



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD
111th Session
Provisional agenda item 7

EB111/INF.DOC./2
15 November 2002

Meeting of Interested Parties, 2002

Report by the Secretariat

1. The Meeting of Interested Parties, 2002 (7 to 11 October 2002) was a corporate exercise that involved all levels of the Organization. It brought together representatives from 56 Member States, 13 intergovernmental bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, 26 nongovernmental organizations including foundations, 22 corporate-sector bodies or companies, and 12 research institutes.
2. Based on participants' feedback from previous years, the Meeting was rescheduled to later in the year and reduced to a period of one week. The agenda was structured around five thematic days, rather than programmes or areas of work, in order to focus on major issues that cut across WHO's work, to incorporate a country dimension, and to promote strategic discussions on WHO's response to health challenges.
3. Documentation for the Meeting included issues papers for the 27 technical areas of work of the 2002-2003 Programme Budget, an integrated financial management report on expenditure on implementation of objectives in 2000-2001,¹ and standard financial status reports for each cluster and regional office on budget performance and extrabudgetary contributions in 2000-2001. Progress reports, by programme or cluster, were made available in advance on the Meeting's web site and in a dynamic "marketplace" outside the meeting room, together with other technical publications and reports.
4. The Meeting reviewed progress in WHO's contribution to the achievement of global health outcomes, in the context of specific health issues and initiatives; discussed country-level impact on the basis of selected case studies; and explored the means of increasing WHO's contribution to poverty reduction and human development through multisectoral alliances and partnerships.
5. A feature of the Meeting was the formation of a number of different panels, comprising over 80 experts from WHO's staff at all levels of the Organization and public- and private-sector partners, to highlight the challenges to programme implementation and to debate with participants on substantive matters.

¹ Documents MIP/2002/5 and MIP/2002/FIN/1, respectively.

6. The Executive Director most concerned with the corresponding theme moderated each day's debates.¹ Participants particularly appreciated the review of country activities which provided accounts of the challenges facing implementation.

7. In her closing remarks, the Director-General underlined the importance of the Meeting of Interested Parties as part of the process through which WHO reviews its progress in relation to WHO's corporate strategy and strategic programme budget. She noted the need to intensify efforts to provide better support to countries and the challenge of identifying the best role for WHO. The quality of the dialogue with participants and the importance of their comments was of great value for determining the Organization's future priorities.

8. Participants expressed their satisfaction with the thematic approach to the discussions, the "one WHO" dimension given to the global, regional and country presentations, the quality of the discussions, and the focus on performance. They welcomed greater participation by countries, and noted that time had to be managed in a way that allowed for a maximum of interaction between participants.

9. In subsequent individual evaluations, most respondents endorsed a timing for the Meeting late in the year, for a period of one week.

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¹ Summaries of the key messages emerging from the thematic discussions are available on request.