



World Health Organization Organisation mondiale de la Santé

FIFTY-FIRST WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Provisional agenda item 9

A51/2
24 March 1998

Review and approval of the reports of the Executive Board on its 100th and 101st sessions

In conformity with decision EB66(1), the representatives of the Executive Board to the Fifty-first World Health Assembly present in this document a summary of the work of the Board at its 100th and 101st sessions. An oral statement will also be made to the Health Assembly on the action taken by the Board at the two sessions.

100th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (15-16 May 1997)

1. At its 100th session, the Executive Board continued discussions on **WHO reform** which it had begun at the ninety-third session. It considered a progress report on implementation of decision EB97(13) on the **role of WHO country offices** and called for a comprehensive report at the 101st session. It also considered a progress report of the **special group for the review of the Constitution of WHO**.
2. The Board reviewed a report on **extrabudgetary resources and WHO's priorities** and decided that the panel on extrabudgetary resources established by the Director-General should be extended into an ad hoc working group of the Board. Its report will be submitted to the Executive Board at its 102nd session.
3. The Board considered the report of the **ad hoc working group on health systems development for the future** and adopted resolution EB100.R1 which, *inter alia*, requested the Director-General "to launch a major initiative for research, advocacy, capacity-building and country support for health systems development".
4. The proposed terms of reference for the **WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health (CCH)** were approved by the Board in resolution EB100.R2. The Board also adopted resolution EB100.R3 which concerns Follow-up to United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/56 on **strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance**.

101st SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (19-27 January 1998)

5. At its 101st session the Board continued to follow up **WHO reform**. It considered reports on **WHO country offices, programme budget evaluation** and a report of the **special group on review of the Constitution and regional arrangements of WHO**. The Board adopted decision EB101(6) which endorsed the principle of utilizing objective criteria to determine **WHO representation at country level**. The Board's resolution EB101.R1 on **programme budget evaluation** requests the Director-General *inter alia* to present to

the Board an interim report on the results of the programme budget evaluation to complement the proposed programme budget for the financial period 2000-2001.

6. The Board took action on the recommendations of the **special group on the review of the Constitution of WHO** as follows:

- resolution EB101.R2 which requests the Director-General to propose for consideration of the Fifty-second World Health Assembly draft amendments to the preamble and Articles 7, 11, 21, 25, 50 and 55
- decision EB101(3) which requests the Director-General to ensure a review by all levels of WHO of the revised text of Article 2, relating to functions
- decision EB101(2) which requests the Director-General to present to the Executive Board at its 102nd session a study of the legal situation concerning entry-into-force of amendments
- resolution EB101.R10 which recommends to the Health Assembly a resolution on regular budget allocations to regions
- endorsement of the recommendations to increase the number of seats on the Executive Board to 34 (see item 28 on the agenda of the Health Assembly)
- approval of the proposal that the term of office of the Regional Directors should be five years, renewable once and not apply to present incumbents (see item 5.4 on the agenda for the 102nd session of the Executive Board).

7. The Board reviewed the draft document, **Health-for-all policy in the twenty-first century**, the main purpose of which is to provide a basis for the Organization's work as it moves beyond its fiftieth anniversary and into the twenty-first century. A drafting group of the Board was constituted to produce the text of the World Health Declaration contained in resolution EB101.R22 submitted to the Health Assembly for adoption.

8. The Board considered 13 progress reports submitted as requested by previous resolutions and decisions. Eleven of these reports are forwarded to the Health Assembly for consideration; they concern:

- **task force on health in development**
- **improving technical cooperation among developing countries**
- **prevention of violence**
- **health systems development**
- **revised drug strategy**
- **cross-border advertising, promotion and sale of medical products through the Internet**
- **ethical, scientific and social implications of cloning in human health**
- **health promotion**
- **infant and young child nutrition**

- **tuberculosis**
- **global elimination of blinding trachoma.**

The Board adopted new resolutions on seven of these matters which are forwarded to the Health Assembly.

9. In addition, the Board adopted resolutions on:

- **elimination of transmission of Chagas disease**
- **elimination of leprosy as a public health problem**
- **noncommunicable disease prevention and control**
- **antimicrobial resistance**

all of which recommend resolutions to the Health Assembly.

10. The Board discussed the ACHR report and requested the Director-General to prepare a detailed report for its 103rd session, analysing the role, capabilities and contributions of the various bodies involved in the **international research agenda**.

11. The Board adopted resolution EB101.R16 which requests the Director-General *inter alia* to report to the Health Assembly on an **efficiency plan for the financial period 1998-1999**, clearly specifying the savings to be made and indicating the health programmes to which such savings should be reallocated.

12. Following its consideration of the **status of collection of assessed contributions**, the Board adopted decision EB101(14) on the possibility of recommending that as an exceptional measure for the current Health Assembly which marks the fiftieth anniversary of WHO, voting rights should be restored to countries which had lost that privilege.

13. The Executive Board nominated Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland for the post of **Director-General of WHO** and has submitted this nomination to the Health Assembly. It also recommended to the Assembly that Dr Hiroshi Nakajima should be declared Director-General Emeritus of WHO as from the date of his retirement.

14. The full texts of all decisions and resolutions adopted by the Board are contained in documents EB100/1997/REC/1 and EB101/1998/REC/1. The 102nd session of the Board will be convened on Monday, 18 May 1998 at WHO headquarters in Geneva.

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