World Health Organization

Member States Information Session on Outcomes of the May Governing Body Meetings and Looking Forward to EB160

23 June 2026

Promote **health** | Keep the world **safe** | Serve the **vulnerable**

Agenda

1. Feedback on the recent meetings of PBAC, WHA and EB

2. Schedule of intersessional work between now and PBAC45 & EB160

3. Public Health Prizes and Awards

4. Questions and answers

1) Feedback on the recent meetings of PBAC, WHA and EB

PBAC44, WHA79 and EB159

- **PBAC44** (13-15 May): Considered **26 items and sub-items** and provided recommendations to EB159 in document EB159/2 and **5 reports** to WHA79.

- **WHA79** (18-23 May): Considered approximately 68 **items and sub-items;** adopted **13 resolutions** and **22 decisions**.

- **EB159** (25-26 May): Considered **19 items and sub-items; adopted 5** decisions.

WHA79 Delegate Survey: key findings

222 responses from 112 Member States



Focus areas:

1. Preparation and organization
2. Agenda management
3. Staying informed during the Health Assembly
4. Outcomes of the World Health Assembly
5. Suggestions for improvement

1. Preparation and organization



Most delegates agreed with the following:



	% of respondents WHA79	% of respondents WHA78	% of respondents WHA77
The registration process was simple and well supported, notwithstanding the reduction in staff capacity	92%	96%	91%
My delegation was able to follow meetings and participate in them in its preferred official language	90%	--	--
Interpretation services were adequate	88%	95%	82%
Pre-session briefings and materials enabled my delegation to participate effectively	85%	90%	82%
Informal consultations organized in advance of the Health Assembly were helpful for discussing and negotiating draft resolution and decision proposals	84%	--	--
Organizational and protocol questions were answered clearly and in a timely manner, notwithstanding the reduction in staff capacity	81%	83%	67%

1. Preparation and organization



Areas that need attention:

	% of respondents WHA79	% of respondents WHA78	% of respondents WHA77
Documents were published in sufficient time for my delegation to prepare effectively for the Health Assembly	64% (20% did not agree)	57%	--
Meetings started and ended on time	55% (29% did not agree)	65%	--
The use of two venues (Palais des Nations and WHO HQ) worked well and did not hinder participation	50% (33% did not agree)	--	--

2. Agenda management

Feedback on agenda management at WHA79:



	% of respondents WHA79	% of respondents WHA78	% of respondents WHA77
Electronic voting, when consensus could not be reached, was an effective time-management tool	86%	90%	--
The time allocated to each speaker during the plenary (general discussion) and during the meetings of Committees A and B was sufficient	72%	--	--
Agenda item grouping supported effective discussions	72%	89%	47%
The size and structure of the agenda were manageable for my delegation	70%	--	--
The number of proposed resolutions and decisions was appropriate for effective consideration	70%	--	--
The time allocated to each agenda item was sufficient	57% (17% did not agree)	71%	39%

3. Staying informed during the Health Assembly

Most delegates agreed on the importance of the following in terms of obtaining up-to-date information:



	% of respondents WHA79	% of respondents WHA78	% of respondents WHA77
The Daily Journal	93%	100%	93%
Contacting the WHO Secretariat directly	86%	85%	85%
The WHA mobile application	85%	91%	85%
Consulting with Regional Coordinators	80%	86%	85%
Participating in daily regional meetings	78%	93%	86%
Consulting other Member State delegations	75%	95%	93%
Consulting with Regional GBS Focal Points	68%	76%	NA

4. Outcomes of the World Health Assembly

Most delegates agreed on the following outcomes of the World Health Assembly:



	% of respondents WHA79
The Health Assembly provided valuable opportunities to coordinate with other Member States and stakeholders	96%
Participation in the Health Assembly improved my delegation's ability to engage in WHO processes	90%
The information and discussions at the Health Assembly will support my delegation's work over the coming year	89%
The outcomes of the Health Assembly were relevant to my delegation's priorities	87%
The strategic roundtables were useful, relevant and well organized	78%

Some of the most valuable aspects of the World Health Assembly for survey respondents included opportunities to engage through side events, bilateral meetings, networking, knowledge exchange and building partnerships...

