

## Report of the Executive Board on its 137th and 138th sessions

1. The Executive Board held its 137th session on 27 and 28 May 2015 and its 138th session from 25 to 30 January 2016. This report summarizes the main outcomes of the two sessions.

### 137TH SESSION (27 AND 28 MAY 2015)

2. The Board welcomed and noted the report on the governance and development of **WHO's guidelines**, with particular emphasis on the role of Member States. It also noted the reports on: the **draft accountability framework for newborn health; evaluation**; the twenty-second meeting of the **Programme, Budget and Administration Committee**; the meetings of two **expert committees**; and the **statement by the representative of the WHO staff associations**. The Board appointed members to fill the vacant positions on the **Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee**.

3. The Board discussed the **financing dialogue**, noting the Secretariat's report, and adopted a decision on the **strategic budget space allocation**. It included an additional item on **mycetoma** on its **agenda** but deferred fuller consideration of the matter (see paragraph 13 below).

### 138TH SESSION (25–30 JANUARY 2016)

4. The Board adopted an **agenda** with 48 items and 68 accompanying documents, including the report of the **regional committees**.

### WHO reform

5. Although speakers recognized the progress in the area of programmatic reform and the Board noted the report containing an **overview of reform implementation**, representatives of Member States called for a deeper and more accelerated pace of reform overall. With regard to **governance reform**, the Board decided to convene as soon as possible an open-ended intergovernmental meeting, whose outcome would be submitted to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly. Reform of WHO's work in health emergency management was discussed under communicable diseases (see paragraph 8).

6. After an extensive debate and informal discussions on the draft **framework of engagement with non-State actors**, the Board endorsed the request of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Meeting to extend its mandate and hold a final session in order to produce a consensus text and draft resolution for submission to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly through the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee. The Secretariat would prepare a report on the implications for WHO of implementing the framework.

## Technical and health matters

### *Communicable diseases; and preparedness, surveillance and response*

7. Concluding its consideration of the report of the first meeting of the **Review Committee on the Role of the International Health Regulations (2005) in the Ebola Outbreak and Response**, the Board decided that the Secretariat should analyse how implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity might affect the sharing of pathogens and potential public health implications. It should report its findings to the Board at its 140th session.

8. After an extensive discussion, the Board noted the reports on the **WHO response in severe, large-scale emergencies and 2014 Ebola virus disease outbreak**, including an update on the outbreak and the Secretariat's response to other issues raised, such as the design of a new WHO programme on health emergencies. The last-mentioned document would be updated in the light of the Board's comments, and the proposed independent oversight committee, reporting to the Board, would be set up. The Board also noted **options for strengthening information-sharing on diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic products and for enhancing WHO's capacity to facilitate access to these products**, including the establishment of a global database, starting with haemorrhagic fevers.

9. The Board took note of the reports on **pandemic influenza preparedness: sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits; the global vaccine action plan; poliomyelitis; and promoting the health of migrants**.

10. It further noted the report on the **global action plan on antimicrobial resistance: options, including potential deliverables, for the conduct of a high-level meeting in 2016, in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly**. The Secretariat would convene a Member State consultation on options for establishing a global development and stewardship framework to fight antimicrobial resistance before the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly.

11. The Board also noted the report on **smallpox eradication: destruction of variola virus stocks**. The report of the 17th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Variola Virus Research would be issued before the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly, for which the Secretariat would prepare a report on the recommendations of the Independent Advisory Group on Public Health Implications of Synthetic Biology Technology related to Smallpox and other issues.

12. Following discussion of the **draft global health sector strategies** on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, the Board agreed that the Secretariat would finalize the strategies in the light of comments made and submit all three to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly with a draft resolution recommending their endorsement.

13. Taking up again its discussion of **mycetoma** (see paragraph 3), the Board adopted an amended resolution on addressing the burden of the disease, inter alia calling for greater collaboration and development of partnerships and requesting the Director-General to include mycetoma as a "neglected tropical disease".

### *Promoting health through the life course*

14. The Board noted the report on **monitoring of the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals**. With regard to **health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable**

**Development**, after long discussions the Board agreed to hold an intersessional consultation to finalize a draft resolution for submission to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly. It also recommended that the Health Assembly adopt a resolution on **strengthening essential public health functions in support of universal health coverage**, which, inter alia, urged Member States to show leadership and ownership in establishing effective health governance by national and subnational health authorities and requested the Director-General to develop and disseminate technical guidance on the application of essential public health functions.

