



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

1. The fourth meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board was held in Geneva on 19 May 2006, chaired by Ms J. Halton (Australia). The list of participants is annexed. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda.¹ This document contains a report on items related to programme management matters on which the Committee reports to the Executive Board.

Agenda item 3.1 Management reforms: progress report (Document EBPBAC4/3)

2. The update on management reforms was welcomed by members of the Committee, who considered that this provided a useful overview of continuing management reforms in the Secretariat. A suggestion was made by one member to focus the Committee's discussion at its fifth meeting on the monitoring of the Organization's financial resources.

Agenda item 3.2 Medium-term strategic plan 2008-2013: progress report (Document EBPBAC4/4)

3. The Committee acknowledged the progress made in drawing up the medium-term strategic plan and noted the clear steps that will lead to its submission to the Executive Board at its 119th session.

4. In response to questions from some members of the Committee, it was made clear that, regarding the relationship between the proposed Eleventh General Programme of Work, 2006-2015² and the medium-term strategic plan, the former charts the broad strategic framework and direction of what needs to be done and establishes the core functions of the Organization in building on the framework. The medium-term strategic plan identifies specific actions for Member States and the Secretariat in line with the priority areas set out in the Eleventh General Programme of Work.

5. Some members highlighted the importance of ensuring that Member States clearly understand the linkage between the General Programme of Work and the medium-term strategic plan. The Committee considered whether the concerns raised at its third meeting, in January 2006, regarding the need to reflect the Millennium Development Goals and collaboration with the United Nations system on areas of shared responsibilities were adequately dealt with.³ It was noted that the Goals are essential

¹ Document EBPBAC4/1.

² Document A59/25, Annex 2.

³ Document EB117/3.

elements in several strategic objectives. Furthermore, the draft Eleventh General Programme of Work, in the section on the proposed action for ensuring efficient and effective implementation of the medium-term strategic plan, elaborates how WHO will work more strategically with a wide range of partners in the public health and development communities, and particularly in the United Nations system.

6. The Committee was informed that a draft Medium-term strategic plan and proposed programme budget would be submitted to the regional committees. The Committee took note of the report.

Agenda item 3.3 Confirmation of amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules (Documents EB118/11 and EB118/11 Add.1)

7. A brief presentation of the item was provided to the Committee by the Secretariat, focusing on the main amendments proposed to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules. In view of the late distribution of the document, the Committee decided to forward it to the Board for review.

Agenda item 3.4 Strategic resource allocation (Document EB118/7)

8. A brief presentation of this item by the Secretariat to the Committee focused on the changes made to the validation mechanism in response to comments in the extensive discussions in the Executive Board at its 117th session.¹

9. It was re-emphasized that this work aims to strengthen WHO's results-based planning and budgeting. The validation mechanism in particular will provide a sense of whether the results-based budgeting process is more or less in line with the need to ensure equity and focus on countries in greatest need. It was stressed that the ranges coming from the validation mechanism do not constitute *allocations*. Furthermore, it was explained that the different components of the mechanism are meant to reflect conceptually the work of WHO, helping to derive aggregated regional resource ranges, and are not to be interpreted as prescribing how resources should be used within a region.

10. The Committee extensively debated the document, and suggested a few points of clarification and minor amendments. It recognized that the document accommodated most of the concerns expressed by the Executive Board at its 117th session. In a spirit of compromise, the Committee accepted the Secretariat's proposal to treat all least developed countries as having equal weighting to that of the neediest group of countries. It also accepted to maintain the engagement factor.

The Committee recommends that the Board should consider document EB118/7 in the spirit of compromise and endorse the guiding principles on strategic resource allocation and the associated validation mechanism.

Agenda item 4 Closure of the meeting

11. The Chairman declared the meeting closed.

¹ Document EB117/2006/REC/2, summary record of the ninth and tenth meetings.

ANNEX

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS, ALTERNATES AND ADVISERS

Australia

Ms J. Halton (Chairman)

Ms C. Patterson (adviser)

Mr M. Sawers (adviser)

Bahrain

Dr S. Khalfan (alternate to Dr N.A. Haffadh)

Bhutan

Dr J. Singay

Mr P. Wangchuk (adviser)

Ms D. Tshering (adviser)

Canada

Mr P. Oldham (alternate to Mr I. Shugart)

France

Dr J.-B. Brunet (alternate to Professor D. Houssin)

Mrs P. Renoul (adviser)

Mrs J. Tor-de Tarlé (adviser)

Jamaica

Dr B. Wint

Lesotho

Mr T. Ramatsoari (alternate to Dr M. Phooko)

Portugal

Professor J. Pereira Miguel

Thailand

Dr Viroj Tangcharoensathien (alternate to Dr Suwit Wibulpolprasert)

Dr Sopida Chavanichkul (adviser)

Dr Phusit Prakongsai (adviser)

Tonga

Dr V. Tangi

MEMBER STATES NOT REPRESENTED ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mr A. Apitonian (Armenia)

Mr Z. Mnatsakanian (Armenia)

Mr H. Simonyan (Armenia)

Dr Ding Baoguo (China)

Mr M. Kochetkov (Russian Federation)

Ms A. Blackwood (United States of America)

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