision.

21. Fostering social connection for global health: the essential role of social connection in combating loneliness, social isolation and inequities in health

Pursuant to resolution WHA78.9 (2025), the Director-General will submit a report outlining the progress made and results achieved in strengthening social connection and reducing loneliness, social isolation and inequities in health. The Board will be invited to note the report and provide further guidance.

Power and performance

22. Budget and finance matters

22.1 Financing and implementation of the Programme budget 2026–2027

The Director-General will submit a report on the financing and implementation of the Programme budget 2026–2027 and the outlook on financing for the Programme budget 2028–2029. The Board will be invited to note the report and provide further guidance.

22.2 Proposed programme budget 2028–2029

The Director-General will submit the first draft of the Proposed programme budget 2028–2029. The Board will be invited to discuss the proposed draft and provide guidance for its finalization by the Eighteenth World Health Assembly. Intersessional meetings with Member States are expected to be held between January and April 2027 to receive updates as needed.

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

22.4 Scale of assessments 2028–2029

The Director-General will submit a report on the scale of assessments for 2028–2029, together with a draft resolution recommending adoption of the scale by the Eighteenth World Health Assembly.

23. Management and governance matters

23.1 Governance reform

- Secretariat implementation plan on reform

The Director-General will submit a report on the implementation of actions contained in the Secretariat's implementation plan on reform, as proposed by the Secretariat and endorsed by the Board in decision EB152(16) (2023). The report will provide an update on the closure of all actions under the implementation plan and the remaining challenges related to sustaining the gains achieved through the reforms in the current financial environment.

- Sustainable model for Member State-led governance reform

In accordance with decision EB158(22) (2026), the Member State-led governance reform advocacy group will be invited to report to the Executive Board at its 160th session on progress in tracking the achievement and/or implementation of the remaining recommendations of the Agile Member States Task Group on Strengthening WHO’s Budgetary, Programmatic and Financing Governance.

23.2 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) on the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors and paragraph 68(a) of the latter, the Director-General will submit the eleventh annual report on WHO's implementation of the Framework, 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 non-State actors in official relations in order to decide whether to maintain, defer the review of, or discontinue their official relations. The Board will be invited to note the report and consider a draft decision.

23.3 Prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment

The Director-General will submit a report on progress made towards implementation of WHO's strategy for preventing and responding to sexual misconduct, including the future outlook for strengthening prevention of and response to sexual misconduct. The Board will be invited to note the report and provide further guidance.

24. Reform of the global health architecture and the UN80 Initiative

Pursuant to decision WHA79(20) (2026), the Director-General will transmit the interim report of the task force on the reform of the global health architecture. The Board will be invited to note the report and provide further guidance.

25. Provisional agenda of the Eightieth World Health Assembly and date and place of the 161st session of the Executive Board

The Board will consider the provisional agenda of the Eightieth World Health Assembly and a draft decision on the date and place of the 161st session of the Executive Board.

26. Committees of the Executive Board

26.1 Foundation committees and selection panels

In his role as Administrator of the public health prizes and awards, the Director-General will submit a report on the administration of the prizes with a view to implementing decision EB158(13) (2026). The Board will be invited to note the report and consider the associated draft decisions.

In his role as Secretary of the selection panels, the Director-General will submit, on their behalf, reports summarizing the recommendations of the selection panels and key relevant information about the recommended candidates for the five public health prizes and award to be awarded at the Eightieth World Health Assembly. The Board will be invited to decide who the recipients of the awards will be.

26.2 Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee: membership renewal

The Board will be invited to note a report by the Director-General on the membership of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee and consider a draft decision for the renewal of one of the members of the Advisory Committee.

27. Staffing matters

27.1 Appointment of the Regional Director for South-East Asia

The Regional Committee's proposal for the appointment of the Regional Director will be transmitted to the Board for its consideration. The Board will be invited to consider a draft resolution.

27.2 Statement by the representative of the WHO staff associations

In a statement to the Board, the representative of the staff associations of WHO, IARC, PAHO and UNAIDS will present the perspectives and priorities of the workforce on matters affecting staff and the effective delivery of the Organization's mandate.

27.3 Report of the Ombudsperson

As part of the Ombudsperson's accountability, the WHO Ombudsperson reports annually to the Executive Board on the most relevant systemic issues identified during the period and provides observations on how the issues could be addressed.

27.4 Human resources: update

The Director-General will submit an update to the human resources annual report for 2025 noted by the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly in May 2026. The report will summarize workforce data and describe activities conducted under the human resources strategy and within the major transformation workstreams in 2026. It will also focus on the impact of the 2025 prioritization and realignment process. The Board will be invited to note the report and provide further guidance.

27.5 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 submitted to the Board for consideration and further submission to the Eightieth World Health Assembly.

27.6 Report of the International Civil Service Commission

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

28. 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 2026.

29. Closure of the session

Note:[1]

1. The Officers of the Executive Board met with the Director-General on 8 October 2026. The meeting was held virtually using videoconference technology. As the Vice-Chair from Haiti was unable to attend, Ambassador Ann-Kathryne Lassègue (Haiti) was invited to present the views of the Vice-Chair.

Purpose of the meeting

2. In accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the meeting would review the existing draft provisional agenda of the 160th session of the Board, to be held in January 2027, together with proposals received for additional items, in order to prepare the provisional agenda. In line with Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, any proposal for a new item should be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum.