15. The Board noted the reports on the **operational plan to take forward the Global Strategy on Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health**; a **draft global strategy and plan of action on ageing and health**; and a **draft road map for an enhanced global response to the adverse health effects of air pollution**. This draft road map would be revised in the light of comments by Member States in intersessional consultations before the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly. Despite extensive discussions the Board failed to reach consensus on a draft resolution on the **role of the health sector in the sound management of chemicals** and agreed to undertake intersessional work on the text before the next Health Assembly.

### Health systems

16. The Board noted the reports on **update on the health workforce** and the second round of national reporting on implementing the **WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel**. It adopted a resolution on **strengthening integrated, people-centred health services**, recommending the Health Assembly to adopt the framework on integrated, people-centred health services.

17. It also noted reports on progress in the **comprehensive evaluation of the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property**; planning for an open-ended meeting of Member States to discuss progress in **follow-up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development**; and **substandard/spurious/falsely-labelled/falsified/counterfeit medical products**.

18. With regard to **addressing the global shortages of medicines, and the safety and accessibility of children's medication**, the Board agreed to intersessional consultations with a view to finalizing the text of a draft resolution for consideration by the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly.

### Noncommunicable diseases

19. The Board asked the Secretariat to revise the guidance on ending the inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children by taking into account comments made during its discussion of **maternal, infant and young child nutrition**. It also asked for intersessional consultations on a draft resolution for consideration by the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly to be organized. It asked for similar intersessional consultations on a draft resolution on the **outcome of the Second Global High-level Conference on Road Safety**.

20. The Board recommended that the Health Assembly adopt the **WHO global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system within a national multisectoral response to address interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children**, for which the Secretariat would submit a revised estimate of the financial implications of the draft resolution for the Secretariat to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly.

21. It also adopted a resolution on the **responses to specific assignments in preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable diseases in 2018**, for which preparations the Secretariat would continue to support Member States and strengthen country-level work.

22. The Board noted the report on the **public health dimension of the world drug problem including in the context of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem** (to be held on 19–21 April 2016).

### **Management and legal matters**

23. The Board adopted a decision on the **process for the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization** recommending that the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly consider adopting a resolution to require that nominated candidates for the post of Director-General address the Health Assembly before the vote on the appointment.

24. The Board noted the report on **evaluation** and approved the Organization-wide workplan for 2016–2017. It also noted the report on **hosted health partnerships**.

25. The Board considered an update on the **Geneva buildings renovation strategy** and adopted a resolution on **real estate**, which requested the Director-General to establish a Member States Advisory Committee to provide guidance, monitoring and oversight to the renovation project and recommended a decision to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly.

### ***Reports of committees of the Executive Board***

26. The Board adopted a resolution concerning official relations with several **nongovernmental organizations**, and a decision on the outcome of the annual review of one third of the nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO. The Board awarded six foundation or health prizes, having considered the reports of the various selection panels or prize committees concerned.

### **Financial matters**

27. The Board noted the reports on the **financing of the Programme budget 2015–2016** and the **scale of assessments**, and adopted the **scale of assessments for 2017**.

### **Staffing matters**

28. The Board confirmed **amendments to the Staff Rules** concerning the remuneration of staff in the professional and higher grades, financial responsibility, classification review, recruitment policies, and several other aspects of the purpose and functioning of the Rules relating to internal justice. It recommended that the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly establish the **salaries of staff in ungraded posts and of the Director-General** and adopt **amendments to the Staff Regulations concerning dispute resolution**.

29. The **annual report on human resources** was noted. In discussions of both this report and the **statement by the representative of the WHO staff associations**, which was also noted, the topic of the mobility policy was considered.

30. The Board noted the report of the **International Civil Service Commission**. The Secretariat confirmed that it would be implementing the new compensation package for international staff and would prepare relevant amendments to the Staff Rules for submission to the Board at a later session for approval.

### **Matters for information**

31. Under the item on **reports of advisory bodies**, the Board noted the report of the meetings of two expert committees.

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