



FIFTIETH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

WHA50.18

Agenda item 31

12 May 1997

Method of work of the Health Assembly and proposed amendments to its Rules of Procedure

The Fiftieth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Director-General on the method of work of the Health Assembly;

Recalling resolution WHA20.2 concerning arrangements for the conduct of the general discussion in plenary meetings on the reports of the Executive Board and the Director-General, resolution EB71.R3 concerning, *inter alia*, the focus of such discussion, resolution WHA32.36 concerning, *inter alia*, preparation of the provisional agenda of regular sessions of the Health Assembly by the Executive Board and resolution WHA36.16 concerning, *inter alia*, the opening meeting of the Health Assembly;

Recalling also the decision of the Forty-eighth World Health Assembly to transfer resources from governing bodies to priority programmes, and the consequent need to shorten the duration of the Health Assembly;

Noting the proposed programme budget for the financial period 1998-1999 and the provision for sessions of the Health Assembly contained therein,

1. APPROVES the following arrangements for the conduct of the discussion in plenary meetings on the report of the Executive Board and *The world health report* (incorporating the annual report of the Director-General):

- (1) delegates are requested to limit to five minutes their statements in such discussions;
- (2) delegates wishing to do so may submit prepared statements of not more than 600 words for inclusion in the verbatim records of the plenary meetings;
- (3) the statements should focus on the theme of *The world health report*;

2. DECIDES:

- (1) that the Executive Board, when preparing the provisional agenda of each Health Assembly, shall normally include individual technical programme items 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;
- (2) that reports on technical programme items which the Director-General has been requested to submit in budget years by previous resolutions of the Health Assembly shall henceforth be submitted in non-budget years;

