
Consolidated report by the Director-General¹

PILLAR 1: ONE BILLION MORE PEOPLE BENEFITING FROM UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

11. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board

11.1 Universal health coverage

1. The Executive Board at its 154th session noted the report on universal health coverage.² It adopted decision EB154(6) on development of a global strategy and action plan for integrated emergency, critical and operative care, 2026–2035, in which it recommended to the Health Assembly the development of such a strategy for consideration by the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly, through the Executive Board at its 158th session. It also considered the text of a draft resolution introduced by Member States on social participation for universal health coverage, health and well-being. The Board agreed that consultations on the draft resolution would continue during the intersessional period. In the discussions, Board members acknowledged the declaration of the United Nations General Assembly on universal health coverage and the central role of reorienting health systems towards a primary health care approach in achieving universal health coverage. They affirmed that universal health coverage and strong health systems should underpin the draft fourteenth general programme of work.

11.2 Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

2. The Executive Board at its 154th session noted the report on the prevention and management of noncommunicable diseases, promotion of mental health and well-being, and treatment and care of mental health conditions.³ It adopted decision EB154(7) on increasing availability, ethical access and oversight of transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs, in which it recommended to the Health Assembly, *inter alia*, the development of a global strategy on donation and transplantation for consideration by the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly, through the Executive Board at its 158th session. It also considered the text of a draft resolution introduced by Member States on strengthening mental health and psychosocial support before, during and after armed conflicts, natural disasters and health and other emergencies. The Board agreed that consultations on the draft resolution

¹ In the present document the texts under each agenda item should be read in conjunction with the corresponding reports considered by the Executive Board at its 154th session. The summary records of those sessions are available at the following link: <http://apps.who.int/gb/or/>.

² Document EB154/6; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 154th session, fifth meeting and sixth meeting, section 1.

³ Document EB154/7; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 154th session, sixth meeting, section 2 and seventh meeting, section 1.

would continue during the intersessional period. In the discussions, Board members highlighted the need to include noncommunicable diseases and mental health in primary health care and universal health coverage. They welcomed the global oral health action plan 2023–2030 and the planned development of a global status report on cancer 2025 and called for regular information updates to support Member States in preparing for the fourth high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

11.3 Draft global action plan for infection prevention and control

3. The Executive Board at its 154th session noted the report concerning the draft global action plan for infection prevention and control.¹ It adopted decision EB154(8) in which it recommended to the Health Assembly the adoption of the global action plan and monitoring framework on infection prevention and control, 2024–2030.

11.4 Immunization Agenda 2030

4. The Executive Board at its 154th session noted the report on the Immunization Agenda 2030.² In the discussions, Board members voiced support for the shared action agenda and its six short-term priority areas, and especially the “Big Catch-Up” initiative. They expressed concern over the rising number of outbreaks, particularly measles, and underscored the need for recovery of coverage levels and catch-up of children missed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

11.5 End TB Strategy

5. The Executive Board at its 154th session noted the report on the End TB Strategy.³ In the discussions, Board members expressed strong support for WHO’s leadership in the fight against tuberculosis. They highlighted the need for increased investment, multisectoral collaboration, equitable access to tuberculosis services, and research and innovation in order to achieve the goals and targets agreed in the End TB Strategy and the 2023 political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the fight against tuberculosis.

11.6 Road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030

6. The Executive Board at its 154th session noted the report on the road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030.⁴ In the discussions, Board members acknowledged the protracted impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the financing and performance of health programmes. They noted the need to sustain innovation for medicines, diagnostics and strategic approaches, notably to tackle threats such as climate change, which can have a major impact on the epidemiology of neglected tropical diseases, and acknowledged that challenges in accessing treatments persisted. Board members noted the progress

¹ Documents EB154/8 and EB154/8 Add.1; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 154th session, seventh meeting, section 2.

² Document EB154/9; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 154th session, eleventh meeting, section 2. An overview of the status of immunization, including preliminary data from 2023, is provided in the IA2030 Global Report 2023, to be available at the following link: <https://www.immunizationagenda2030.org/ia2030-annual-reports>.

³ Document EB154/10; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 154th session, eleventh meeting, section 3.

⁴ Document EB154/11; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 154th session, eleventh meeting, section 4, and twelfth meeting, section 2.

made,¹ including the acknowledgement by WHO of the 50th country to eliminate one neglected tropical disease, and the inclusion of noma in this group of conditions.

