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## **Matters emanating from the Working Group on Sustainable Financing**

### **Sustainable financing: feasibility of a replenishment mechanism, including options for consideration**

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

1. The Secretariat introduced the report on the feasibility of a replenishment mechanism<sup>1</sup> aimed at ensuring a more sustainably financed Organization. It described the objectives of a first investment round, planned for the second half of 2024, and the development of the Fourteenth General Programme of Work, 2025–2028, which will serve as the strategic basis for the investment round. Additional important elements presented included the overall timing and the approach proposed to define the funding envelope (the budget segment for base programmes minus assessed contributions).
2. The Committee welcomed the report and the constructive consultations that had led agreement on the draft decision, which it supported as amended. It acknowledged the importance of ensuring that WHO had a sustainable funding model, recognizing that the proposed investment round is a critical mechanism for achieving that objective. The Committee urged the Secretariat to strive for more predictable and fully flexible funding in line with the recommendations of the Working Group on Sustainable Financing – adopted by the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly in decision WHA75(8) (2022) – while continuing to accept single-year and/or earmarked contributions. The Committee requested the Secretariat to proceed with the planning of an investment round in close consultation with Member States and in keeping with the six principles put forward by the Working Group on Sustainable Financing. The Secretariat was requested to submit a full plan for approval to the Executive Board at its 154th session through the thirty-ninth meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee.
3. The Secretariat thanked the Committee for its support for the investment round in 2024 and confirmed that it will regularly consult with Member States and listen carefully to their advice, input and guidance, which it considered critical to its success. The Secretariat confirmed it was continuing to explore further mechanisms to improve funding predictability and flexibility.
4. The Director-General expressed deep gratitude to the Member States for their endorsement of what was a historic decision towards greater predictability and flexibility of the financing of WHO, allowing the Organization to focus on countries' priorities. Together with the increase in assessed contributions, an investment round would enable WHO to address the systemic financing problems it

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<sup>1</sup> Document A76/32,

faces. He acknowledged that the decision came with an expectation of accountability and transparency on the Secretariat's part.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

5. The Committee, on behalf of the Executive Board, recommended that the Health Assembly should note the report. It further recommended that the Health Assembly should adopt the draft decision contained in document A76/32, as amended:

The Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly, having considered the report of the Director-General on Sustainable financing: feasibility of a replenishment mechanism, including options for consideration,<sup>1</sup> decided:

- (1) to welcome the continued efforts to improve the sustainable financing of the World Health Organization;
- (2) to urge Member States<sup>2</sup> and other donors<sup>3</sup> to ensure the full financing of the base budget segment of the Fourteenth General Programme of Work, and to continue to strive to provide WHO with unearmarked voluntary contributions consistent with the recommendations of the Working Group on Sustainable Financing adopted by the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly;
- (3) to continue for WHO to accept, alongside unearmarked voluntary contributions, voluntary contributions<sup>4</sup> that are earmarked and/or single-year contributions from Member States and other donors and further increase transparency of reporting on voluntary earmarked contributions and on their impact and allocation across the three levels of the Organization;
- (4) to request the Director-General, in consultation with Member States, including through regional consultations and with due consideration of FENSA:
  - (a) to proceed with the planning of a WHO investment round for the last quarter of 2024 to facilitate the financing of the Fourteenth General Programme of Work, to provide regular updates to and receive advice from Member States and present a report with a full plan that includes modalities and anticipated costs and efficiencies (including staffing adjustments) for undertaking this exercise, for consideration and approval of concrete next steps by the Executive Board at its 154th session, through the Programme Budget and Administration Committee at its thirty-ninth meeting and to submit an updated report to the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly, through the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee at its fortieth meeting;

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<sup>1</sup> Document A76/32.

<sup>2</sup> And regional economic integration organizations, as appropriate.

<sup>3</sup> When engaging with donors representing non-State actors, the Secretariat will apply relevant policies and rules including the WHO Framework of engagement with non-State actors (FENSA).

<sup>4</sup> As reflected in the WHO Programme Budget Portal (<https://open.who.int>) and in the annual WHA information document on voluntary contributions.

- (b) to draft a Fourteenth General Programme of Work that is effective from 2025, includes a financing envelope, and articulates a strong results narrative which demonstrates the added value of WHO's normative work and technical support in achieving country-level impact, drawing on lessons learned from the Thirteenth General Programme of Work for approval by the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly, through the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee at its thirty-ninth meeting and the Executive Board at its 154th session;
- (c) to develop a target funding envelope for the WHO investment round, based on the base segment of the financing envelope to deliver the draft Fourteenth General Programme of Work, minus the approved and expected assessed contributions;
- (d) to include an evaluation element in the planning of the WHO investment round prior to consideration of additional investment rounds.

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