

**SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE WESTERN
PACIFIC (MANILA, PHILIPPINES, 21–25 OCTOBER 2024)**

**REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON (HONOURABLE VAINETUTAI ROSE TOKI BROWN,
MINISTER OF HEALTH, THE COOK ISLANDS)¹**

PART 1: TOPICS FOR GLOBAL DISCUSSION

Topic 1: Membership in the Region

The Regional Committee considered and expressed strong support for the formal request from the Government of Indonesia to be reassigned from the WHO South-East Asia Region to the Western Pacific Region.

Pending consideration of the reassignment of the Republic of Indonesia by the World Health Assembly, the Regional Committee deferred action on the issue of the equitable distribution of Executive Board seats allocated to the Western Pacific Region, as envisaged by the Regional Committee at its previous session in decision WPR/RC74(3).

**Topic 2: Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human
Reproduction: Membership of the Policy and Coordination Committee**

The Regional Committee adopted decision WPR/RC75(3),² which selected Vanuatu to nominate a representative to serve a three-year term on the Policy and Coordination Committee from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2027.

**Topic 3: Accreditation procedure for regional non-State actors not in official relations with WHO
to attend meetings of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific**

The Regional Committee, in decision WPR/RC75(2),³ adopted the accreditation procedure for regional non-State actors not in official relations with WHO to attend sessions of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific.

**Topic 4: Time and place of the seventy-sixth and seventy-seventh sessions of the Regional
Committee**

The Regional Committee, in resolution WPR/RC75.R3,⁴ confirmed that the seventy-sixth session of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific would be held in Fiji from 20 to 24 October 2025 and decided that the seventy-seventh session of the Regional Committee would be held in Manila, Philippines, from 19 to 23 October 2026.

¹ See the final report of the Regional Committee

² WPR RC75 3 Decision HRP PCC

³ WPR RC75 2 Decision NSAs accreditation procedure

⁴ WPR RC75 R3 RC76 and RC77 Time and place

PART 2: TOPICS OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Topic 1: New regional vision 2025–2029

The Regional Committee, in decision WPR/RC75(1),⁵ adopted the new regional vision for the work of WHO with Member States and partners in the Western Pacific Region for the coming five years: *Weaving Health for Families, Communities and Societies in the Western Pacific Region (2025–2029)*. The Regional Committee expressed strong support for the vision, especially the priority areas for accelerating and scaling up efforts in alignment with the global WHO Fourteenth General Programme of Work, 2025–2028. The Regional Committee noted the importance of Member States and WHO at all levels – from headquarters to the Regional Office to country offices – working with shared responsibilities and mutual accountability to ensure the successful implementation of the vision.

Topic 2: Health financing

The Regional Committee, in resolution WPR/RC75.R1,⁶ endorsed the *Regional Action Framework for Health Financing to Achieve Universal Health Coverage and Sustainable Development in the Western Pacific*. The Framework addressed concerns regarding inadequate public funding and gaps in health financing arrangements in the Region, recognizing the need to use health financing to reorient health systems towards primary health care and the vital role of public financing in progressing towards universal health coverage (UHC) and sustainable development. Member States were urged: to continuously assess the adequacy, equity, effectiveness and sustainability of health financing policies, systems and processes to accelerate progress on UHC and sustainable development; to tailor guidance from the Framework to national contexts to safeguard public spending for health and strengthen health financing arrangements; and to foster high-level commitment and intersectoral collaboration among government agencies and other stakeholders to promote health as a central goal of economic and social policy. The Regional Director was requested: to provide technical support for Member States to develop and implement national policies and plans in line with the Framework; to facilitate collaboration, capacity-building, resource mobilization and the sharing of knowledge and experience to address health financing challenges; and to monitor and report periodically on progress in health financing for UHC and sustainable development in the Western Pacific Region.

Topic 3: Digital health

The Regional Committee, in resolution WPR/RC75.R2,⁷ endorsed the *Regional Action Framework on Digital Health in the Western Pacific*. While digital health had been expanding rapidly in the Western Pacific Region, ever-evolving digital health technologies may require regulatory frameworks. New challenges may emerge that require concerted efforts to ensure those technologies serve everyone equitably and do not increase health or digital divides, and that they are safe and reliable. The Regional Action Framework recognized that effectively leveraging digital solutions in health necessitated a people-centric, whole-of-government approach that involves entire societies and concerted global and regional efforts. Member States were urged to use the Regional Action Framework as a guide: to develop national

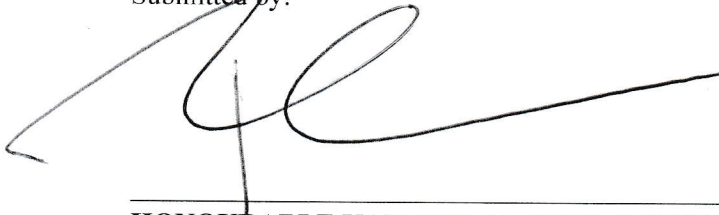
⁵ [WPR RC75 1 Decision Weaving Health](#)

⁶ [WPR RC75 R1 Health financing](#)

⁷ [WPR RC75 R2 Digital health](#)

strategies and strengthen digital health systems with comprehensive governance mechanisms, according to context and capacity; to foster high-level commitment and intersectoral collaboration among government agencies and other stakeholders, in support of a coordinated approach that accelerates the development, enhancement and implementation of national digital health strategies and plans; and to ensure adequate resources were dedicated to build and enhance capacity for sustainable and secure digital health systems. The Regional Director was requested: to provide technical support for Member States to accelerate the development, enhancement and implementation of national strategies, policies and plans in line with the Regional Action Framework; to facilitate collaboration and the sharing of knowledge, experiences, lessons and innovations in digital health among Member States; and to report periodically on progress in the development and evolution of digital health in the Western Pacific Region.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'V' followed by a horizontal line and a small loop.

HONOURABLE VAINETUTAI ROSE TOKI BROWN
MINISTER OF HEALTH, THE COOK ISLANDS