

THIRTY-SECOND WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

WHA32.36

25 May 1979

## METHOD OF WORK OF THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

The Thirty-second World Health Assembly,

Having considered the recommendations of the Executive Board<sup>1</sup> concerning the method of work of the Health Assembly;

Believing that the proposed changes in respect of the proceedings of the Health Assembly would contribute towards further rationalizing and improving the work of the Assembly;

## 1. DECIDES that:

(1) neither main committee of the Health Assembly shall meet during plenary meetings of the Health Assembly, and that this provision supersedes paragraph II.1 of resolution WHA28.69;

(2) the role and functions of the rapporteurs of the main committees of the Health Assembly may include (a) participation in the preparation and presentation of draft resolutions, and (b) participation in any working groups which may be set up to prepare draft resolutions or to reconcile amendments to such resolutions;

(3) Executive Board representatives should help sponsors of draft resolutions by drawing attention to the existence of recent reports which might make a request for a further report on the same subject unnecessary, and to previously adopted resolutions or decisions that would appear to render the adoption of a new resolution unnecessary;

(4) informal meetings between delegates and the Secretariat on technical questions shall continue to be held in accordance with existing arrangements;

(5) the earlier practice of holding the Technical Discussions in small groups shall be resumed, and reports or accounts of the Technical Discussions shall continue to be published;

(6) the Board shall fix a preliminary daily timetable for the Health Assembly's consideration of its agenda and the General Committee shall review and approve this timetable, subsequently revising it if and when required;

(7) the Executive Board, when preparing the provisional agenda of each regular session of the Health Assembly, shall take into consideration the desirability of achieving an appropriate balance in the volume of work in the Health Assembly from year to year, and in this connexion, as a general principle, individual technical programme items shall preferably be included in the agenda of the Health Assembly as separate items only in the years when the Health Assembly does not undertake a full review of the proposed biennial programme budget, thus allowing more time for such technical items and providing a better balance of work of the Health Assembly;

<sup>1</sup> Resolution EB63.R33.

(8) the members of the Committee on Nominations shall ascertain that the delegates they propose as officers of the Health Assembly are willing, barring unforeseen circumstances, to discharge the responsibilities of the office concerned for the entire duration of the Assembly;

2. DECIDES FURTHER to amend the following Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly to read:

(1) Rule 5 (f): "any item proposed by any other organization of the United Nations system with which the Organization has entered into effective relations";

(2) Rule 33 (c): "propose to the Health Assembly the initial allocation to committees of items of the agenda, and if appropriate the deferment of any item to a future Health Assembly";

(3) Rule 36: "Each main committee shall, after consideration of the report of the Committee on Nominations, elect two vice-chairmen and a rapporteur";

(4) the first sentence of Rule 45: "Representatives of the Board may attend plenary meetings and meetings of the General Committee and main committees of the Health Assembly"; and

(5) the first sentence of Rule 77: "After the voting has been completed, a delegate may make a brief statement, consisting solely of an explanation of vote".

Fourteenth plenary meeting, 25 May 1979  
A32/VR/14