

Meeting report of the Working Group on Sustainable Financing

1. The Working Group on Sustainable Financing held its sixth meeting in a virtual format, from 10 to 11 March 2022. The meeting was chaired by Mr Björn Kümmel of Germany with the following Vice-Chairs: Ms Bronwyn Field of Australia, Mr Iddrisu Yakubu of Ghana, Ms Meutia Hasan of Indonesia, Mr Raúl Vargas Juárez of Mexico, and Ms Fatima Ezzahra Rachidi of Morocco.¹
2. Following the adoption of the agenda and the programme of work, the meeting focused on the four guiding questions proposed by the Bureau as follows:
 - (a) The Working Group has recognized that the current funding model for WHO is unsustainable and that Member States as a collective must match their willingness to fund the Organization with the demands that they place on it. In order to address this situation, the Working Group has been considering recommending an incremental increase to assessed contributions to the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly. Noting the recommendation of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response that assessed contribution levels should be increased to two thirds of the base segment of the programme budget and the recommendation of the Bureau that they should be increased incrementally to eventually represent 50% of the base segment, what would the Working Group consider an acceptable percentage range of the budget that assessed contributions should represent in order to match the demands of Member States on the Organization?
 - (b) If an increase to assessed contributions is agreed or recommended to the World Health Assembly, in what year should this increase begin?
 - (c) What are the top three concrete deliverables in the governance reforms that are fully within the Secretariat's managerial control and to which WHO should commit, to be agreed by the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly alongside an increase in assessed contributions but implemented before the first stepped increase in assessed contributions takes effect?
 - (d) What barriers exist to your Government making a decision on an increase in assessed contributions (for example, agreement across portfolios, passage of legislation/agreement by parliament, impending election)?
3. The Working Group provided its reflections and comments in response to the guiding questions. As a way forward and based on the discussions of the sixth meeting, the Bureau will develop and circulate to Member States, in advance of the seventh meeting of the Working Group, a draft textual

¹ Ms Shafaq Mokwar of Sudan was replaced by Ms Fatima Ezzahra Rachidi of Morocco at the meeting.

proposal of the Working Group's recommendations to the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly, for consideration.

4. The Working Group agreed to hold its seventh meeting from 25 to 27 April 2022.

5. In his closing remarks, the Chair thanked the Member States for their continued engagement and closed the meeting.

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