

Report of the Executive Board on its 143rd and 144th sessions

1. The Executive Board held its 143rd session on 28 and 29 May 2018 and its 144th session from 24 January to 1 February 2019. This report summarizes the main outcomes of the two sessions.

143RD SESSION (28 AND 29 MAY 2018)

2. The Board adopted its **agenda** containing 16 items and subitems, with 17 accompanying documents. It adopted two resolutions and nine decisions.

3. Following discussions on **governance reform**, the Board approved proposals for immediate action on the following topics: time management of the discussions of the Board; meetings of the Officers of the Board; tracking and sharing of information on gender balance in relation to the officers and presiding officers of governing bodies meetings; provision by the Secretariat of advance information on each agenda item; the development by the Secretariat of a more robust methodology for accurately determining the resource implications of proposed resolutions and decisions; and making future governing bodies meetings paperless, unless documents are ordered in advance.

4. The Board decided to defer consideration of the necessary amendments to replace or supplement gender-specific language in the Rules of Procedure of the governing bodies to indicate both feminine and masculine to the Board at its 144th session for its consideration and appropriate action (see paragraph 31). It further decided on amendments to its Rules of Procedure on: voting, including by electronic means; suspension of a debate; and renaming of “open” meetings.

5. Proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly on voting, including by electronic means, suspension of a debate, issuance and delivery of credentials, entitlement to vote, and matters related to the Committee on Credentials were included in a decision that was recommended for adoption by the Seventy-second World Health Assembly. Consensus was not reached, however, on proposed amendments relating to the inclusion of an explanatory memorandum for items proposed for direct inclusion on the provisional agenda of the Health Assembly, time limits for submitting draft resolutions and decisions relating to agenda items, the production of the summary and verbatim records, and aligning terminology in the Rules of Procedure of the governing bodies with the terminology used in the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors. The outcomes of informal consultations, led by the Secretariat, would be reported to the Board at its 144th session (see paragraph 31).

6. The Board also decided to use the amended tool for prioritization of proposals for additional items on the provisional agenda of the Board, on a trial basis, for the preparation of the provisional agenda of its 144th session (see paragraph 32 for feedback).

7. An update on the eleventh revision of the **International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems** was noted by the Board. A version for implementation would be released in June 2018 and the final version would be submitted to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly.
8. After discussing the **annual report on evaluation**, an amended evaluation policy was approved; this could be used until a future policy was instituted as part of the new Organization-wide operating model, which was under development.
9. Two reports on **hosted partnerships** were noted. In future, the Secretariat would endeavour to report on hosted partnerships' contributions to the Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019–2023 and could also provide information on other important partnerships.
10. The Board considered the report on meetings of four expert committees, the report of the twenty-eighth meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee and the statement by the representative of the WHO staff associations.
11. Dr Ahmed Salim Saif Al Mandhari was appointed by the Board as **Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Region**; the Board expressed its appreciation to Dr Jaouad Mahjour, acting Regional Director, for his contribution and commitment to the Organization.
12. The Board also appointed members to fill the vacant positions on the **Programme, Budget and Administration Committee** and foundation and memorial prize **selection panels**.

144TH SESSION (24 JANUARY–1 FEBRUARY 2019)

13. The Board adopted its **agenda** with 45 items and subitems, with 67 accompanying documents. It adopted 12 resolutions and 15 decisions.
14. The Board noted the report of the **regional committees** and considered the report of the twenty-ninth meeting of the **Programme, Budget and Administration Committee**.

Strategic priority matters

15. Three reports related to the **Proposed programme budget 2020–2021** were noted. While the new structure of the **draft Proposed programme budget 2020–2021** was welcome, more detail was required before its submission to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly. In addition to revising its text, the Secretariat planned to provide two additional information documents, covering operationalization of the budget and greater detail on polio transition planning.
16. Wide support was expressed for the **WHO Impact Framework**, but greater detail and its refinement were called for. The Secretariat would make available before the Seventy-second World Health Assembly further information on the methods underpinning the Framework and the measurement system. Input from Member States was welcomed, to develop the Framework and enable consensus to be reached on the set of indicators. Intersessional consultations, supported by the information documents and further details, would be held before the Seventy-second World Health Assembly to enable finalization of the WHO Impact Framework and the draft proposed programme budget for 2020–2021.
17. The Board discussed the **report of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme**, particularly in the light of the current outbreak of Ebola virus disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Committee would submit to the

