

WHO reform

Travel entitlements of the Chair of the Executive Board

Report by the Director-General

1. Current travel entitlements of Executive Board Members and the Chair of the Executive Board are defined by resolutions WHA30.10 (1977) and WHA55.22 (2002).
2. In accordance with the above resolutions, the reimbursement of actual travel expenses for the Chair of the Board is based on a first-class air ticket, irrespective of the actual travel time. In recent years, however, there have been no reported cases of Chairs of the Executive Board travelling in first class.
3. In its 2017 review of air travel policies in the United Nations system,¹ the Joint Inspection Unit recommended that “the legislative bodies of all United Nations system organizations, if they have not already done so, should abolish first class travel for all categories of staff and non-staff by January 2019 and permit its use only when business class is not available”.
4. At the Board’s 146th session, the Chair of the Executive Board proposed that the Board should recommend to the Seventy-third World Health Assembly that it should amend the travel entitlement such that “the maximum reimbursement of travel expenses of the Chair of the Executive Board, shall be based on the travel entitlements for the WHO Director-General”.² The Chair’s proposal was agreed by the Executive Board.³

ACTION BY THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

5. The Health Assembly is invited to adopt the draft decision recommended by the Executive Board in decision EB146(16) (2020).

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¹ Available at https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/jiu_document_files/products/en/reports-notes/JIU%20Products/JIU_REP_2017_3_English.pdf (accessed 17 April 2020).

² See the summary records of the Executive Board at its 146th session, thirteenth meeting, section 3.

³ See decision EB146(16).