

Matters emanating from the Working Group on Sustainable Financing

Secretariat implementation plan on reform

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

1. The Secretariat introduced the Secretariat implementation plan on reform providing an overview of its current status, including key achievements and risks.¹
2. The Committee, recognizing that the implementation plan was a living document, appreciated the significant work that had been put into further implementing and revising the plan's list of actions in line with consultations and feedback from Member States. It welcomed the various approaches to tracking and reporting progress, including the dedicated Secretariat implementation plan tracking dashboard available on the WHO website's Member States Portal, along with various other dashboards, as well as reports on progress delivered to the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee and Executive Board, and in Member States information sessions. The Committee acknowledged the achievements made to date and further welcomed the preliminary timelines and linkages to other ongoing Secretariat reform strategies and efforts (including transformation, preventing and responding to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment and the Actions for Results Group for country level impact). The need for high-level indicators to measure progress for each of the seven categories of actions in the implementation plan was mentioned.
3. The Committee noted that efficient Secretariat implementation depended on adequate human and financial resources, and welcomed the fact that the Secretariat routinely informs the Committee of needs and issues. The Committee further welcomed the Secretariat's Member States survey on prioritizing actions in the implementation plan, which will enable further dialogue with Member States on agreed prioritized actions. However, it noted that since only 33 Member States had responded, the priorities revealed should be considered illustrative only. The Committee noted the importance of implementing reform actions in building Member States' trust and confidence in the Secretariat and in the context of continued increased assessed contributions.
4. The Secretariat urged Member States that had not completed the prioritization survey to do so in order to continue engaging in a dialogue on prioritizing actions and maximizing available resources. In response to specific questions about using the dashboard, the Secretariat noted its various functionalities and offered to provide dedicated support to Member States on its use, adding that it would develop videos to communicate use of the dashboard(s). With regard to financing implementation of the plan, as with the programme budget, the Secretariat emphasized that unearmarked, flexible funding is needed to

¹ Document A76/31.

fully implement the plan's activities and priorities. Reiterating that the plan is a living document, the Secretariat assured Member States that strategic updates and progress would be regularly reported to the governing bodies.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

5. The Committee, on behalf of the Executive Board, recommended that the Health Assembly should note the report and proposed, as guidance to the Secretariat's implementation of existing mandates, that the Secretariat should:

- (a) ensure a close link with progress in the area of prevention of and response to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment;
- (b) provide useful guides for using the online dashboards, including on how to download narrative text for recommendations in the Secretariat implementation plan on reform;
- (c) ensure that future routine updates and Member State consultations, in between governing body meetings, on the implementation of the Secretariat implementation plan on reform, should include prioritization and a timeline beyond the year 2025;
- (d) routinely communicate progress made, as well as resource needs and challenges for implementation, to the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee;
- (e) develop the way forward in close collaboration with Member States in continuing to advance further reforms; and
- (f) be guided by Member States in the development of high-level indicators to be included in the Secretariat implementation plan on reform.

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