3. The meeting opened with a welcome from the Director-General to the Chair and other Officers.

4. The Chair of the Executive Board chaired the meeting. In his opening comments, he welcomed the Officers. He also noted that Regional Coordinators had been invited to attend as observers.

5. The Officers agreed to the proposed method of work. At the proposal of the Chair, they also agreed to discuss together the items on (a) the prioritization of proposals for the provisional agenda of the 160th session of the Executive Board and (b) the preparation of that agenda.

Provisional agenda of the 160th session of the Executive Board

6. The Chair informed the Officers that seven proposals for new agenda items had been received from Member States by the deadline of 14 September 2026 and included an explanatory memorandum. Two further proposals had been received after the deadline.

7. The Chair proposed that, in line with established practice, the proposals received after the deadline would not be considered. He also pointed out that the draft provisional agenda was complex with respect to the density of each item, and further proposed that the meeting consider adding only those items that could not be addressed by the Board at future sessions.

8. The Chair reminded Officers of the template, requested by the Executive Board at its 144th session, which invited the Officers to consider several elements, including whether the proposed items addressed a global public health issue, a new subject within the scope of WHO, or an issue representing a significant public health burden. The template had recently been updated to reflect criteria outlined in the revised terms of reference of the Officers of the Board[2] and also asked the Officers to consider the last time the proposed item was considered by the governing bodies; work performed currently by WHO in relation to the proposed item; how the proposal aligned with the Fourteenth General Programme of Work, 2025–2028; whether the Board was the appropriate body to address the proposal; the rationale for the proposal; and the existence of

[1] See the Note for the Record of the meeting of the Director-General with the Officers of the Executive Board on 8 October 2026.

[2] See decision EB156(3) (2025) and document EB156/31, Annex.

reporting requirements in relation to the proposed item. He further noted that the revised terms of reference for Officers on the Board[3] indicated that an Officer should recuse herself or himself from consideration of a proposal from the Member State that nominated the Officer in question.

9. The Chair proposed that, following their review, the Officers should decide to recommend one of five options:

Option 1: accept the proposal as a new agenda item

Option 2: combine the proposed item with an existing item

Option 3: defer the proposed item to a later session

Option 4: refer the proposal to another governing body, such as the regional committees or the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board

Option 5: not include the proposal on the agenda of the Executive Board at its 160th session.

10. The Chair also drew the Officers' attention to proposals from the Secretariat.

11. The Officers of the Board agreed to make the **recommendations** set forth below:

Provide health

- that the proposed item on accelerating action on healthy ageing and healthy longevity should **not be included** on the agenda of the Executive Board at its 160th session, noting that the subject of the proposal could be discussed under the existing overarching agenda item on preparations for the United Nations high-level meeting on universal health coverage, and that reporting requirements were already in place through the UN Decade on Healthy Ageing 2021–2030 and its 2025 monitoring and evaluation framework;

- that the proposed item on childhood-onset heart disease should **not be included** on the agenda but should be covered under the existing item on follow-up to the political declaration of the fourth high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and the promotion of mental health and well-being, noting that broad mandates and reporting requirements were already in place, including for the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health, on which the Eightieth World Health Assembly would consider a report in 2027;

- that the proposed item on safe and trustworthy artificial intelligence in health should be **accepted** as a sub-item on the agenda under the existing item on the digital health strategy, noting the relevance of the issue to broader strategic discussions taking place at the Executive Board and globally;

- that the proposed item on addressing unregulated trade in medicines, pharmaceutical products and performance-enhancing products should be **referred** to the Member State mechanism on substandard and falsified medical products, as the subject was closely linked with prioritized activities under the Member State mechanism for 2025–2026 and the biennial report of the Mechanism was on the current agenda of the Board;

[3] See decision EB156(3) (2025) and document EB156/31, Annex.

- that the proposed item on traumatic brain injury should **not be included** as a standalone item on the agenda as this topic, though important, could be taken up under the existing item on preparations for the United Nations high-level meeting on universal health coverage;

Protect health

- that the proposed item on strengthening global health product security and supply chain resilience should **not be included** on the agenda on the Executive Board at its 160th session, as the public health aspects of that subject were already covered as part of comprehensive reporting on WHO's work in health emergencies in the current agenda;

- that the Secretariat's proposal to adjust the current sequence of item 16, on Implementation of resolution WHA75.11 (2022), and item 17, on Implementation of resolution WHA79.6 (2026), should be **accepted**, as the latter topic was thematically linked to the report on WHO's work in health emergencies (item 15) and consideration of the two items consecutively would facilitate discussions by the Board;

Promote health

- that the proposed item on public health preparedness for radiological and nuclear emergencies should **not be included** on the agenda, as the subject was part of ongoing work pursuant to resolution WHA79.13 (2026) and reporting requirements were already in place, with the next report due to be considered by the governing bodies in 2028;

Power and performance

- that the Secretariat's proposal to add an item on the appointment of the Regional Director for South-east Asia should be **accepted**, in order to allow the Board to consider the outcome of the special session of the Regional Committee for South-East Asia to nominate a new Regional Director, scheduled for 23 January 2027.

Next steps

12. The Officers agreed to empower the Secretariat to make all necessary adjustments to the provisional agenda, and approved the provisional agenda as amended during the meeting.

13. Following the practice of previous years, the provisional agenda, annotated provisional agenda, including the note for the record of the present meeting, and notice of convocation would be dispatched eight weeks before the start of the 160th session of the Board. The Secretariat would inform the Member States that had made proposals, on the basis of the Officers' recommendations.
