



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

**PROGRAMME, BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION
COMMITTEE OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
First meeting
12-14 January 2005**

**EB115/45
17 January 2005**

Report of the first meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board

1. The first meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board was held in Geneva from 12 to 14 January 2005, under the Chairmanship of Dr A.A. Yoosuf (Maldives, Vice-Chairman of the Executive Board). Ms J. Halton (Australia) was elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee. The list of participants is annexed. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda.¹

Agenda item 3 Programme and budget matters

2. The Assistant Director-General for General Management presented an overview of the Organization's efforts to increase efficiency and effectiveness, including an explanation of the way in which various reforms and processes fitted together.

3.1 General Programme of Work 2006-2015: review of process and draft outline (Document EB115/15)

3. The Committee welcomed the new scope of the General Programme of Work 2006-2015, noting that it was important to have a document which outlined the future of public health, defined a global health agenda and clarified the role of WHO and other actors. The Committee believed that the General Programme, as it is planned, would play an important role in influencing global public health and in guiding the work of WHO. The time period of 10 years was found appropriate as it allowed for long-term planning. However, the Committee felt it was important for the General Programme to be specific while providing a flexible framework to adapt to changing environments. The Committee appreciated the use of futures tools, including scenarios, which should assist in developing appropriate collective and individual response to unforeseen events. It argued the need for setting up a monitoring and evaluation system and proposed a mid-term review of the General Programme after five years, allowing for changes if needed.

4. The Committee raised concerns about the relative timing of the General Programme and the Programme budget 2006-2007. However some members expressed confidence that, although the processes were not fully synchronized, there would be no major inconsistencies.

¹ Document EBPBAC1/1.

5. The Committee provided a number of detailed comments on the outline contained in the document, which the Secretariat would take into account when preparing the next draft of the General Programme. They included such issues as positioning of health, emphasis on well-being instead of health, partnerships and the increased role of civil society, and the need for WHO to build on its strengths; and suggestions that the title for the General Programme should relate to partnerships in health in an interdependent and globalized world.

6. The Committee received confirmation that input from Member States and from partners would be essential in the next phase of preparing the General Programme.

3.3 Programme budget 2002-2003: performance assessment report (Documents PBPA/2002-2003 and EB115/42)

7. The Committee welcomed the assessment report, expressing appreciation for its usefulness and honest analysis. The report had contributed to the improvement in the quality of indicators and baseline in the Proposed programme budget 2006-2007. The difficulties in accurately assessing the Secretariat's performance were recognized, especially as achievements were accomplished to a great extent in collaboration with Member States and partners. In that connection the report might benefit from the input of external bodies.

8. Difficulties in striking an appropriate balance in the assessment between strategic and operational performance were mentioned. Some members felt that the information captured in the report might be considered overly detailed while more strategic elements might be lacking. The report should include information on the process for prioritizing expected results when there was a shortfall in resources, and the affect of such shortfall on the targets to be achieved. Additional aspects to capture in future reports should include information on the pace of budget implementation during the course of the biennium; identification of specific successful initiatives and those that had not achieved their intended results, together with their impact on specific diseases.

9. Some concern was expressed that although resource mobilization had been successful overall, some areas of work had been seriously underfunded. The importance of providing voluntary contributions in line with the priorities defined in the Programme budget and of reflecting realistic income projections in the budgetary figures was highlighted. It was suggested that budget figures and recorded expenditures should be broken down by regular budget and other sources of funding as that would help to interpret the financial data submitted in the report.

10. Some members remarked that it might be useful to have a summary assessment of the Programme budget available at regular intervals during the biennium.

11. The need to track action taken on the "lessons learnt" and "way forward" was emphasized.

3.4 Proposed programme budget 2006-2007 (Documents PPB/2006-2007 and Add.1, EB115/INF.DOC./3, EB115/INF.DOC./4 and EB115/INF.DOC./5)

Introduction to item 3.4 (Proposed programme budget 2006-2007)

12. The overall process and strategic direction of the Proposed programme budget was introduced by the Assistant Director-General for General Management. The Committee welcomed the thorough,

results-based approach and the broad strategic direction proposed. It also agreed to discuss the specific areas of work before the overall budget.

