

Ref.: C.L.8.2018

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to Member States and Associate Members and has the honour to convene the Seventy-first World Health Assembly (WHA71) at 09:30 on Monday, 21 May 2018, at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. The Health Assembly will close no later than Saturday, 26 May 2018.

In line with ongoing efforts to streamline the registration process, online registration is required for the Health Assembly. Registration can be initiated as of **9 April 2018** by going to the following link: <http://extranet.who.int/bpmext/meetingregistration.aspx>, using the following username: whauser, and password: Nekifo13.

Instructions for online registration are available for downloading from the Governance website (<http://www.who.int/governance/registration/en/index.html>). **Registration should be completed by 7 May 2018.**

In accordance with resolution WHA49.9 (May 1996), and to support the aim of achievement of SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), the Director-General invites Member States to consider that gender balance be applied to their delegations.

As part of the WHO 70th anniversary celebrations and in line with the theme of WHA71, the Director-General will host a technical briefing on the role of Parliamentarians in achieving universal health coverage and global health security. To that end, Member States are invited to consider including Parliamentarians on their delegations.

... The provisional agenda for the Health Assembly and the preliminary daily timetable, as prepared by the Secretariat following the decision of the Executive Board at its 142nd session, are enclosed. The daily timetable is subject to approval by the Health Assembly.

... Information is also enclosed concerning arrangements for the conduct of discussion in plenary meetings. The debate this year will focus on the theme “Health for all: commit to universal health coverage”.

Starting late March documents for WHA71 can be accessed on the Internet through the WHO website (<http://www.who.int/gb/>).

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States and Associate Members the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 26 March 2018

... ENCLS: Documents A71/1 and Preliminary timetable
WHA71/ENCL./1 and WHA71/ENCL./2

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Online registration is required for both the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly and the online registration system will be available as of **9 April 2018**.

Before each meeting, an invitation will be sent to Member States indicating a link to access the electronic Governing Bodies Meeting Registration System in order to register one Focal Point at the Permanent Mission in Geneva, who will be responsible for registering the delegation. Member States without a Permanent Mission in Geneva should designate a Focal Point in the capital. The same process will apply to all categories of invited participants (the United Nations, Observers, Intergovernmental Organizations and non-State actors in official relations with WHO).

Once a Focal Point has been entered into the registration system, he/she will receive by email a unique username and password, and the link to access the registration system.

The Focal Point will register and submit the names of the delegates and attach a note verbale containing the composition of the delegation. **As of January 2015, for security reasons, all delegates will be required to wear photo ID badges in order to access the meeting room. For this reason, during the online registration process, the Focal Point will be asked to upload a passport style photograph of each member of the delegation. Previously uploaded photographs can be accessed by the Focal Point during the registration process.**

Guidance on the nature of the image required, and brief instructions on how to upload and resize an existing image you may have, are both available on the WHO website: <http://www.who.int/governance/en/>.

The WHO Office of Governing Bodies will verify the information received from the Focal Point, which will then be submitted into the registration system to generate both meeting badges and the List of Participants.

CREDENTIALS

The credentials shall be issued by the Head of State, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Health, or any other appropriate authority, i.e. Permanent Missions and senior government officials, such as Directors-General for Health. Member States will be represented at the Assembly by not more than three delegates. Alternates and advisers may accompany delegates. Although a copy of the credential will have been submitted through the online registration system, Member States must deliver the original credentials to the Secretariat (Office of Governing Bodies) **before the opening of the session of the World Health Assembly (WHA)**. Credentials should include the following information for each participant: LAST NAME (in capital letters), first name, title, function, institution, city, gender (unless indicated in title). Only original documents are considered formal credentials by the Committee on Credentials.

TRAVEL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

In accordance with resolution WHA50.1, special consideration will be given to delegates whose countries are classified as least developed countries by the United Nations. WHO will cover the cost of an economy/tourist airfare by the most direct route to Geneva for one delegate of such countries. However, following the rules set forth by the World Health Assembly, WHO will not be able to provide per diem or any other non-airfare expenditures. **Please note that reimbursement will be made in Geneva, upon presentation of the air ticket and the invoice.**

VISAS

Attention is drawn to the strict provisions in force regarding entry into Switzerland – those not having the required visa will be refused entry.

As of 13 December 2008, Switzerland has applied the Schengen visa regulations. Therefore, certain nationalities travelling to WHO headquarters to participate in meetings will require a Schengen visa in order to enter Switzerland. Since that date, it is no longer sufficient for a participant to present the invitation letter to obtain a visa. A visa support letter signed by one of the recognized WHO/HQ signatories is now required. Furthermore, WHO has been advised that the visa procedure will be more rigorous and **may take up to 21 days**.

Before requesting a visa support letter, participants are advised to contact their nearest Swiss embassy or consulate to determine whether or not they require a visa.