5. Suggestions for improvement

Suggestions for improvement from survey respondents included the following:

- Greater adherence to the published program and allotted speaking times
- Strong support for the timely publication of documentation e.g. by early April at the latest
- Use of a single venue
- Enhance the App: e.g. strengthen real time updates/ push notifications concerning program changes, integrate the list of speakers in Committees A and B (include scheduled, completed and pending speakers), include the status of discussions
- Prioritize predictability in the programming, especially with regards speaking times for heads of delegation for the first two days
- Reduce time on geopolitical discussions, or schedule them in one committee, or hold them before the WHA
- Consider agreeing on the provisional agenda prior to the meeting to mitigate delays
- Stronger incentives for Member States to submit written statements



2) Schedule of intersessional work between now and EB160

IGWG Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the WHO Pandemic Agreement

Seventh meeting
6 – 17 July

JUN	JUL	AUG

Proposed agenda:

1. Opening and adoption of agenda and PoW
2. Draft PABS Annex text
3. Working modalities and updated timeline and deliverables
4. Modalities of engagement with relevant stakeholders
5. Next steps
6. Report and closure

World Health Organization

Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly

Agenda item 13.3 WHA79(7)

22 May 2026

Outcome of the open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the WHO Pandemic Agreement in relation to the drafting and negotiation of the Annex described in Article 12 of the WHO Pandemic Agreement

The Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly, recalling resolution WHA78.1 (2025), which adopted the WHO Pandemic Agreement pursuant to Article 19 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization and, inter alia, decided to establish an open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG), and noting the progress of the IGWG to date,

Decided that the IGWG shall continue its work as mandated in paragraph 9(1) of resolution WHA78.1 and shall, as a priority, draft and negotiate the Annex described in Article 12 of the WHO Pandemic Agreement, including to develop legally binding contracts to be negotiated and signed with WHO, and shall submit the outcome to the Eighteenth World Health Assembly for its consideration or, as may be necessary, earlier by a special session of the World Health Assembly in 2026 with only one agenda item dedicated to this outcome, and subsequently facilitate, as necessary, activities related to the adoption of said Annex and the opening for signature, ratification, acceptance, approval, accession or formal confirmation of the WHO Pandemic Agreement.

5. The IGWG decided to hold its seventh meeting from 6 to 17 July 2026. The IGWG requested the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, to organize informal hybrid meetings before its seventh meeting focusing primarily on access as well as on benefit-sharing, including contracts and core terms of reference for the WHO Coordinated Laboratory Network and possible WHO PABS-recognized sequence databases, to develop draft textual proposals for the consideration of the seventh meeting. The IGWG also decided that it would, at its seventh meeting, consider its working modalities and update the timeline and deliverables of the IGWG.

MSM

Member State mechanism on substandard and falsified medical products (WHA65.19)

Meeting of the Steering Committee
8 - 9 July 2026

Meeting of the Steering Committee and Fifteenth meeting of the MSM
week of 16th November (TBC)



- Updates on: activities and budget to implement the workplan, the WHO Global Surveillance and Monitoring System, prioritized activities for the period 2026–2027, WHO's participation in global and regional initiatives

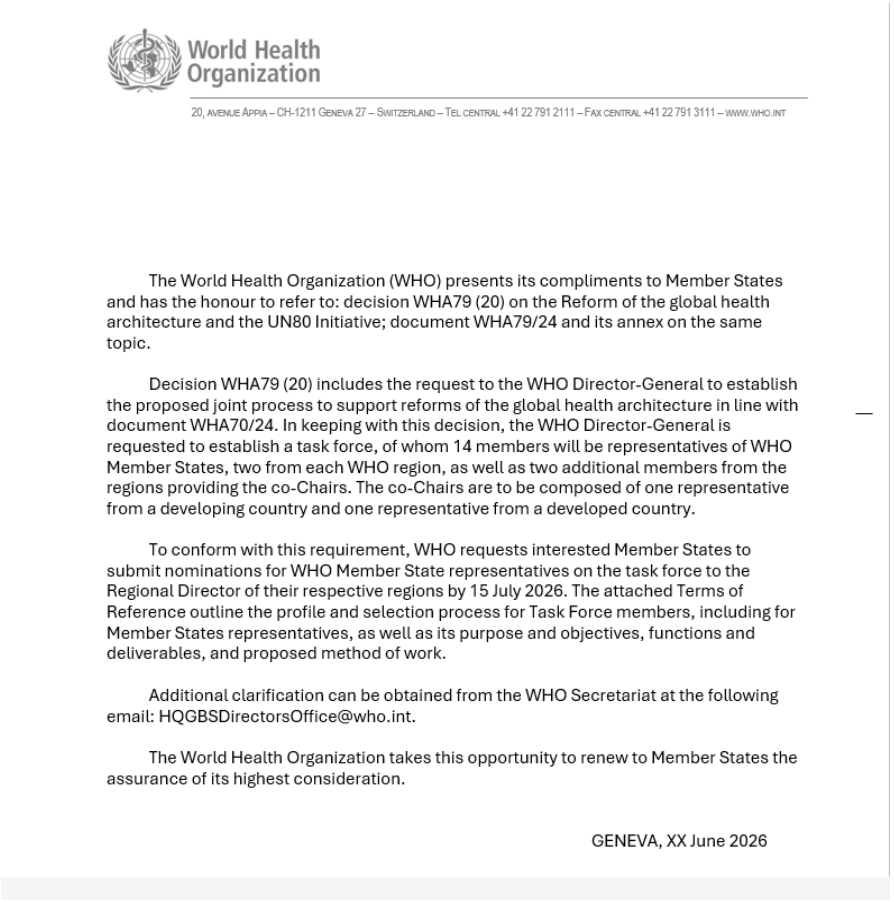
- Proposed agenda to be discussed with the Chair. Will include updates on prioritized activities for the period 2026–2027
- Report to the Eightieth World Health Assembly, through EB160
- C.L. to be shared in advance