Communicable disease prevention and control

13. The Committee acknowledged the significant contribution to be made by WHO in this area. In this regard, the role of the Secretariat in relation to that of Member States could be better distinguished through the indicators. There was general support for the increase noted in the proposed programme budget, although one member raised questions about the justification for the increase.

14. The meeting was informed that the proposed budget increases were the result of Health Assembly resolutions that called on the Director-General to undertake additional activities in this area of work, and that references to those resolutions would be made in the text.

Communicable disease research

15. Greater clarity was called for in the indicators and baselines.

Epidemic alert and response

16. The Committee acknowledged the need for the increase in the proposed budget. Concern was expressed about the lack of reference to preparedness for and response to influenza pandemics.

Malaria

17. The Committee acknowledged collaboration with partners, and asked that it be reflected in the budget document. The need to distinguish better the role of the secretariat from that of Member States and other partners was noted. A question was raised about the proposed increase in voluntary funding. "Donor fatigue" had been noted in the performance assessment report for 2002-2003 as an explanation of the inability to mobilize the projected levels of voluntary contributions.

18. The Committee was assured that elements contributing to donor fatigue were being tackled, thereby increasing the feasibility of mobilizing voluntary funding for malaria.

Tuberculosis

19. The Committee noted that the targets in this area of work were not sufficiently ambitious given the magnitude of the problem. It also noted the absence of references to collaboration with bilateral and multilateral tuberculosis initiatives.

20. The Committee was assured that the Secretariat was actively participating in the various global tuberculosis initiatives, and that appropriate references would be made in the text.

HIV/AIDS

21. WHO's contribution in global initiatives and collaboration was noted; this needed to be better reflected in the budget document. The Committee considered the issue of HIV/AIDS affecting older people, which should be addressed. Concern was expressed about the absence of targets relating to

reversing the spread of HIV as expressed in the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals. Diverse views were stated about the appropriateness of the proposed level of funding.

Surveillance, prevention and management of chronic, noncommunicable diseases

22. Members considered that the targets were overambitious and that greater emphasis should be placed on use of technical support from outside the Organization in developing surveillance systems. The Committee mainly supported the increase in the proposed budget, but a divergent view was expressed.

Health promotion

23. Members recommended greater emphasis on physical activity and the dangers of obesity in the ageing population and expressed concern about the absence of a coherent framework for guiding the area of work. The increase in funding was not considered to reflect the importance of the area of work to the Organization.

Mental health and substance abuse

24. Divergent views emerged on the appropriateness of the proposed increase in voluntary contributions. Some participants suggested that the difficulties in mobilizing voluntary contributions warranted a greater increase in the proposed level funding from regular budget. It was held that stronger links with the area of work on Emergency preparedness and response needed to be established.

Tobacco

25. Divergent views were held about the appropriateness of the proposed budget increase for the area of work; it was suggested that the proposed increase be phased-in. The Committee acknowledged the achievements in the biennium 2004-2005.

Nutrition

26. The Committee considered that many of the indicators were vague, and suggested greater use of indicators of impact. Concern was expressed that emphasis was being placed on developing global standards to the detriment of work at country and regional levels.

Health and environment

27. The Committee acknowledged the importance of Chemical Safety, which provided core toxicological support to several WHO activities. It requested clarification of funding for this area of work. Members expressed concern at the use of process indicators rather than measures of programme effectiveness. A suggestion was made that the proposed regular budget should be reduced, with a shift of resources to other areas of work, given the increased availability of voluntary funds.

Food safety

28. The Committee acknowledged the collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Commission and asked for clarification about the level of funding for activities for the Commission. The Committee was informed that funding for that work had been increased by approximately 25%.

Reproductive health

29. Members acknowledged that this area of work covered both research and technical support to countries, but argued that the goal needed to be more specific and there had to be consistency in the manner in which goals are formulated. Questions were raised about the amount of resources for research and for technical assistance and for all work relating to reproductive health rather than just that covered by this area of work.