Member States requiring the assistance of WHO to obtain a Swiss Schengen visa are kindly invited to send an email with the following information: the last name, first name, title, institution, date and place of birth, passport number, expiry date, date and place of issuance and attach a copy of the credential containing the composition of the delegation to **visagbs@who.int at the earliest** in order that action can be taken as soon as possible.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONDUCT OF DISCUSSION IN PLENARY MEETINGS

Resolution WHA52.21 on reform of the Health Assembly requested the Director-General to make appropriate arrangements for a shortened plenary meeting and, to this end, encouraged group or regional statements in plenary debate. Delegates are requested to limit to five minutes their individual statements in this debate. Group or regional statements may last up to 10 minutes.

Delegates wishing to have their name placed on the list of speakers for the general discussion should notify the Office of Governing Bodies by email (piazzap@who.int) or fax (+41 22 791 41 73). Copies of statements should be submitted preferably by email (statementsWHA71@who.int) or to the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of the Assembly (Room A656) by the morning of Monday, 21 May 2018.

Theme of general discussion: “Health for all: commit to universal health coverage”

Tips for speakers in a multilingual meeting

Whether you are chairing or participating in a multilingual meeting it is useful to think about how your message gets across through interpretation. The interpreters are there to help the meeting proceed as if everyone was speaking the same language.

- Speak your mother tongue wherever possible
- Speak at a reasonable pace
- Speaking is better than reading
- **If you have to “read” your speech, make sure the Secretariat has a copy of your text in advance. It will be treated as confidential**
- **For guidance, five minutes are roughly equivalent to 550 words**
- Quote document references
- State figures and names clearly
- Explain acronyms

**PRELIMINARY DAILY TIMETABLE FOR THE
SEVENTY-FIRST WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

May 2018	Plenary	Committee A	Committee B	Other
Monday 21				
09:30	1. Opening of the Health Assembly 1.1 Appointment of the Committee on Credentials 1.2 Election of the President 1.3 Election of the five Vice-Presidents, the Chairmen of the main committees, and establishment of the General Committee	–	–	–
10:30	High-Level Segment	–	–	–
Upon closure of High-Level Segment	–	–	–	General Committee

14:30	– Presidential address 1.4 Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items to the main committees 2. Report of the Executive Board on its 141st and 142nd sessions, and on its special session on the draft thirteenth general programme of work, 2019–2023 3. Address by the Director-General – General discussion	–	–	–
		10. Opening of the Committee 11. Strategic priority matters	–	–

May 2018	Plenary	Committee A	Committee B	Other
Tuesday 22				
09:00	3. Address by the Director-General (continued) – General discussion (continued) ...	11. Strategic priority matters (continued) ...	– ...	– ...
14:30	3. Address by the Director-General (continued) – General discussion (continued)	11. Strategic priority matters (continued)	–	Committee on Credentials
Wednesday 23				
09:00 and 14:30	– Report of Committee on Credentials 5. Admission of new Members and Associate Members [if any]	– 11. Strategic priority matters (continued)	– 13. Opening of the Committee 14. Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan	–
17:30	–	–	–	General Committee (list for election, Executive Board)

May 2018	Plenary	Committee A	Committee B	Other
Thursday 24 09:00 and 14:30	–	12. Other technical matters	15. Programme budget and financial matters 16. Audit and oversight matters 17. Staffing matters 18. Management and legal matters 19. Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations	–
Friday 25 09:00 and 14:30	7. Awards 6. Executive Board: election 8. Reports of the main committees –	– 12. Other technical matters (continued)	– 20. Matters for information	– –
Saturday 26 09:00	8. Reports of the main committees (continued) 9. Closure of the Health Assembly	– Finalization of resolutions and reports	– Finalization of resolutions and reports	–

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Provisional agenda

PLENARY

1. Opening of the Health Assembly

1.1 Appointment of the Committee on Credentials

1.2 Election of the President

1.3 Election of the five Vice-Presidents, the Chairmen of the main committees, and establishment of the General Committee

1.4 Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items to the main committees

Document A71/1

2. Report of the Executive Board on its 141st and 142nd sessions, and on its special session on the draft thirteenth general programme of work, 2019–2023

Document A71/2

3. Address by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General

Document A71/3

4. Invited speakers

5. Admission of new Members and Associate Members [if any]

6. Executive Board: election

7. Awards

Document A71/INF./1

8. Reports of the main committees

9. Closure of the Health Assembly

COMMITTEE A

10. Opening of the Committee¹

11. Strategic priority matters

11.1 Draft thirteenth general programme of work, 2019–2023

Documents A71/4, A71/4 Add.1 and EB142/2018/REC/1, resolution EB142.R2

11.2 Public health preparedness and response

- Report of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme

Document A71/5

- WHO's work in health emergencies²

Document A71/6

- Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)

Documents A71/7, A71/8 and EB142/2018/REC/1, decision EB142(1)

11.3 Polio transition and post-certification

Document A71/9

11.4 Health, environment and climate change

Documents A71/10 and A71/11

11.5 Addressing the global shortage of, and access to, medicines and vaccines

Documents A71/12 and EB142/2018/REC/1, decision EB142(3)

11.6 Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property

Documents A71/13 and EB142/2018/REC/1, decision EB142(4)

11.7 Preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, to be held in 2018

Documents A71/14 and A71/14 Add.1

¹ Including election of Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur.