For more information visit:
https://apps.who.int/gb/sf/ and WHO Member State Mechanism on Substandard and Falsified Medical Products

Reform of the global health architecture

Circular letter went out to all Member States yesterday:

- Requesting the submission of nominations for members of the Joint Task Force
- Annexing ToR for the Joint Task Force
  - Reaffirming the purpose and objectives
  - Outlining functions and deliverables
  - Defining a profile required of Task Force members, and outlining the selection process
  - Suggesting Methods of Work



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The World Health Organization (WHO) presents its compliments to Member States and has the honour to refer to: decision WHA79 (20) on the Reform of the global health architecture and the UN80 Initiative; document WHA79/24 and its annex on the same topic.

Decision WHA79 (20) includes the request to the WHO Director-General to establish the proposed joint process to support reforms of the global health architecture in line with document WHA70/24. In keeping with this decision, the WHO Director-General is requested to establish a task force, of whom 14 members will be representatives of WHO Member States, two from each WHO region, as well as two additional members from the regions providing the co-Chairs. The co-Chairs are to be composed of one representative from a developing country and one representative from a developed country.

To conform with this requirement, WHO requests interested Member States to submit nominations for WHO Member State representatives on the task force to the Regional Director of their respective regions by 15 July 2026. The attached Terms of Reference outline the profile and selection process for Task Force members, including for Member States representatives, as well as its purpose and objectives, functions and deliverables, and proposed method of work.

Additional clarification can be obtained from the WHO Secretariat at the following email: HQGBSDirectorsOffice@who.int.

The World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States the assurance of its highest consideration.

GENEVA, XX June 2026

Monthly consultation Sessions

Starting 26 June

JUN	JUL	AUG

….. until WHA80

Other meetings to be held during the intersessional period

Information sessions and informal consultations to be organized in response to:

- Resolution WHA79.5 - Global action to advance health equity for people with haemophilia and other bleeding disorders
- Decision WHA79(15) - End TB Strategy
- Resolution WHA79.8 - Precision medicine: a path towards targeted, personalized and equitable care
- Decision WHA79(18) - Increasing availability, ethical access and oversight of transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs
- Resolution WHA79.13 - Radiation and health: strengthening global protection, preparedness and response
- Decision WHA79(21) - Draft global plan of action for the health of Indigenous Peoples

Other meetings to be held during the intersessional period

Information sessions and informal consultations that are ongoing in relation to previous governing body mandates:

- Decision WHA78(10) Strengthening national capacities in evidence-based decision making for the uptake and impact of norms and standards
- Decision WHA78(22) Global strategy on digital health 2020–2025: extension
- Resolution WHA78.11 Rare diseases: a global health priority for equity and inclusion
- Resolution WHA78.15 Skin diseases as a global public health priority
- WHA78.27 Galvanizing global support for a lead-free future

EB160 Draft Provisional Agenda

- The EB160 draft provisional agenda will be circulated to Member States shortly.
- Any proposals for inclusion on the agenda should reach the Director-General not later than 12 weeks after circulation of the agenda by sending an email to governanceunit@who.int and shall be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum.
- Following receipt of proposals, the Director-General and the Officers of the Executive Board will meet to draw up the provisional agenda.
- The provisional agenda will be dispatched to Member States with the letter of convocation no later than 8 weeks before the commencement of EB160.