Seventy-second World Health Assembly a summary of a biannual report from the Health Emergencies Programme on progress made in the implementation of the Committee's recommendations. The Committee had also agreed to advise the Secretariat on whether allegations of misconduct in the Organization had revealed any systemic issues requiring action in the Programme. The Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee had reviewed the work done thus far and would continue to oversee the response to the allegations.

18. Under the agenda item on **polio**, the Board noted reports on **eradication** and **transition**. The Secretariat would report further to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly.

19. The Board noted the report on implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

20. Following discussions on three reports on **universal health coverage**, the Board recommended to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly the adoption of three resolutions. These included requests to the Director-General: to develop, in consultation with Member States, by the Seventy-third World Health Assembly an operational framework for **primary health care**; to submit a report every three years to the Health Assembly on progress made in implementing the resolution on **community health workers delivering primary health care**; and to produce a report on universal health coverage to facilitate informed discussions at the **high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on universal health coverage**.

21. Two reports on health, environment and climate change were noted: the draft WHO global strategy on health, environment and climate change: the transformation needed to improve lives and well-being sustainably through healthy environments and the draft global plan of action on climate change and health in small island developing States.

22. Under the agenda item on **medicines, vaccines and health products**, the Board noted the report on **access to medicines and vaccines** containing the draft road map for access to medicines, vaccines and other health products, 2019–2023. The Secretariat would take into account the input received from the Board in further refining the draft road map before submission to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly. The Board also noted the report on **cancer medicines**.

23. Following discussions on four reports on **follow-up to the high-level meetings of the United Nations General Assembly on health-related issues**, the Board recommended to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly the adoption of a resolution on **antimicrobial resistance** and a decision on the **prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases**. The Board also noted the reports on the **proposed workplan for the global coordination mechanism on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases for 2020** and on **ending tuberculosis**. After further consultation, a revised draft multisectoral accountability framework would be submitted to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly.

24. The Board noted the report on the **eleventh revision of the International Classification of Diseases**. After informal intersessional consultations, an amended version of the draft resolution would be submitted to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly.

Other technical matters

25. Having considered the report on the **Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework for the sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits** regarding implementation of

decision WHA71(11) (2018), the Board decided to recommend to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly the consideration of a decision.

26. The Board considered the reports of the sixth and seventh meetings of the **Member State mechanism on substandard and falsified medical products**.

27. Under the agenda item on human resources for health, the Board noted two reports, on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel: third round of national reporting and on the global strategy on human resources for health: workforce 2030. It decided to recommend to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly the designation of 2020 as the Year of Nursing and Midwifery.

28. The Board noted the **draft global action plan, 2019–2023, promoting the health of refugees and migrants** and urged improvement of the draft plan. Further consultations would be held before submission of the revised draft plan for consideration by the Seventy-second Health Assembly.

29. Having considered the report on **accelerating cervical cancer elimination**, the Board decided, inter alia, to request the Director-General to develop, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, a draft global strategy for consideration by the Seventy-third World Health Assembly, through the Board at its 146th session.

30. Following discussions on a report on **global action on patient safety**, the Board recommended to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution that, inter alia, requested the Director-General to formulate a global patient safety action plan in consultation with Member States and all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, for submission to the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly in 2021 through the Board at its 148th session. The Board also noted the report on **water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities** and recommended to the Seventy-second Health Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution that included a request to the Director-General to report on progress in the implementation of the resolution to the Health Assembly in 2021 and 2023.

Managerial, administrative and governance matters

31. The Board discussed five reports on **WHO reform processes, including the transformation agenda, and implementation of United Nations development system reform**. It decided to amend its Rules of Procedure in order to replace or supplement gender-specific language so as to indicate both feminine and masculine forms in the English language only. It also recommended that the Seventy-second World Health Assembly amend its Rules of Procedure in the same manner. Those amendments would come into effect once the Director-General rennumbers the Rules of Procedure.