11.7 Acceleration towards the Sustainable Development Goal targets for maternal health and child mortality

7. The Executive Board at its 154th session noted the report on acceleration towards the Sustainable Development Goal targets for maternal and child mortality.² It considered the text of a draft resolution introduced by Member States on accelerating progress towards reducing maternal, newborn and child mortality in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal targets 3.1 and 3.2. The Board agreed that consultations on the draft resolution would continue during the intersessional period. In the discussions, Board members expressed concern that many countries were not on track to achieve the targets for reducing maternal and child mortality by the year 2030.

PILLAR 2: ONE BILLION MORE PEOPLE BETTER PROTECTED FROM HEALTH EMERGENCIES

14. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board

14.1 WHO's work in health emergencies

8. The Executive Board at its 154th session noted the reports on public health emergencies: preparedness and response; strengthening the global architecture for health emergency preparedness, prevention, and response and resilience; and health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem.³ It adopted decisions EB154(9) on the universal health and preparedness review and EB154(10) on strengthening laboratory biological risk management. It also adopted resolution EB154.R7 on health conditions in the occupied Palestine territory, including east Jerusalem. It also considered the text of a draft resolution introduced by Member States on strengthening health emergency preparedness for disasters resulting from natural hazards. The Board agreed that consultations on the draft resolution would continue during the intersessional period. Separate reports on WHO's work in health emergencies and on health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, will be considered by the Health Assembly under this agenda item.

14.3 Global Health and Peace Initiative

9. The Executive Board at its 154th session noted the report on the Global Health and Peace Initiative.⁴ It also adopted decision EB154(11), in which it recommended to the Health Assembly, inter alia, continued support for evidence gathering, communication and dialogue as part of the consultative process of strengthening the Roadmap for the Global Health and Peace Initiative and submission of a status report on the Roadmap to the Health Assembly in 2029. In the discussions, Board members emphasized the importance of protecting health care infrastructure and workers in conflict-affected areas.

¹ A detailed progress update can be found in the Global report on neglected tropical diseases 2024, which will be available at the following link: <https://www.who.int/teams/control-of-neglected-tropical-diseases/overview>.

² Document EB154/12; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 154th session, twelfth meeting, section 3.

³ Documents EB154/14, EB154/15 and EB154/51; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 154th session, eighth meeting, section 2 and ninth meeting, section 1.

⁴ Document EB154/17; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 154th session, tenth meeting, section 1.

14.4 Poliomyelitis

• Poliomyelitis eradication

10. The Executive Board at its 154th session noted the report on poliomyelitis eradication.¹ In the discussions, Board members highlighted the need for robust surveillance and for targeted measures to reach all zero-dose children in critical areas.

• Polio transition planning and polio post-certification

11. The Executive Board at its 154th session noted the report on polio transition planning and polio post-certification.² In the discussions, Board members emphasized the importance of taking the steps necessary to prepare for a polio-free world, including strengthening immunization, surveillance, outbreak preparedness and response and poliovirus containment.

14.5 Smallpox eradication: destruction of variola virus stocks

12. The Executive Board at its 154th session noted the report on smallpox eradication: destruction of variola virus stocks.³ In the discussions, Board members suggested that the Secretariat should continue to share information on the state of variola virus and ensure regular inspections of the WHO collaborating centre repository laboratories. They welcomed the information provided on the status of the continuing multicountry mpox outbreak for which smallpox countermeasures had been deployed in many countries. In advance of the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly, Member States were invited to consider whether and how research on orthopoxviruses and smallpox should continue.

PILLAR 3: ONE BILLION MORE PEOPLE ENJOYING BETTER HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

15. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board

15.1 Social determinants of health

13. The Executive Board at its 154th session noted the report on progress of the World Report on Social Determinants of Health Equity.⁴ In the discussions, Board members drew attention to several promising initiatives to address social determinants of health, while expressing concerns about the slow progress in implementing the 2008 recommendations of the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health. They provided guidance for the finalization of the forthcoming world report.

¹ Document EB154/18; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 154th session, tenth meeting, section 2.

² Document EB154/19; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 154th session, tenth meeting, section 2.

³ Document EB154/20; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 154th session, eleventh meeting, section 1.

⁴ Document EB154/21; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 154th session, thirteenth meeting, section 3.

15.2 Maternal, infant and young child nutrition

14. The Executive Board at its 154th session noted the biennial report on the comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition,¹ including the guidance on regulatory measures aimed at restricting digital marketing of breast-milk substitutes.² In the discussions, Board members called on the Secretariat to hold further consultations on the implementation of the guidance. They also requested the Secretariat to hold consultations on the options for extending global nutrition targets and the comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition after 2025.