DG Election process

Key timeline until EB160

- **24 April 2026:** C.L. 16.2026 sent to Member States to launch the process
- **24 September 2026 -18H00 CEST:** deadline for submission of candidatures
- **On or after 29 October 2026:** announcement of candidates
- **18 November 2026:** first candidates' forum[1] *(duration will depend on the number of candidates but maximum 3 days)*
- **November 2026:** opening of the Web Forum
- **January 2027 (EB160):** shortlisting and nomination of up to 3 candidates by the Executive Board

A dedicated Member States Information Session will be held in September 2026 *(date to be confirmed)*

All information posted on the WHO's website
https://www.who.int/about/governance/election-of-the-who-director-general

[1] Decision EB159(3)



3) Public Health Prizes and Awards

Awards

- **Overall outcomes of 2025-26 cycle**
- **Timeline for upcoming cycle**
- **Prizes to be awarded in 2026/27**
- **Process for application**
- **Support provided by GBS and ROs/Regional Coordinators:**

https://apps.who.int/gb/awards/

Queries and feedback: foundationprizes@who.int

Data on 2025-26 engagement

- ✓ **Number and quality of applications increasing: congratulations to MS for engagement**.
- ✓ Average **number of participating Member States** increased **from 25 to 40+** (with one award more).
- ✓ R**egional diversity** of laureates: improvement with five laureates out of six submitted by MS that had not won a prize in over ten years.
- ✓ In terms of **regional participation, there is uneven participation across the regions, ranging from 30% to 90% of Member States in a given region.**
- ✓ Low-income MS underrepresented in applications, but two laureates this year: outreach planned.
- ✓ Some improvement in applications submitted in French or Spanish this year: outreach planned to Francophonie, and Spanish-speaking MS.

➔ Next steps include engagement with Regional Officers and Regional Coordinators to provide additional guidance and ensure representation.

About the candidatures:

regional and annual distribution 2017-2023

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NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS BY REGION*



NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS BY YEAR*



36% of WHO Member States have submitted candidatures for any award since 2017.
Applications received from 20 Member States in 2023 (average annual level since 2017).

50% of WHO Member States as of 2026

2023 applications have exceeded the 2019-20 level.

★ Over 85 applications in 2026!

*This corresponds to the full set of applications received every year. Applications are screened for compliance, and a small number of applications may not be deemed compliant.

About the Public Health Prizes and Awards:
focus and statutes

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Sasakawa Health Prize

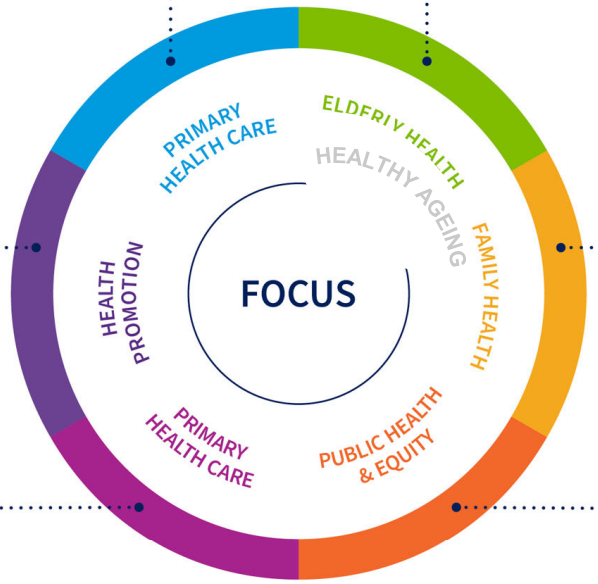
Statutes and Guidelines, including selection criteria and composition of the Selection Panel

Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion

Statutes, including composition of the Selection Panel

United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize

Statutes and Guidelines, including selection criteria and composition of the Selection Panel



The State of Kuwait Health Promotion Foundation's His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for the Promotion of Healthy Ageing

