

# **Financing and implementation of the Programme budget 2022–2023**

## **Reporting on operational efficiencies**

### **Report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly**

1. The Secretariat presented the information contained in the reports on the financing and implementation of the Programme budget 2022–2023,<sup>1</sup> and on operational efficiencies.<sup>2</sup> It indicated that, while the level of overall financing of the Programme budget 2022–2023 was good as at 30 March 2022, a detailed analysis would reveal less well-financed programmatic results.
2. The Committee noted the reports and the level of detail presented, and expressed appreciation for the increased frequency of information provided through the programme budget web portal, which was now updated on a monthly basis. At the same time, it questioned the lower level of funding for some core functions, particularly related to emergencies, and noted with concern that WHO continued to rely on voluntary contributions for more than three quarters of its financing.
3. The Committee made reference to the report of the Working Group on Sustainable Financing,<sup>3</sup> and in particular the potential impact of the Working Group's recommendation on increasing assessed contributions over the coming bienniums. However, it noted that the Member States would have to be shown that they were receiving value for money, and see further measures on improving accountability and transparency.
4. In response to questions on the allocation of resources, the Secretariat said that the situation as presented in the report on the financing and implementation of the Programme budget 2022–2023 would improve during the biennium as many agreements were recorded at headquarters level first and would be further distributed later. The Secretariat pointed out that although (i) more flexible funds were allocated to regional offices than had been in the previous biennium and (ii) the Resource Allocation Committee allocated 80% of thematic funding available to regional and country offices, the Secretariat could not change the allocation of highly earmarked voluntary contributions.
5. The Secretariat thanked Member States and in particular those that had provided more flexible contributions, using longer agreements, and highlighted that it continued to work on broadening the

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<sup>1</sup> Document A75/27.

<sup>2</sup> Document A75/7.

<sup>3</sup> Document A75/9.

donor base for the core budget and to monitor the external environment for resource mobilization overall.

6. The Committee and the Secretariat shared their views that more sustainable financing would be one way to help to address the uneven financing situation and an important aspect of increasing efficiencies – an example of which was related to the management of thousands of small grants – and to focus on financial accountability and a value-for-money approach.

7. In reply to questions from the Committee concerning the methodology used to calculate the efficiency savings, the Secretariat explained that it was working in coordination with the United Nations Sustainable Development Group working group, of which it was an active member. In addition, it pointed out that the United Nations had not yet published that methodology. Further, the Secretariat highlighted that the value-for-money concept was applied across all programmatic areas, although that would not necessarily lead to lower expenditures. It was said that to date efficiency gains were mainly employed in those areas where they had been achieved. Finally, lower expenditures resulting from changed circumstances as a result of the pandemic of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) were not reflected as efficiency savings in the report.

## **RECOMMENDATION TO THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

8. The Committee, on behalf of the Executive Board, recommended that the Health Assembly should note the reports contained in documents A75/27 and A75/7. It proposed, as guidance for the Secretariat's implementation of existing mandates and recognizing the constraints of the current funding model, that the Secretariat should:

- (a) pursue efforts to improve the distribution of resources among major offices and the three levels of the Organization as well as reporting on such distribution; and
- (b) report back to Member States on those efforts;
- (c) strengthen the existing accountability mechanisms for the funds so made available at all levels.

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