
Draft twelfth general programme of work and proposed programme budget 2014–2015: summary of discussions by the Regional Committee for Africa

1. The draft twelfth general programme of work and the proposed programme budget 2014–2015 are being developed in consultation with Member States within the context of WHO reform. As part of this consultation process, regional committees discussed the draft versions of both documents with the objective of providing input to their further development.¹ This report presents a synthesis of the key issues raised during the discussions by the Regional Committee for Africa, including by the Programme Subcommittee,² in order to supplement the information provided by the regional committees that took place earlier.³

2. In setting the scene for the draft twelfth general programme of work, Member States felt there was a need to include an analysis of successes and challenges in the implementation of the Eleventh General Programme of Work and of the current global health situation, including progress made towards the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals and in order to project the transition of the global health agenda beyond 2015.

3. Furthermore, the various roles and contributions of various stakeholders and partners will need to be further elaborated; the evidence for the analysis presented in Chapter 1 of the draft will require some hard data and referencing; and Member States recommended that a separate paragraph on communicable diseases be added since communicable diseases and maternal mortality continue to be core business in the African Region.

PRIORITIZATION

4. The Regional Committee highlighted the following issues: the need to reflect health promotion as a strategy applicable across all the categories and not limited to category 3 alone; to reduce the number of priorities and outcomes; to be explicit about the role of WHO as a leader and coordinator of global health. Due to the importance of strengthening health systems to achieve disease control outcomes, it was suggested that the prioritization of categories be revisited, giving prominence to the health system category.

¹ See decision EB131(10).

² The reports of the Programme Subcommittee are available at:
http://www.afro.who.int/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=8091&Itemid=2593 and
http://www.afro.who.int/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=8092&Itemid=2593.

³ Document EBPBAC/EXO2/3.

RESULTS CHAIN

5. Member States expressed concern about the ambitious number of outputs vis-a-vis the capacity of WHO and the current financial challenge. It was recommended that the number of outputs be reduced, the statements refined, and a logical linkage to the related outcomes ensured.

6. It was also recommended that the roles of WHO at the different levels of the Organization be clearly articulated, at the same time ensuring a strong country focus and complementarity within the current context of WHO reforms and core functions.

BUDGET

7. Member States expressed concern about the unavailability of information on budget allocations.

8. The Committee recommended that a fair allocation of resources be ensured for the African Region, in view of its challenging health priorities, and given the double burden of communicable and noncommunicable diseases in the Region.

FINANCING THE WORK OF WHO

9. The Committee recommended that, during the forthcoming governing body meetings, Member States should advocate for adequate funding for WHO, in order to maintain its leadership and coordination role in the global health agenda in the context of WHO's constitutional core functions.

ACTION BY THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

10. The Regional Committee for Africa adopted documents AFR/RC62/17: Draft Twelfth General Programme of Work and AFR/RC62/18: Proposed Programme Budget 2014–2015.

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