Ihsan Doğramacı Family Health Foundation Prize*

Statutes, including composition of the Selection Panel

Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health

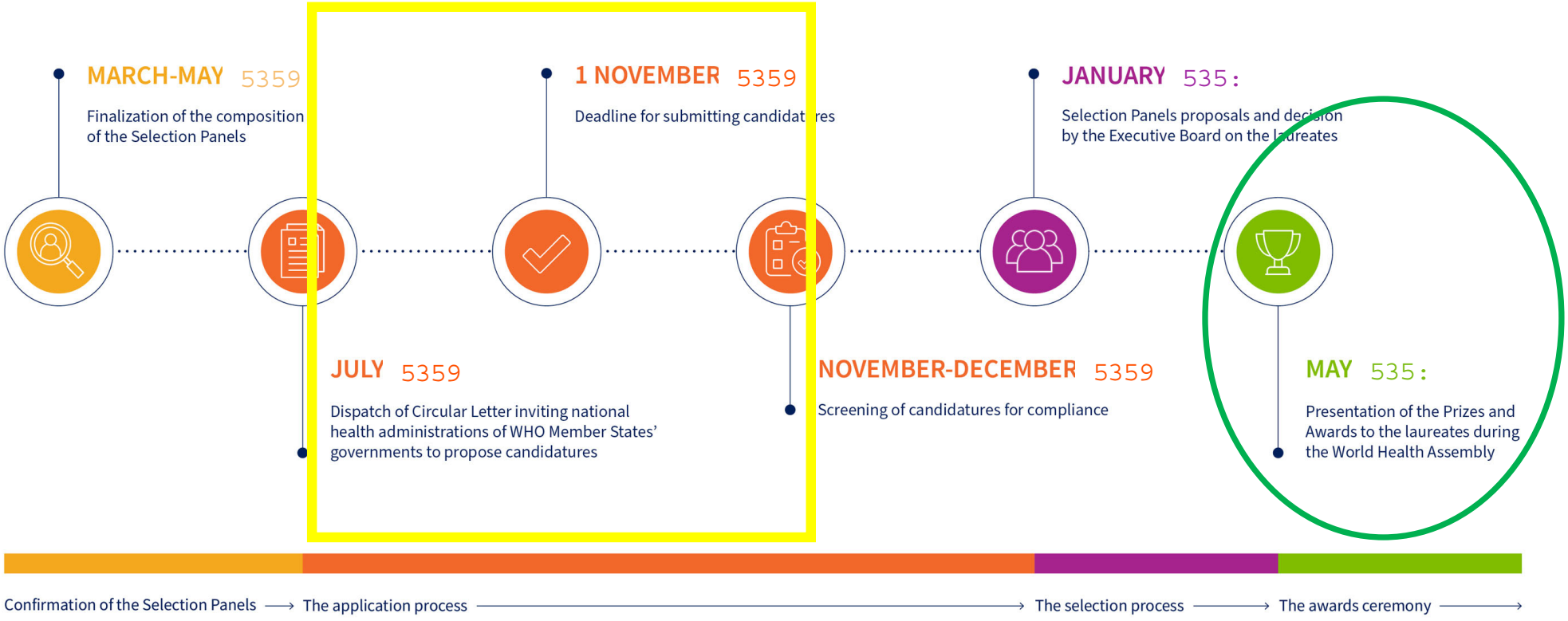
Statutes and Guidelines, including selection criteria and composition of the Selection Panel

*Only awarded every 2 years.

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2026 Timeline for Prizes and Awards administered by the WHO Director-General

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Procedure for submitting candidates for the prizes and award in 2027

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01

WHO Member States submit nominations for candidates by email to **foundationprizes@who.int** by the timeline.

02

The candidature must include:
a transmittal letter or Note Verbale; the candidature form(s) in English, French or Spanish; both documents must be signed and stamped by the submitting national health authority; and adequate justification and documentation should be enclosed.

03

Each national health administration can nominate only one candidate per award.

04

Candidates not selected in past years can be nominated again.

05

Current or former WHO staff member and current members of the Executive Board are ineligible to receive such prizes and award.

06

Former laureates of a Prize may put forward the name of a candidate for that same Prize.

The candidature forms for each prize and award are available on the Governance website at apps.who.int/gb/awards
Queries can be sent to foundationprizes@who.int

Official Side Events WHA79

- 61 Official Side Events held in May 2026 at full cost recovery in dual location and with an expanded set of services
- Side Events Survey will be distributed today for Member State feedback in order to prepare for next year

4) Questions and answers

(Feedback also through Survey)

Thank you



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www.who.int