

Provisional agenda (annotated)

- 1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Report by the Director-General**
- 3. Report of the Regional Committees**

In 2012, in decision WHA65(9), the Health Assembly endorsed the proposal that the chairpersons of the regional committees routinely submit to the Board summary reports of the committees' deliberations. The Board will be invited to consider the recommendations of the regional committees.

- 4. Report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board**

The Board will receive at the opening of its session the report of the twenty-ninth meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee, which is scheduled to be held from 21 to 23 January 2019.

- 5. Strategic priority matters**

- 5.1 Proposed programme budget 2020–2021**

Following review and discussion by the regional committees, a revised draft of the Proposed programme budget 2020–2021 will be presented for consideration by the Board.

In May 2018, the Seventy-first World Health Assembly considered a report from the Executive Board's Programme, Budget and Administration Committee (document A71/46), which discussed a financial estimate for the Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019–2023 (contained in document EBPBAC28/5). The Director-General will submit a report providing an update on progress in the implementation of the action points for value for money contained in the financial estimate, together with information on the next steps in WHO's value for money strategy.

Pursuant to resolution WHA71.1 (2018), in which the Executive Board requested the Director-General, *inter alia*, to use the Thirteenth General Programme of Work as the basis for the strategic direction of WHO's work during the period 2019–2023, the Director-General will present the WHO Impact Framework. The Impact Framework will provide the following: an overarching measure of healthy life expectancy; indices for each of the triple billion targets; and a set of programmatic targets.

- 5.2 Public health preparedness and response: Report of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme**

The Chair of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme will present the Committee's fifth report to the governing bodies. The report will provide the Committee's

observations and recommendations based on its review of WHO's work in major outbreaks and other health emergencies during the period May–December 2018.

5.3 Polio

- Eradication

The report by the Director-General will provide a status update on polio eradication, summarizing programmatic, epidemiological and financial challenges to securing a lasting polio-free world, and will introduce the concept of a new strategic plan to achieve global certification by 2023, taking into account the fact that circulation of wild poliovirus has not yet been interrupted.

- Transition

The report to the Executive Board will provide a status update on the implementation of the strategic action plan on Polio Transition, which was noted by the Seventy-first World Health Assembly in May 2018.

5.4 Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In line with resolution WHA69.11 (2016) the Director-General will submit a report on attainment of the health-related Sustainable Development Goals. Part I of the report will summarize global and regional progress made by Member States towards achieving Goal 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), as well as other health-related Goals and targets. Part II will describe the progress made in implementing resolution WHA69.11.

5.5 Universal health coverage

Member States have committed themselves to achieving universal health coverage in Sustainable Development Goal 3, target 3.8 and in the Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019–2023, in line with the requests made of the WHO Secretariat and Member States in various United Nations General Assembly resolutions, and with the commitment towards a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on universal health coverage, to be held in 2019. In moving forward to implement universal health coverage, the WHO Secretariat, Member States and development partners must also make progress in respect of two central areas: primary health care and the health workforce.

- Primary health care towards universal health coverage

The Declaration of Alma-Ata in 1978 was a landmark in the history of global health. Forty years later, the Global Conference on Primary Health Care (Astana, Kazakhstan, October 2018) and its associated Declaration renewed a commitment to primary health care in pursuit of health and well-being for all and will help to provide a foundation for the forthcoming United Nations high-level meeting on universal health coverage. At the request of a Member State, the Director-General will present a report outlining the rationale for the renewal of primary health care to address health and health system challenges in the 21st century, key lessons learned through the implementation of primary health care over the past 40 years, and future directions for consideration by Member States as they operationalize the Declaration of Astana.

- Community health workers delivering primary health care: opportunities and challenges

In the Declaration of Astana (Kazakhstan, October 2018) Heads of State and Government committed themselves to investing in the primary health care workforce in order to accelerate progress towards universal health coverage. At the request of a Member State, the Director-General will present a report that examines effective health workforce strategies, which include, in some contexts, the education and deployment of community health

workers within a primary care team. The report will also give details of a new WHO guideline that examines opportunities and challenges for the successful education, remuneration, deployment and supervision of community health workers.