32. Feedback on the use, on a trial basis, of the proposed amended prioritization tool was included in the report on the **prioritization of proposals for inclusion on the draft provisional agenda of the Executive Board**. The Secretariat was continuing to work on finding ways to prioritize agenda items more effectively. The Board requested the Secretariat to develop a template to facilitate analysis of proposed agenda items and make it available to the Officers of the Board for the preparation of the draft provisional agenda of the 145th session of the Board.

33. Following discussions on the **report of the Executive Board Chairperson on the outcome of the informal consultation on governance reform**, the Board decided to amend two of its Rules of Procedure specifying the time limits for tabling draft resolutions and/or decisions to the Board and

aligning the terminology used in its Rules of Procedure with that used in the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors. The Board also requested the Director-General to elaborate a report and make recommendations to be submitted to the Board, at its 145th session, on an informal meeting or forum to bring together Member States and non-State actors in official relations with WHO. It further decided to recommend to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly a decision containing, inter alia, several proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly and a number of requests to the Director-General. The latter included submitting to the Board at its 145th session draft guidelines for Member States on posting written statements on a dedicated website and submitting a report to the Board at its 146th session, following informal consultations with Member States, on the methods of work of the Health Assembly and the Board.

34. The Board considered the report on **WHO presence in countries, territories and areas**, which provided a summary of the 2017 report and an update on the preparation of the 2019 report. The 2019 report, containing data collected from 2018, would be submitted to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly.

35. Given the many issues included in the report on the **evaluation of the election of the Director-General**, the Board requested the Secretariat to organize consultations during the intersessional period in order to allow fuller discussions to take place.

36. After noting two reports on **engagement with non-State actors**, including a review of one third of the non-State actors in official relations with WHO, the Board adopted a decision on the outcome of that review, including the admission into and discontinuance of those relations with several bodies.

37. The Board noted the reports on **multilingualism** and **world health days**. Given the Board's consensus on the need to develop an overall strategy and criteria for the selection of themes for world health days, the Secretariat would develop a strategy for their selection, which would be submitted to Member States for discussion. The Board decided to recommend to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly the establishment of World Chagas Disease Day.

38. Five **prizes** and one **fellowship** were awarded by the Board. It also decided to establish the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion and to approve its draft statutes, as well as streamlined measures to be applied for the first bestowing of the award in 2019. It also decided to amend the Statutes of the Sasakawa Health Prize.

Financial matters

39. During discussions on the **overview of financing and implementation of the Programme budget 2018–2019**, concerns were raised about the continuing unevenness of funding across major offices and work areas. The need for predictable, multiyear funding that was either unearmarked or earmarked at the highest possible level was highlighted, along with the Secretariat's approach to mobilizing resources. In future, the Secretariat would provide a more detailed analysis of programme budget implementation and the Organization's financial situation.

40. The Board recommended that the Seventy-second World Health Assembly adopt the **scale of assessments** for the biennium 2020–2021.

Human resources

41. The Board reappointed Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh as **Regional Director for South-East Asia**; it also appointed Dr Takeshi Kasai as **Regional Director for the Western Pacific**, expressing its gratitude and appreciation to Dr Shin Young-soo, on his retirement as Regional Director for the Western Pacific, for his contribution to the work of WHO.

42. The following documents were considered by the Board: the statement by the representative of the WHO staff associations; the report of the Ombudsman; and the human resources update, including on the global internship programme, which included an end-of-year management letter on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and reporting of such allegations. The Board noted the report of the International Civil Service Commission.

43. The Board confirmed **amendments to the Staff Rules** concerning the remuneration of staff in the professional and higher categories and a common scale of staff assessment. It also recommended to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly the adoption of a resolution on the **salaries of staff in ungraded positions and of the Director-General**.

Matters for information

44. The report on the **outcome of the Second International Conference on Nutrition**, the update on **WHO evaluation** and the report on **meetings of three expert committees** were noted. It also considered the report on **expert advisory panels and committees and their membership**.

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