

Chair's white paper regarding the programme of work for Friday, 7 February 2020

Agenda item 22.4

"Provisional agenda of the Seventy-third World Health Assembly and date and place of the 147th session of the Executive Board"

Under agenda item 22.4, the EB will consider the date and place of its 147th session as well as the provisional agenda of WHA73. The draft provisional agenda of WHA73 is contained in Document EB146/37. It is expected that this item will be considered on Friday, 7 February, during the afternoon.

Two letters in relation to this item were received by the Director-General from, respectively, the Permanent Mission of Israel, and the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Palestine Permanent Observer Mission. They are annexed hereto for information.

Following informal consultations with the three directly concerned parties, and with a view to ensuring a predictable and orderly handling of this matter, Dr Hiroki Nakatani, in his capacity as EB Chair, proposes to the EB to consider this matter through an arrangement.

This proposed arrangement is consistent with the EB Rules of Procedure. In particular, Rule 14 provides that the Chair has the authority, *inter alia*, to direct discussions, which includes the authority to propose such arrangements for managing discussions.

Proposed arrangement

The proposed arrangement would be structured as follows:

- only the three directly concerned parties would take the floor, observing a five minute time limit;
- immediately afterwards, the EB Members would vote by roll-call on an amendment to the provisional agenda of WHA73, which would correspond with the amendment proposed by the Permanent Mission of Israel in the attached letter;
- following the vote, the Board would proceed directly to consideration of the next matter under this agenda item.

Procedural considerations

It would be understood that, in accordance with this arrangement, delegations other than the three directly concerned parties would kindly refrain from taking the floor regarding this matter.

The arrangement, as outlined, would facilitate the orderly and efficient conduct of EB proceedings.

It is nonetheless understood that that this arrangement would not create a precedent. Accordingly, it would be without prejudice to the handling of this matter in the future.

The support of all EB Members for the predictable handling of this matter, through this arrangement, is appreciated.

Attachments:

- *Letter from the Permanent Mission of Israel;*
- *Letter from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic and Palestine Permanent Observer Mission.*



Mission permanente d'Israël
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies
et des Organisations Internationales à Genève

משלחת ישראל
ליד משרד האומות המאוחדות
והארגונים הבינלאומיים בג'נבה

Dr. TEDROS Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General
WHO
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Genève 27

Geneva, 17 January 2020

Director-General, *Dr. Tedros,*

I am writing to you concerning the draft provisional agenda of the 73rd World Health Assembly, presented for approval in the 146th Session of the Executive Board in February 2020 under item 22.4. The draft agenda of the WHA, as proposed by the Secretariat, should address global health challenges and not political items. However, Doc 146/37 presents a proposal that includes one item that does not meet these criteria: item 18.

Decision WHA 72/8(1) requests the Director General "to report on progress in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report by the Director-General, based on field monitoring, to the Seventy-third World Health Assembly". This report can and should be presented under the item that refers to other programs of assistance of the WHO and not as a stand-alone item. Therefore, we propose presenting the report currently listed under item 18 as an additional report under item 13.2.

The agenda of the WHA undergone through major changes and presents the vision of the WHO under three guiding pillars. Presenting the report requested as we suggest, and not as a stand-alone item, will be in line with your direction and the goals of the organization.

Let me re-emphasize Israel's support of WHO's program of assistance to the Palestinians and for promoting the capabilities of the organization to meet the amounting challenges for the well-being of the international community.

Sincerely,

Aviva Raz Shechter
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



State of Palestine Permanent Observer Mission

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

WHO Director-General

Avenue Appia 20

1211 Genève 27

Geneva, 30 January 2020

Your Excellency Director General,

Palestine and Syria delegations would like to draw to your attention with regards to the content of the circulated Israeli letter dated 17th January 2020, concerning the draft provisional agenda item 22.4 of the 73rd WHA presented to the 146th Executive Board for approval (document EB146/37) which propose presenting the DG report on implementation of decision WHA72(8) under the sub item 13.2 under committee (A) which will leads automatically to transferring item 18 entitled **"Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan"** from a standalone item under committee (B) to become an item under a sub item under Committee (A) that deals with WHO's work in health emergencies.

The proposal of Israel appears to be a procedural technical issue related to the distribution of topics in accordance with the 3 pillars of the WHO 13th General Programme of Work (GPW), but in reality the true aim of Israel proposal is driven by political purposes in its timing as well as it seeks to impose the illegal decisions enacted by Israel, the occupying power, of annexation of occupied Palestinian territory including East Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Golan, contrary to the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the World Health Assembly as well as to the relevant resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the UN General Assembly.

We express our deep concern at Israel's insistence on using its membership in the Executive Board of the World Health Organization to politicize the work of the organization and its governing bodies and to disrupt the organization's technical mandate.

Palestine and Syria remain committed to continue working with you in a constructive and positive manner to deliver Health for ALL.

Please accept our highest considerations.

Sincerely,

Hussam ELDIN AALA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Ibrahim KHRAISHI
Ambassador
Permanent Observer Representative