- Preparation for the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on universal health coverage

In 2017, the United Nations General Assembly decided in resolution 72/139 to hold a high-level meeting on universal health coverage in 2019 and requested WHO to collaborate closely with the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to ensure the most effective and efficient outcomes. At the request of Member States, the Director-General will present a report to enable the Board to consider the Secretariat's preparations to date and to provide guidance on next steps.

5.6 Health, environment and climate change

In line with decision EB142(5) (2018) the Director-General will present two reports to the Board for its consideration. The first will contain a draft comprehensive global strategy on health, environment and climate change and will request the Board to provide any guidance necessary. The Board will be invited to note this report and provide further comments and guidance on the draft WHO global strategy on health, environment and climate change. The second will provide an update on progress made by the Secretariat in its work to prepare a draft action plan for the flagship initiative to address health effects of climate change in small island developing States. The Executive Board will be invited to consider the draft action plan and provide further guidance as appropriate.

5.7 Medicines, vaccines and health products

- Access to medicines and vaccines

As requested by Member States during the Seventy-first World Health Assembly, the Secretariat has prepared a draft road map report outlining the programming of WHO's work on access to medicines, vaccines and health products. Lack of access to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines and vaccines continues to impede progress towards universal health coverage. The draft road map will elaborate activities, actions and deliverables for the period 2019–2023 to address the challenges. The Board will be invited to consider the draft road map and to provide further guidance.

- Cancer medicines

The high prices of and growing expenditure on cancer medicines continue to impede progress towards sustainable cancer care globally. Pursuant to resolution WHA70.12 (2017), the report by the Director-General will present a comprehensive technical report on pricing approaches, and their impact on availability and affordability of medicines for the prevention and treatment of cancer, including options that might enhance the affordability and accessibility of the medicines concerned.

5.8 Follow-up to the high-level meetings of the United Nations General Assembly on health-related issues

- Antimicrobial resistance

Antimicrobial resistance is a growing global challenge that impacts the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Political Declaration of the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on antimicrobial resistance reaffirmed that the blueprint for tackling antimicrobial resistance is WHO's global action plan on antimicrobial resistance, and recognized that the overarching framework for addressing antimicrobial resistance is provided by the One Health approach. At the request of Member States,

the Director-General will present a report to provide an update on the progress made in implementing the global action plan – highlighting the multisectoral collaboration between WHO, FAO and OIE – and describing the challenges faced. The Board will be invited to note the report and provide further guidance.

- Prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases

Pursuant to resolution WHA71.2 (2018), the Director-General will report on the outcomes of the third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (New York, 27 September 2018) and the follow-up work that the Secretariat will undertake to support governments in fulfilling the commitments they made at the first, second and third High-level Meetings on Non-communicable Diseases. The Board will be invited to note the report.

- Ending tuberculosis

The first United Nations High-level Meeting on the Fight to End TB was held in New York on 26 September 2018. The Director-General will submit a report providing an overview of the meeting and its outcomes, pursuant to resolution WHA71.3 (2018), in which the Health Assembly made requests to all stakeholders, including the Director-General, to support preparations for the High-level Meeting.

5.9 Eleventh revision of the International Classification of Diseases

The version of the eleventh revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-11), designed to prepare implementation, was released in June 2018. This version supports country-level preparations to facilitate: (i) implementation so that the final version of ICD-11 can be updated based on practical experience; and (ii) submission of the final version for consideration by the Health Assembly. The report by the Director-General will provide an update on the feedback received on the implementation version, and a summary of the overall process. The Board will be invited to consider a draft resolution.

6. Other technical matters

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

Pursuant to decision WHA70(10) (2017) and decision WHA71(11) (2018), the Director-General will submit a report on measures taken to implement the requests contained therein. The report will also summarize the main elements of the analysis that the Director-General was requested to conduct in decision WHA70(10).

