

Decisions of Executive Board/World Health Assembly

WHA51(10) Revised drug strategy

The Fifty-first World Health Assembly decided to refer resolution EB101.R24 on "Revised drug strategy" back to the Executive Board, to be further considered at its 103rd session, taking into consideration the discussions of this matter in Committee A and in a drafting group.

EB102(14) Revised drug strategy

The Executive Board decided to establish an open-ended *ad hoc* group to explore the complex issues raised by resolution EB101.R4 on the revised drug strategy. The group will take note of the outcome of contacts pursued by WHO with other partners, including the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), industry and nongovernmental organizations in order to draft a resolution for consideration by the Executive Board at its 103rd session in January 1999.

The Executive Board established a two-tiered method of working, as follows: (1) the *ad hoc* working group on the revised drug strategy will be open to all Member States wishing to participate and will meet in Geneva; (2) a sub-group will be created comprising the chairman of the drafting group that had been established during the Fifty-first World Health Assembly, and two Member States from each region, of which at least one will be a member of the Executive Board. This sub-group will assist WHO in its contacts with relevant interested partners; (3) the Director-General and his staff will prepare a concise and comprehensive report on which discussions and decisions should be based at the regional committee meetings to be held in September and October 1998; (4) the regional committees will nominate their representatives to the sub-group; (5) the *ad hoc* group will meet shortly after the regional committee meetings and prior to or shortly after the opening of the 103rd session of the Executive Board in January 1999 in order to finalize the draft resolution to be considered by the Executive Board.

The Executive Board noted that adequate financial resources will need to be provided for the aforementioned activities, and that the work of the Secretariat and Member States on this issue may need to continue beyond January 1999.

EB101(4) Health systems development

The Executive Board requested that a progress report on the proposed initiative for health systems development should be submitted to its 102nd session.

EB101(12) WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health

The Executive Board, having considered the report of the Director-General, agreed that a preliminary meeting of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health should be held in 1998.

EB102(7) Membership of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health

The Executive Board appointed Mr N.S. de Silva (Sri Lanka) and Dr M. Fikri (United Arab Emirates) as members of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health for the duration of their term of office on the Executive Board, in addition to Dr P. Dossou-Togbe (Benin), Dr J. Williams (Cook Islands), Dr A. Meloni (Peru) and Professor J. Leowski (Poland), already members of the Committee. It was understood that if any member appointed by the Board were unable to attend, his successor or the alternate member of the Board designated by the Government concerned, in accordance with Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure, would participate in the work of the Committee.

EB101(6) WHO reform: WHO country offices

The Executive Board (1) endorsed the principle of utilizing a common set of objective criteria to determine the nature and extent of WHO representation at country level; (2) requested the Director-General to develop further the criteria for classifying countries on the basis of need, in conformity with those provided in resolution EB101.R10 on regular budget allocations to regions, and to report the results of his refinement of the criteria to the Executive Board at its 102nd session; (3) requested that the refined criteria should be applied in a flexible manner, in order to guide decisions on the nature and level of WHO representation at the country level, taking into account the activities of other organizations and countries; (4) requested that any changes in WHO representation at the country level resulting from application of these criteria should be phased in over the next three bienniums; (5) emphasizing the leadership role of WHO in United Nations health activities and its role as the directing and coordinating authority for international health work, requested WHO to cooperate fully with other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system at country level; (6) requested the Director-General to report to the Executive Board at its 103rd session on the outcome of the pilot phase of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which is being conducted in 19 countries.

EB102(1) WHO country offices

The Executive Board, having considered the Director-General's report on WHO country offices: criteria for classifying countries on the basis of need, recommended that: (1) the Director-General should determine, in consultation with the Regional Directors and Member States, whether the type of WHO representation in each country is appropriate, taking account Human Development Index and immunization coverage as indicators, and retaining the possibility of modifying representation in some countries; (2) Regional Directors should report to the Director-General on their progress in reassessing and redefining WHO representation according to specific needs and situations in countries; (3) the Director-General should draw up guidelines for Member States, enabling them to assume, in accordance with national capacity, greater responsibility for coordination with the Organization; (4) the Director-General should report on progress made to the Executive Board at its 105th session in January 2000.

Part 2

**REVIEW OF THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDAS OF THE ONE HUNDRED
AND-THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND
THE FIFTY-SECOND WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

In order to foster greater correlation of the work of the Regional Committee with that of the Executive Board and of the World Health Assembly, the Regional Committee has adopted the practice, since 1980, of reviewing the draft provisional agendas of the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly so that it could note important matters of regional and global interest.

Regional Committees are urged to take an active part in the work of the Organization and to submit to the Executive Board their recommendations and concrete proposals on matters of regional and global interest. In its turn, the Executive Board routinely reviews the policy proposals of the Regional Committees concerning matters of world wide interest, particularly for the ensuing sessions of the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly.

The draft provisional agendas of the hundred-and-third session of the Executive Board (January 1999) and the Fifty-second World Health Assembly (May 1999) are awaited from WHO/HQ and will be submitted to the Regional Committee for its review.