Making pregnancy safer

30. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the proposed increase in resources, particularly from regular budget, although one member argued that more voluntary contributions should be raised rather than increasing the regular budget. Recognition of the contribution of partnerships with other institutions should be more explicit. Some members stressed the importance of the commitment of Member States to improving health services for making pregnancy safer. Members expressed concern about the availability of data on maternal mortality and health conditions, and related technical support to countries. Although the goal as stated was well formulated, the Committee wished to see better baselines and targets.

Gender, women and health

31. The focus of this area of work was supported, but the Committee asked for greater emphasis on equity in the goal.

Child and adolescent health

32. The Committee welcomed the well formulated goals of the area of work. Some members recommended that indicators should allow for specific measurement of the outcome of the work of the Secretariat, rather than of Member States. It considered the targets realistic but not sufficiently ambitious. It was considered that life-skill issues should be reflected in the expected results.

Immunization and vaccine development

33. Concerns were expressed and clarification requested on the proposed level of resources for the area of work. Members acknowledged that the effort to strengthen immunization services should be maintained. The Committee emphasized that the specific requirements for eradication of poliomyelitis should be adjusted to reflect the most recent trends of poliovirus transmission and that the current situation should be correctly reflected in the introductory chapter of the Proposed programme budget. It was considered that some targets in this area of work should be reviewed.

Essential medicines

34. Members expressed satisfaction with the focus on country support, confirming that continued attention needed to be given to this area of work. The inclusion of traditional medicine as an important and integral part of this area of work was commended. The Committee noted that continued support should be provided for generic drugs and for the prequalification scheme. The Secretariat agreed to include the prequalification scheme as another expected result.

Essential health technologies

35. The Committee expressed concern at the large number and diverse nature of the expected results.

Policy-making for health in development

36. Members raised concern about the role and responsibility of WHO in the domains of human rights, trade, ethics and legislation. They acknowledged the need for the Secretariat to do normative work and provide technical assistance in these areas. The Committee held that, in analysing issues of trade and health, both positive and negative implications needed to be addressed.

Health system policies and service delivery

37. Participants stressed that Member States needed support in tackling issues relating to reform processes. The Committee considered that in this area of work, a high dependence on voluntary contributions was a potential issue. Also, targets needed to be more realistic. Although there was general agreement that the need to deal with issues of decentralization, and the impact of structural adjustments justified the budget increase, one member questioned its appropriateness.

Human resources for health

38. The Committee acknowledged that this area of work requires continued strengthening and was a priority for developing countries, not only to ensure capacity building and development of health personnel, but also to resolve issues such as the migration of professionals. Members questioned the targets for the Health leadership programme and asked about the baselines and the surveys to be carried out. They called for clearer information. The Committee recommended that resolution WHA57.19 should be taken into account in this area of work.

Health financing and social protection

39. The Committee concluded that the adequacy of the budget needed to be ascertained for ensuring proper support to countries in order to establish health insurance schemes for poor and underprivileged populations.

Health information, evidence and research policy

40. Members considered that strengthening of health information systems in countries was crucial, particularly for developing countries to be able better to measure health outcomes. On health research, they recommended that the conclusions of World Summit on Health Research (Mexico City, 16-20 November 2004) and the improvement of ACHR should be reflected.

Emergency preparedness and response

41. Members requested clarification about the role of the Secretariat and the means of assessing and improving performance. They expressed great concern about the level of resources, especially in the light of the recent earthquake and tsunami in south Asia, and stressed the need to put greater emphasis on effective preparedness, relief and recovery actions.

WHO's core presence in countries

42. The Committee recognized that this area of work aimed to ensure the core capability of entire Organization to deliver the support in countries as outlined in the substantive technical areas of work. One member asked about the budget increase in this area of work. The Committee considered that the expected results needed to be improved, and that more precise and measurable indicators, targets and baselines should be defined. Members requested more detailed information about the work in this area in order to facilitate the review of proposed expected results and targets.

Knowledge management and information technology

43. The Committee acknowledged that this new area of work reflected a new approach to the work in the Secretariat. It requested a breakdown of the resource requirements and their use for information technology.

