

## **Guide for delegates to the World Health Assembly**

### **DATE AND PLACE OF THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

The Seventy-third World Health Assembly will open in Geneva on Monday, 9 November 2020, at 10:00; it will close on Saturday, 14 November 2020. Due to the COVID-19 situation the Health Assembly will be held virtually.

### **REGISTRATION PROCESS**

Online registration is required for the Health Assembly.

Instructions for online registration are available on the WHO website (<http://www.who.int/governance/registration/en/>).

Queries concerning the system can be addressed by email to [supportregistration@who.int](mailto:supportregistration@who.int) or communicated over the telephone by dialling the following number: +41 22 791 7111. Registration should be completed by 4 November 2020.

### **CREDENTIALS**

The Health Assembly accepted the credentials presented by the 190 Member States listed in decision WHA73(3) as being in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly. Those credentials remain valid for the resumed meetings of the Health Assembly taking place from 9 to 14 November 2020. Nonetheless, for the sole purpose of registration, credentials already submitted by Member States for the meeting in May 2020 must be re-submitted through the WHO online registration system for the resumed meetings in November 2020.

Credentials shall be issued by the Head of State, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Health, or any other appropriate authority, that is, Permanent Missions and senior government officials, such as Directors-General for Health. Member States shall be represented at the Health Assembly by no more than three delegates. Alternates and advisers may accompany delegates. Credentials should include the following information for each participant: LAST NAME (in capital letters), first name, title, function, institution, city and gender (unless indicated in title).

### **LIST OF DELEGATES**

A provisional list of delegates and other participants (document A73/DIV./1) will be available only on the WHO website ([http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e\\_wha73.html](http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha73.html)) at the beginning of the Health

Assembly. This list will be issued on the basis of the credentials received by the Secretariat up to 16:00 on 8 November 2020. A revised list will be posted on the WHO website later. In the event of any official change in delegation membership, delegations are invited to communicate this through the online registration system.

## INTERVENTIONS OF DELEGATES IN COMMITTEE A AND COMMITTEE B

Individual statements by Member States and Associate Members in Committees A and B are limited to 3 minutes (330 words); regional and group statements to 4 minutes (440 words).<sup>1</sup> Delegates are requested to deliver statements at a normal speaking pace. Rapid delivery risks impeding clarity and accuracy in interpretation.

Delegates wishing to have their name placed on the list of speakers in Committee A or Committee B, or to have draft resolutions and draft decisions distributed, should contact the Secretary of the Committee concerned (shown below).

Committee A:	Secretary:	Mr I. Roberts
Committee B:	Secretary:	Dr C. Ondari

## INTERPRETATION AND STATEMENTS

Interpretation is provided in the official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) to help delegates to follow the discussions. Delegates are requested to send a copy of statements they plan to make to [interpret@who.int](mailto:interpret@who.int) **at least 30 minutes in advance**. This does not prevent delegates from making changes on delivery but will facilitate clarity and accuracy in all languages. When submitting by email, please specify in the “Subject” and at the top of the statement, the name of the country/group; the meeting (for example, Plenary, Committee A, Committee B); and the relevant agenda item number. Delegates are requested to deliver statements at a normal speaking pace. Rapid delivery risks impeding clarity and accuracy in interpretation. Statements provided in advance are treated as confidential and checked against delivery for the purpose of the official record. Statements so submitted will not be posted on the Health Assembly webpage.

Delegates wishing to have their statements posted on the Health Assembly webpage (<http://apps.who.int/gb/statements/WHA73/>) or to share a longer statement containing additional information may send it to [statements@who.int](mailto:statements@who.int). Additional information provided in this manner will not be included in the official record of the meeting.<sup>2</sup>

## SUBMISSIONS BY DELEGATIONS

Delegations wishing to have draft resolutions and draft decisions distributed to the Health Assembly or to one of its committees are requested to email them to the Assistant to the Secretary of the Health Assembly in the case of documents intended for plenary meetings, or to the secretary of the committee concerned in the case of documents intended for one of the committees. Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly requires circulation of draft resolutions to delegations at

---

<sup>1</sup> See also the draft special procedures to regulate the conduct of, inter alia, the Seventy-third World Health Assembly, which are set forth in document A73/42.

<sup>2</sup> See decision EB146(17) (2020).

least two days before the proposal is discussed. Thus, texts should be sent early enough to allow time for translation and reproduction in the working languages. The Secretariat is available upon request to provide information, logistics and editorial support as required. The conditions in which formal proposals relating to items on the agenda may be introduced in plenary meetings and the main committees are set out in Rules 49 and 50 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly, as well as in paragraph 13 of the draft special procedures to regulate the conduct of virtual meetings of the Seventy-third World Health Assembly (resumed).

## **DOCUMENTATION**

### **Meeting information**

The *Journal* of the Health Assembly, published each day, gives the time, place and programme of meetings, the agenda items for discussion and the corresponding documents, and other relevant information.

### **Official records of the Executive Board**

Several documents already considered by the Executive Board at its 146th session are referred to under the relevant items in both the *Journal* and the provisional agenda (document A73/1 Rev.1).

### **Basic documents**

The Constitution of WHO and other relevant documents of a legal nature are contained in the publication entitled *Basic documents* (49th edition, 2020), an updated, online version of which is also available on the Governance page of the WHO website ([https://apps.who.int/gb/bd/pdf\\_files/BD\\_49th-en.pdf](https://apps.who.int/gb/bd/pdf_files/BD_49th-en.pdf)).

### **Internet access**

The WHO website (Governance page (<http://apps.who.int/gb/gov/>)) provides easy electronic access to documentation, such as the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly, and offers options to download documents for the current meetings of the governing bodies and to consult documents of previous sessions and other relevant documentation.

Since documentation is available on the WHO website, and as an economy measure, there will be no provision for dispatch or transport of any documentation made available during the Health Assembly.

## **DOCUMENTS**

Relevant documentation for the meeting can be accessed at the following link <http://apps.who.int/gb/gov/>.

## **NON-STATE ACTORS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO: LIAISON OFFICE**

Non-State actors in official relations with WHO may participate, without right of vote, in the Health Assembly. A liaison office is set up to facilitate such participation. The document *Practical information for representatives of non-State actors in official relations with the World Health Organization*, transmitted to non-State actors with the invitation letter to the Health Assembly, provides

information of particular relevance to delegates of non-State actors, concerning such matters as registration, document display and statements by non-State actors.

## **VIRTUAL PLATFORM**

The Health Assembly will be held virtually using an online, virtual meeting platform. Following online registration, participants will receive a communication with personal links to connect to the virtual meetings of the plenary and committees. The personal links must not be shared with anyone else. The message will also include information on test sessions and support.

The requirements for connecting to the virtual meetings include a personal computer with the latest version of the virtual meeting software and a good internet connection. A high-quality headset with echo cancelling microphones and webcam are required in order to make interventions during the meetings. It is recommended to use a quiet, soundproof room for participation in the virtual meetings.

Test sessions will be available on 5–8 November from 09:00 to 12:00 and from 14:00 to 17:00 CET. Participants are requested to conduct a test during one of the available test sessions prior to the beginning of the Health Assembly. For the test, please use the equipment and the location to be used during the virtual meetings of the Health Assembly.

During the Health Assembly, the virtual rooms will become available one hour prior to the beginning of the programme of work for the day.

If you face any issue during the test sessions and live meetings, please contact the support team by email at [GBS-Support@who.int](mailto:GBS-Support@who.int) or phone +41 22 791 21 11 (the call centre staff will help connect participants to the support team).

= = =