6.2 Member State mechanism on substandard and falsified medical products

The sixth and seventh meetings of the Member State mechanism on substandard and falsified medical products were held in Geneva, Switzerland from 30 November to 1 December 2017, and on 29 and 30 November 2018 respectively. Updates on the implementation of the agreed list of prioritized activities for the period 2016–2017 were discussed, and a new list of prioritized activities for the period 2018–2019 was agreed. The outcome documents from both meetings will form the basis for reporting to the Executive Board.

6.3 Human resources for health

Pursuant to resolution WHA63.16 (2010) and decision WHA68(11) (2015) the Director-General will submit a report presenting aggregate findings across WHO regions as derived from the third round of national reporting on implementation of the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel. The Director-General will also submit a report summarizing progress made in the implementation of the WHO Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030, in line with the request made by the Health Assembly in resolution WHA69.19 (2016). The report will also provide details of progress made in respect of

the following resolutions: WHA64.6 (2011) on health workforce strengthening; WHA64.7 (2011) on strengthening nursing and midwifery; and WHA70.6 (2017) on human resources for health and implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations' High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth.

6.4 Promoting the health of refugees and migrants

Pursuant to decision EB140(9) (2017) and resolution WHA70.15 (2017), the Director-General will submit a report providing an update on the status of the global action plan on the health of refugees and migrants.

6.5 Accelerating cervical cancer elimination

Vaccination against human papillomavirus infection, screening and treatment of pre-cancerous lesions, early detection and prompt treatment of early invasive cancers, and palliative care are proven and cost-effective strategies to address cervical cancer that, when implemented to scale and with adequate coverage, offer the opportunity to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem, thus contributing to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, universal health coverage and other public health goals requiring multisectoral action. The Board will be invited to note the report and provide further guidance.

6.6 Patient safety

- Global action on patient safety

Patient safety is a critical global public health objective. An inadmissible number of patients are harmed or die each year as a result of unsafe care, placing a significant burden on health systems across the world and jeopardizing progress towards universal health coverage. At the request of Member States, the Director-General will provide a report outlining the burden of patient harm, global efforts made to date in support of patient safety and key global action areas and strategies for taking this work forward. The Executive Board will be invited to note the report and provide further guidance to advance global action on patient safety.

- Water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities

The first-ever global assessment on this matter, conducted in 2015 by WHO and UNICEF, found that nearly 40% of facilities lack water, 20% are without sanitation, and 35% do not have any hand hygiene materials. This situation undermines universal health coverage, quality care initiatives, and infection prevention and control efforts. It also contributes to the spread of antimicrobial resistance. In response, launching the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018–2028, the United Nations Secretary-General issued "a global call to action on water, sanitation and hygiene" in all health care facilities in March 2018. In light of this background, and at the request of a Member State, the Director-General will submit a report on the subject. The Board will be invited to note this report and provide guidance on future action.

7. Managerial, administrative and governance matters

7.1 WHO reform processes, including the transformation agenda, and implementation of United Nations development system reform

The Executive Board will be invited to consider a series of reports on WHO reform processes. At the request of Member States, the Director-General will provide an overview of the work to date on WHO Transformation, including information on the alignment of the transformation agenda with the reform of the United Nations development system, implications for WHO's presence in countries and the planned direction and priorities for 2019. The Director-General will also submit reports on: the evaluation of the Officers of the Board of their experience in using the proposed amended prioritization tool in respect of proposals for additional agenda items; the proposed replacement or supplementation of gender-specific language in the Rules of Procedure of the governing bodies and the changes to the texts that would be required. Following informal consultations on

governance reform (Geneva, 12 and 13 September, and 23 and 24 October 2018) the Director-General will also transmit the Chairperson's summary and proposed way forward.

7.2 Evaluation of the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization

Further to the Board's request in decision EB142(8) (2018), the Secretariat will present proposals for adjustments to the election process for the Director-General. Specifically, proposals relate to the Code of Conduct for the Election of the Director-General, the candidates' forum, the nomination of candidates by the Board, the voting process and the role of the Secretariat, as well as the overall duration and organization of the election process.