Planning, resource coordination and oversight

44. The Committee requested clarification of the rationale for the overall increase in the proposed budget and the level of increase at country level.

45. The Committee was informed that the increase in proposed budget reflected the inclusion of oversight and an expanded role in coordination of resources, and that the largest proportion of increase was targeted at country and regional levels.

Human resources management in WHO

46. Members appreciated the clear and coherent directions established for this area of work, which linked development, management and appraisal of staff performance with programme delivery and performance framework.

Infrastructure and logistics

47. The Committee suggested that the best practices that were referred to for judging the achievements should be clarified and that more specific indications should be provided.

Governing bodies

48. Concern was expressed regarding timeliness of the distribution of documents that support the work of the governing bodies and the Committee recommended that further action should be taken in this regard. It also considered that the effectiveness of the establishment of the single Programme, Budget and Administration Committee should be assessed.

Conclusion

49. The Committee made specific suggestions, namely:

- to continue the efforts to harmonize all areas of work, particularly to revise the goals in certain areas to achieve consistency. Where possible, the goals should be more specific and reflect commitments to internationally accepted health goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals, and agreements among Member States as expressed in the resolutions of the Health Assembly.
- to revise the expected results for certain areas of work in response to recent Health Assembly resolutions which require actions in 2006-2007, for example follow-up activities related to the sixth Global Conference on Health Promotion (Bangkok, 7-11 August 2005) and the Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management, and implementation of resolution WHA57.19 on international migration of health personnel, in particular World Health Day 2006 with its theme of “Human resources for health development” and the request to the Director-General to give priority to the area in the General Programme of Work 2006-2015.
- to consider the resources necessary adequately to deliver outcomes related to certain important areas, in particular: Emergency preparedness and response; Human resources for health; Health promotion; Health and environment; Mental health and substance abuse; Immunization and vaccine development; Reproductive health; Essential medicines; Essential health technologies; and Planning, resource coordination and oversight.
- to revise thoroughly and to consider the amount of resources allocated to the area of work, Emergency preparedness and response, taking into account the recent tsunami disaster.
- to ensure greater transparency and to reanalyse the figures on the budget allocations to countries, regions and headquarters so that they clearly reflect the target of 70% to the countries and regions and 30% to headquarters, for all sources of funds. Those budgets that are allocated to headquarters but implemented in the countries or regions should be allocated to the countries and the regions.

50. Furthermore, the Committee expressed concern about the rapidly decreasing proportion of the regular budget in the past decade. This trend affected the governance structures, ownership and strategic planning in the Organization. The Committee acknowledged existing work in this area and suggested that a process should be put in place to identify measures, through extensive consultation with Member States, to address undesired consequences of this trend. If the measures included an increase in assessed contributions, they should be designed in such a way as to avoid placing too great and too immediate a burden on Member States.

3.2 Guiding principles for strategic resource allocations (Documents EB115/14 and EB115/INF.DOC./7)

51. The Committee welcomed the approach taken to set strategic resource allocation fully within the broader context of the results-based management framework. It recognized that alignment of strategic objectives with detailed resource allocations was a challenging task.

52. The Committee appreciated the consultative process. Many Member States had participated, providing significant input that had been taken into account in the process of elaborating the guiding principles.

53. Noting that work was still in progress, the Committee recommended consideration of issues such as a focus on countries in greatest need, flexibility in resource allocation, and relating capacity constraints to the context of the needs of a country in order to ensure equity. It was noted that further work would be done to define objective criteria to guide the use of resources.

54. The Committee noted that the proposed approach must ensure that a robust and transparent process should be in place to guide what the Organization should be doing, how and where in a medium-term perspective.

The Committee recommended to the Executive Board that the Secretariat should continue the consultative process with Member States and that a new draft should be submitted to the Board at its 116th session.

3.5 Real Estate (Document EB115/41)

55. The Committee expressed general support for, and took note of, the projects described in the document. Some concern was expressed about the difficulty to maintain appropriately buildings in all the principal locations at the level of funding currently available through the Real Estate Fund.

