

Governance

Introductory remarks by the Director-General

Mr Chairman, distinguished members of the Executive Board, ladies and gentlemen,

As I mentioned yesterday, we have taken careful note of the inputs received on the governance reforms provided by Member States.

These have been received through the web platform, through the Regional Committees, through the Geneva-based mission consultations, and through our many conversations on this issue during the last five months.

As you can see, there has been a considerable evolution in the thinking and in the proposed actions since last May concerning both WHO's internal governance and WHO's role in global health governance.

We are now bringing concrete solutions for your discussion, endorsement, refinement, or reformulation

Allow me to summarize the main thinking and rationale behind the proposed governance reforms.

For WHO internal governance, the aim is to introduce changes in the structure and functioning of governing bodies that make them more effective, more strategic, more focused, and more efficient.

You asked the Secretariat to present a number of specific options and proposals for your consideration. We have done so, as set out in the consolidated document.¹

Now turning to WHO's role in global health governance, the proposals address two main issues: engagement and coherence. The aim is to have WHO play a greater leadership role in global health governance.

As I said before, we will not pursue the option of a World Health Forum.

Let me mention some other specific proposals.

¹ Document EBSS/2/2.

First, set out a series of principles, in paragraph 87 of the document, governing the engagement of a wider range of players, while also ensuring the primacy of the intergovernmental nature of the Organization.

Second, convene multi-stakeholder forums on key health issues, conduct separate consultations with different groups of stakeholders, and invite comments through face-to-face meetings or web-based forums, with the full engagement of governing bodies in these processes. Some of you refer to this as “the PIP model”, which worked very well.

Third, strengthen coordination within the United Nations system, and with coalitions, alliances and partnerships, to achieve greater coherence and complementarity in public health policies and strategies.

We have listened carefully to the views and suggestions of Member States, which are reflected in these specific proposals put forward for your consideration.

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