² The Director-General's report will also cover cholera prevention.

11.8 Preparation for a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on ending tuberculosis

Documents A71/15, A71/16, A71/16 Add.1 and EB142/2018/REC/1, resolution EB142.R3

12. Other technical matters

12.1 Global snakebite burden

Documents A71/17 and EB142/2018/REC/1, resolution EB142.R4

12.2 Physical activity for health

Documents A71/18 and EB142/2018/REC/1, resolution EB142.R5

12.3 Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016–2030): sexual and reproductive health, interpersonal violence, and early childhood development

Document A71/19

12.4 mHealth

Document A71/20

12.5 Improving access to assistive technology

Documents A71/21 and EB142/2018/REC/1, resolution EB142.R6

12.6 Maternal, infant and young child nutrition

- Comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition: biennial report

Document A71/22

- Safeguarding against possible conflicts of interest in nutrition programmes

Document A71/23

12.7 Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework for the sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits

Documents A71/24, A71/24 Add.1 and A71/42

12.8 Rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease

Documents A71/25 and EB141/2017/REC/1, resolution EB141.R1

12.9 Eradication of poliomyelitis

Document A71/26

COMMITTEE B

13. Opening of the Committee¹

14. Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

Document A71/27

15. Programme budget and financial matters

15.1 WHO programmatic and financial reports for 2016–2017, including audited financial statements for 2017

Documents A71/28, A71/29 and A71/INF./2

15.2 Financing of the Programme budget 2018–2019

Document A71/30

15.3 Status of collection of assessed contributions, including Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution

Document A71/31

15.4 Special arrangements for settlement of arrears [if any]

15.5 Assessment of new Members and Associate Members [if any]

15.6 Amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules [if any]

16. Audit and oversight matters

16.1 Report of the External Auditor

Document A71/32

¹ Including election of Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur.

16.2 Report of the Internal Auditor

- Annual report

Document A71/33

- External and internal audit recommendations: progress on implementation

Document A71/34

17. Staffing matters

17.1 Human resources: annual report

Document A71/35

17.2 Report of the International Civil Service Commission

Document A71/36

17.3 Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules

Documents A71/37 and EB142/2018/REC/1, resolutions EB142.R8 and EB142.R9

17.4 Appointment of representatives to the WHO Staff Pension Committee

Document A71/38

18. Management and legal matters

18.1 Agreements with intergovernmental organizations [if any]

19. Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations

20. Matters for information

20.1 Global vaccine action plan

Document A71/39

20.2 Real estate: update on the Geneva buildings renovation strategy

Document A71/40

20.3 Progress reports

Document A71/41

Communicable diseases

- A. Global health sector strategies on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, for the period 2016–2021 (resolution WHA69.22 (2016))
- B. Eradication of dracunculiasis (resolution WHA64.16 (2011))
- C. Elimination of schistosomiasis (resolution WHA65.21 (2012))

Noncommunicable diseases

- D. Public health dimension of the world drug problem (decision WHA70(18) (2017))
- E. Global burden of epilepsy and the need for coordinated action at the country level to address its health, social and public knowledge implications (resolution WHA68.20 (2015))
- F. Comprehensive mental health action plan 2013–2020 (resolution WHA66.8 (2013))
- G. Comprehensive and coordinated efforts for the management of autism spectrum disorders (resolution WHA67.8 (2014))

Promoting health through the life course

- H. Global strategy and action plan on ageing and health 2016–2020: towards a world in which everyone can live a long and healthy life (resolution WHA69.3 (2016))

Health systems

- I. Promoting the health of refugees and migrants (resolution WHA70.15 (2017))
- J. Strengthening integrated, people-centred health services (resolution WHA69.24 (2016))
- K. Promoting innovation and access to quality, safe, efficacious and affordable medicines for children (resolution WHA69.20 (2016))
- L. Sustainable health financing structures and universal coverage (resolution WHA64.9 (2011))
- M. Availability, safety and quality of blood products (resolution WHA63.12 (2010))
- N. Human organ and tissue transplantation (resolution WHA63.22 (2010))
- O. WHO strategy on research for health (resolution WHA63.21 (2010))
- P. Workers' health: global plan of action (resolution WHA60.26 (2007))

Health emergencies programme

Q. Smallpox eradication: destruction of variola virus stocks (resolution WHA60.1 (2007))

Corporate services/enabling functions

R. Multilingualism: implementation of action plan (resolution WHA61.12 (2008))

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