56. With the elaboration of a 10-year capital master plan for all main locations by the end of 2005, and a location-by-location inventory that would be made in order to assess the state of the current real estate, the Committee expected that a longer term mechanism for financing could be developed.

The Committee recommended that the Executive Board should request the Director-General to report on progress made with regard to this matter to its 117th session in January 2006.

57. The Committee was informed that staff and premises security remained a priority and that a sizeable additional investment would be required to meet needs adequately. It had also become apparent that, with increased decentralization to country offices, the current office buildings at many locations were no longer able to house staff together, with, in many cases, a negative impact on coordination and effectiveness.

58. The Committee was also informed that the Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean was considering the construction of office buildings for those locations where staff security was problematic and where the current buildings did not comply with Minimum Operating Security Standards, where staff were accommodated at different locations or where suitable cost-effective office buildings were not commercially available.

59. The Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean was still negotiating with the governments concerned about such constructions and final details would not be available until after the closure of the 115th session of the Executive Board.

The Committee recommended that the Executive Board, at its 115th session, should invite the Programme Budget and Administration Committee to review the matter on its behalf at its second meeting, in May 2005 before the Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly. At that meeting, the Committee would propose a recommendation for consideration by the Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly.

Agenda item 4. Financial matters

4.1 Assessed contributions

- **Status of collection, including Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify involving Article 7 of the Constitution** (Document EB115/16)

60. The Committee noted the report, and welcomed the good rate of collection. It recalled that timely payment of assessed contributions by Member States was important in ensuring full implementation of the regular budget, and noted that the Organization did not in fact receive the full 100% of the regular budget owing to the chronic difficulties in payment faced by a small number of Member States. The Committee was particularly concerned to note that, of the total arrears of US\$ 125 million, the sum of some US\$ 73 million was now three or more years overdue for payment.

61. The Committee noted with appreciation that, since 31 December 2004, further payments of assessed contributions had been received from Colombia, Cuba, Honduras, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nigeria, Panama and Slovenia. As a result of those payments, a total of 121 Member States had now paid their 2004 contributions in full, compared to the figure of 119 given in the report.

62. The Committee observed that some Member States experienced difficulty in meeting their obligations and that it was important that the Secretariat should continue to engage in serious discussions with the Member States concerned in order to resolve the matter of long-outstanding arrears.

63. Further information on the status of collection and Members in arrears in payment to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution will be provided at the Committee's next meeting in May 2005, when it would formulate the necessary recommendations in connection with Members affected by Article 7.

64. In respect of the adjustment mechanism, the Committee noted that a total of US\$ 12.7 million had been claimed, which was US\$ 300 000 more than the amount appropriated. Consequently, amounts credited for 2005 had been correspondingly reduced. Further information, listing the amounts to which each Member State was eligible, the amounts claimed, and the amounts actually credited, for the biennium 2004-2005 would be provided to the Executive Board at its 115th session.

- **Assessments for 2006-2007** (Document EB115/17)

65. The Committee noted that by resolution WHA57.15, the Health Assembly had decided to accept the latest available United Nations scale as the basis for the WHO scale of assessments for 2005.

66. The Committee further noted that this same United Nations scale continued to be the latest available and, accordingly, it was proposed that it should be used for WHO for the financial period 2006-2007.

67. Clarification was sought by the Committee as to the continued applicability of the adjustment mechanism, and it was confirmed that this mechanism would continue in 2006-2007 in line with the provision of resolution WHA56.34.

4.2 Amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules (Document EB115/43)

68. The Committee noted that the policy concerning all expenditure is to be modernized to bring it in line with best current practice as reflected in the appropriate standards. This will improve the linkage between expenditure and expected results by better defining the relationship between the receipt of goods and services and the recognition of expenditure.

69. The process will also be undertaken within the framework of the United Nations System Accounting Standards and the developments that are under way therein, including consideration of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards and the International Financial Reporting Standards. These standards include a “full accrual” accounting concept.

70. Further improvement in the financial implementation of the programme budget is expected as a result of the changes; this may result in part from lower savings on unliquidated obligations.