15.3 Well-being and health promotion

15. The Executive Board at its 154th session noted the report on well-being and health promotion.³ It also adopted decision EB154(13) on strengthening health and well-being through sport events. In the discussions, Board members welcomed the progress in implementing the global framework on well-being and health promotion, reiterated the need to integrate subjective and societal well-being into public health and highlighted the importance of social connection for the health and well-being of individuals.

15.4 Climate change, pollution and health

• Impact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health

16. The Executive Board at its 154th session noted the report on the impact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health.⁴ In the discussions, Board members expressed support for the exploration of options described in the report for future involvement of WHO in the intergovernmental science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals, waste and prevent pollution being negotiated by the ad hoc open-ended working group convened by the United Nations Environment Programme. Board members also underscored the importance of including health aspects in negotiations for the new legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.

• Climate change and health

17. The Executive Board at its 154th session noted the report on climate change and health⁵ and considered the text of a draft resolution introduced by Member States on the same topic. In the discussions, Board members observed that the climate crisis was a health crisis and welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to improve Member States' capacities to respond to the impacts of climate change on health while promoting low carbon societies and health systems. The Board agreed that consultations on the draft resolution would continue during the intersessional period.

¹ Document EB154/22; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 154th session, fourteenth meeting, section 1.

² Guidance on regulatory measures aimed at restricting digital marketing of breast-milk substitutes. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2023 (<https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/374182>, accessed 23 February 2024).

³ Document EB154/23; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 154th session, fourteenth meeting, section 2.

⁴ Document EB154/24; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 154th session, fifteenth meeting, section 1.

⁵ Document EB154/25; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 154th session, fifteenth meeting, section 1.

15.5 Economics and health for all

18. The Executive Board at its 154th session noted the report on economics and health for all¹ and considered the text of a draft resolution introduced by Member States on the same topic. In the discussions, Board members recognized the close two-way relationship between economic development and health and emphasized the importance of a multisectoral Health in All Policies approach. They highlighted the need to maximize the public value of investments in health and to counterbalance commercial influence that is not aligned with health for all. The Board agreed that consultations on the draft resolution would continue during the intersessional period.

PILLAR 4: MORE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT WHO PROVIDING BETTER SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES

23. Staffing matters

23.2 Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules

19. The Executive Board at its 154th session noted the report on amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules.² It adopted resolution EB154.R8 in which it confirmed amendments to the Staff Rules concerning the standards of conduct for staff members, promotion, Global Board of Appeal and staff in posts subject to local recruitment. It also adopted resolution EB154.R9, in which it recommended to the Health Assembly the adoption of amendments to Staff Regulation 6.2 on parental leave, to take effect from 1 January 2024. The proposed amendments would align this Regulation with Staff Rule 760, amendments to which were confirmed by the Executive Board at its 152nd session in February 2023.³

23.3 Report of the International Civil Service Commission

20. The Executive Board at its 154th session noted the report of the International Civil Service Commission.⁴

24. Management, legal and governance matters

24.1 Prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment

21. The Executive Board at its 154th session noted the report on prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.⁵ In the discussions, Board members expressed strong support for the concerted approach being taken by WHO to address sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment among its personnel and implementing partners. They requested the Secretariat to submit proposals for mechanisms to ensure full and sustainable funding of activities to prevent sexual misconduct in emergencies, and for defining Member States' accountability to ensure prevention of and response to sexual misconduct in line with WHO's own accountability.

¹ Document EB154/26; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 154th session, fifteenth meeting, section 2.

² Document EB154/48 Rev.1; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 154th session, sixteenth meeting, section 2.

³ See resolution EB152.R6.

⁴ Document EB154/49; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 154th session, sixteenth meeting, section 2.

⁵ Document EB154/30; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 154th session, fourth meeting, section 1.

ACTION BY THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

22. The Health Assembly is invited to note this report. The Health Assembly is further invited:
- under item 11.1, to adopt the decision recommended by the Executive Board in decision EB154(6);
 - under item 11.2, to adopt the resolution recommended by the Executive Board in decision EB154(7);
 - under item 11.3, to adopt the decision recommended by the Executive Board in decision EB154(8);
 - under item 14.1, to adopt the decision recommended by the Executive Board in decision EB154(9), and the resolutions recommended by the Executive Board in decision EB154(10) and resolution EB154.R7;
 - under item 14.3, to adopt the resolution recommended by the Executive Board in decision EB154(11);
 - under item 15.3, to adopt the resolution recommended by the Executive Board in decision EB154(13);
 - under item 23.2, to adopt the resolution recommended by the Executive Board in resolution EB154.R9.

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