

Overview of reform implementation

Report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly

1. The twenty-second meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board was held in Geneva on 14 and 15 May 2015 under the chairmanship of Mrs Kathryn Tyson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).¹ The Committee adopted its agenda, with the deletion of items 2.8 and 3.5.²
2. Welcoming the report by the Director-General on the overview of reform implementation³ and the progress made to date, the Committee emphasized the importance and urgency of reform implementation, particularly in strengthening country offices, and reconfirmed its own commitment to support efforts to further accelerate progress. The Committee emphasized that reform activities should be aligned across the three levels of the Organization and become part of its daily routine, with implementation being monitored based on clear indicators. Member States reminded the Secretariat of the need to incorporate lessons learnt from the Ebola outbreak response in further work on reform.
3. The Committee noted the continued efforts to increase accountability across the Organization. The Committee also emphasized the need for a strong culture of accountability and zero tolerance of non-compliance. It encouraged the Secretariat to continue its efforts in this area with particular attention to: ensuring that accountability is embedded in the daily work of the Organization; harmonizing compliance functions and tools across the major offices (e.g. management dashboards); and supporting the roll-out of the administration and programme management reviews across the Organization. The Committee noted progress on completing the roll-out of the risk register, which is currently in its validation phase. The Committee also acknowledged the importance of the new policy on whistleblowing as well as training and capacity building. While recognizing progress in the area of transparency and accountability, the Committee highlighted the need to further strengthen the work of the Office of Compliance, Risk Management and Ethics.
4. The Committee expressed its continued concern about slow progress in the area of governance reforms and looked forward to the recommendations of the open-ended working group of Member States. It also highlighted the need for governing body documents to be provided in a timely manner.
5. Member States identified areas where additional efforts were needed, including internal and strategic communication. Continued improvements were needed in respect of: the web portal,

¹ The list of participants is available in document EBPBAC22/DIV./1.

² Document EBPBAC22/1.

³ Document A68/4.

programmatic reporting, and human resources. The Secretariat was requested to expedite the finalization of the WHO communication strategy.

6. Recognizing the importance of the Global Policy Group as an advisory body to the Director-General for corporate organizational performance, the Committee paid tribute to the Global Policy Group for its leadership and stewardship.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

7. The Committee, on behalf of the Executive Board, recommended that the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly note the report by the Director-General contained in document A68/4.

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