71. Under the proposed revised Financial Regulations, the existing regulation 4.7 would be deleted. This proposed deletion should be seen in the context of the revision to Regulation 4.5 which proposes “to make it possible to carry forward an accrual for accounts payable ...”. Therefore, instead of carrying forward unliquidated obligations from one financial period to another, amounts accrued would be carried forward.

72. Some organizations and bodies of the United Nations system have already undertaken such an exercise in conjunction with implementing new financial systems, and are moving to adopt one of the two standards mentioned above.

The Committee recommended that the Executive Board should adopt the draft resolution contained in document EB115/43.

Agenda item 5: Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (Document EBPBAC1/3)

73. The Committee was informed of the results of the audit and evaluation work during the first nine months of 2004 and given an explanation of the rationale underlying the plan of work for 2005.

74. In reviewing the current status of the Office, the Committee welcomed the increase in capacity and staffing which allowed a more effective review of the Secretariat’s core programmatic work. The Committee noted that the Internal Auditor considered the department’s current staffing size, skills and budget sufficient for WHO’s needs, recognizing that volunteer assistance from Member States, as in the past, would help to ensure completion of the evaluation plan of work. The Committee further noted the clarification on the different roles of the internal and external auditors, and the organizational placement of an independent oversight function within the Secretariat.

75. The Committee expressed appreciation for the work completed. Noting that the amount of investigation work had decreased, the Committee requested nevertheless that the Secretariat continue to tackle effectively fraud and misconduct. It agreed with the findings of the evaluation of the WHO

fellowship programme, and expressed the opinion that this area required coordinated consideration by the Secretariat, as the evaluation's recommendations could not be implemented piecemeal. It requested that a follow-up report should be submitted to the Committee at its third meeting, in January 2006, on progress made.

76. Finally, the Committee took note of the plan of work for the year 2005 and recommended that risk-based oversight work should continue at all levels of the Organization.

Agenda item 6 Staffing matters

6.1 Human resources: annual report (Documents EB115/25, EB115/25 Corr.1 and EB115/25 Add.1)

77. The Committee welcomed the new approach taken in the report which provided more information on various human resource issues. Members made particular note of the efforts to raise awareness of employment opportunities through collaboration with a wide range of bodies. They recognized that these efforts had not yet shown results in all areas. The number of recruitments from unrepresented and/or underrepresented countries during the first nine months of 2004 fell far short of the 60% target set by the Health Assembly. Furthermore, even when countries were overrepresented within the Secretariat, this did not always reflect a distribution of nationals across all levels in the Organization. Outreach work needed to be continued, especially in the developing countries. Future reports could provide information on trends so that overall progress may be assessed. Members also noted the positive efforts the Secretariat had made in the area of management and leadership development, and the decision to implement the special operations approach for WHO staff in non-family duty stations, it saw these initiatives as a way of further enhancing the motivation of staff members.

6.2 Report of the International Civil Service Commission (Document EB115/33)

78. The Committee noted the main points in the report of the International Civil Service Commission. It received confirmation that the United Nations General Assembly had approved the recommendations of the Commission, which would be implemented in the other specialized agencies of the United Nations common system. The financial implications would be absorbed from the appropriate allocations established under the regular budget and from extrabudgetary sources of funds.

6.3 Confirmation of amendments to the Staff Rules (Documents EB115/38, EB115/38 Corr.1 and EB115/38 Add.1)

79. One member proposed that the Director-General may wish to consider an amendment to Staff Rule 350.1 whereby an internationally recruited staff member would be entitled to an education grant only if the staff member was living and working outside his or her recognized home country. The Committee proposed that, before making any decision, the Secretariat should review the operational and legal implications of such a change, particularly in relation to rotation and mobility. In addition, consideration would need to be given to possible transitional measures in respect of acquired rights of serving staff members.

The Committee recommended that the Executive Board adopt the draft resolutions contained in documents EB115/38 and EB115/38 Add.1.

Agenda item 7 Management matters

7.1 Previous Joint Inspection Unit reports: implementation of recommendations
(Document EB115/23)

80. The Committee reviewed the implementation of two previous reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) of relevance to WHO, on management information systems and the United Nations response in Timor-Leste. The Committee noted with satisfaction the progress made in both cases.

7.2 Recent Joint Inspection Unit reports (Document EB115/24)

7.3 Follow-up to Executive Board deliberations on multilingualism (Document EB115/3)

81. These two items were considered together. The Committee reviewed a recent JIU case study of multilingualism and access to information in WHO – a follow-up study of a previous JIU report on the implementation of multilingualism in the United Nations system, which was submitted to the Board at its 113th session.¹ The progress made by the Secretariat in implementing those recommendations of the report addressed to the Director-General was noted with satisfaction and the rationale for those recommendations directly addressed to the governing bodies was explained.

82. The Committee welcomed the detailed JIU report and the progress made in implementing its main recommendations. Attention was drawn to the need to continue to consult widely in order to improve further the current situation regarding the equitable use of official languages and the quality control of translations, at all levels of the Organization.

83. The Committee pointed out the support on matters of multilingualism potentially available from within the WHO regions, given the diversity of their language capabilities, which could, for example, take the form of more and more decentralized translation services. That approach, however, presupposed a longer-term translator-training programme, itself a function of the available budgetary resources.

84. The Committee was informed about the measures already taken or being implemented, such as the WHO web site with content and navigation in all six official languages. It was confirmed that the main constraint was resources. It was noted that a committee was being established with a remit in this area, and that a plan of action would be submitted to the Board, including cost implications.

¹ Document EB113/25.

ANNEX

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS, ALTERNATES AND ADVISERS

Maldives

Dr A. A. Yoosuf (Vice-Chairman of the Executive Board, Chairman)

Australia

Ms J. Halton (Vice-Chairman)

Ms C. Halbert (Adviser)

Ms J. Quigley (Adviser)

Mr M. Sawers (Adviser)

Bahrain

Dr. A. W. M. Abdul Wahab (alternate to Dr N.A. Haffadh)

Canada

Mr D. MacPhee (alternate to Mr I. Shugart)

Dr J. Larivière (Adviser)

Mr D. Strawczynski (Adviser)

China

Dr Qi Qingdong (alternate to Dr Yin Li)

Mr Xu Jian (Adviser)

Dr Ding Baoguo (Adviser)

Czech Republic

Mr M. Bouček (alternate to Professor B. Fišer)

France

Dr J.-B. Brunet (alternate to Professor W. Dab)

Mrs A. Le Guevel (Adviser)

Mrs F. Auer (Adviser)

Guinea

Dr M. Camara

Lesotho

Mr T.J. Ramotsoari (alternate to Dr M. Phooko)

Mrs M.A. Matlanyane (Adviser)

Nepal

Dr H.N. Acharya

Thailand

Dr Suwit Wibulpolprasert (alternate to Mrs Sudarat Keyuraphan)

Dr Prangtip Chansomsak (Adviser)

Mr Thaksaphon Thamarangsi (Adviser)

Ms Cha-aim Pachanee (Adviser)

United States of America

Ms A. Blackwood (alternate to Dr W.R. Steiger)

Mr D.E. Hohman (Alternate)

OTHER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS, ALTERNATES AND ADVISERS

Ms H. Ottósdóttir (Iceland)

Ms Á. Knútsdóttir (Iceland)

Mr F. Lecuit (Luxembourg)

Mme C. Kapp-Joel (Luxembourg)

Mrs D. Iordache (Romania)

Mr M. Kochetkov (Russian Federation)

Mr N.V. Lozinskiy (Russian Federation)

MEMBER STATES NOT REPRESENTED ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Ms J. Michelsen (Denmark)

Dr Y. Nakamura (Japan)

Ms T. Tsujisaka (Japan)

Mrs D.M. Valle (Mexico)

Ms M. Middelhoff (Netherlands)

Ms T. Kongsvik (Norway)

Ms D. Mafubelu (South Africa)

Mrs H. Pedersen (Sweden)

Mrs B. Schaer Bourbeau (Switzerland)

Ms. H. Nellthorp (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Ms M.D. Wynes

Mr L.D. Ouedraogo

= = =