7.3 Engagement with non-State actors

In line with resolution WHA69.10 (2016) and subparagraphs 68(a)(i) and 68(b) of the overarching framework of the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors, the Executive Board will consider the annual report on engagement with non-State actors. The Board will be invited to consider a draft decision. In addition, paragraphs 60, 61 and 64 of the overarching framework mandate the Board, through its Programme Budget and Administration Committee, to consider applications for admittance of non-State actors into official relations and to review collaboration with one third of the non-State actors in official relations in order to decide whether to maintain their official relations.

7.4 Membership of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee [if any]

7.5 Multilingualism

Pursuant to resolution WHA71.15 (2018) the Director-General will report on efforts to ensure availability of the essential technical information of the Organization in written, audiovisual or digital form in the six official languages. The Board will be invited to note this report and to provide guidance on next steps.

7.6 World health days

In response to a request from the Officers of the Board, the Director-General will submit a report on the subject of "World Health Days." The document will provide a list of existing "Days", "Weeks" and "Years"; will give details of the mandate and process for establishing and implementing such events; and will describe possible approaches for monitoring their usefulness. The Board will be invited to note the report and provide guidance.

7.7 Reports of committees of the Executive Board

- Foundations and awards

In addition to any other matters that may be awaiting its attention, the Board will consider the reports of the selection panels for the following prizes to be awarded in 2019:

The Sasakawa Health Prize, the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize, the State of Kuwait Health Promotion Foundation Prize (the His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for Research in Health Care for the Elderly and in Health Promotion), and the Dr Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health. The Board will also be invited to approve the report of the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Committee and, should this prove necessary, to consider a report from the meeting of the Jacques Pariset Foundation.

7.8 Future meetings of the governing bodies

- Provisional agenda of the Seventy-second World Health Assembly
- Date and place of the 145th session of the Executive Board

8. Financial matters

8.1 Overview of financing and implementation of the Programme budget 2018–2019

The Secretariat will present a report on the financing and implementation of the Programme budget 2018–2019.

8.2 Scale of assessments for 2020–2021

The Board will be invited to consider the scale of assessments for 2020–2021, together with a draft resolution recommending adoption of the scale by the Seventy-second World Health Assembly.

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

9. Human resources

9.1 Appointment of the Regional Director for South-East Asia

The Regional Committee's proposal to the Board for the appointment of the Regional Director will be transmitted to the Board for its consideration.

9.2 Appointment of the Regional Director for the Western Pacific

The Regional Committee's proposal to the Board for the appointment of the Regional Director will be transmitted to the Board for its consideration.

9.3 Statement by the representative of the WHO staff associations

9.4 Report of the Ombudsman

9.5 Human resources update, including on the global internship programme

The report by the Secretariat will provide an update on the implementation of the Organization-wide human resources strategy. Among other things, it will provide information on the following: mobility, implementation of mandatory age of separation at 65, and prevention of sexual harassment. Lastly, pursuant to resolution WHA71.13 (2018) on reform of the global internship programme, the Secretariat will provide an Annex, describing the measures that have been put in place to operationalize the objectives of the resolution and giving details of the mechanism by which financial and in-kind support will be provided to accepted interns.

9.6 Report of the International Civil Service Commission

The Director-General will submit a report to the Board for its consideration containing details of the recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission to the United Nations General Assembly.

9.7 Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules

Amendments to the Staff Rules made by the Director-General will be submitted for confirmation by the Board in accordance with Staff Regulation 12.2. Proposed amendments to the Staff Regulations will be presented for consideration by the Board for submission to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly.

10. Matters for information

10.1 Outcome of the Second International Conference on Nutrition

The Director-General will present a report illustrating the 2017–2018 policy development at national and global level following the Second International Conference on Nutrition and the proclamation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition. The report will also provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the Ending Childhood Obesity Commission. The report will also set out a number of areas where intensified action is required.

10.2 Evaluation: update

The Board will be invited to consider a report that: (a) provides a brief progress update in respect of ongoing work and, specifically, an update on measures to take forward the organizational learning component of evaluation; and (b) outlines the scope of and framework for the review of 40 years of primary health care to be carried out in 2019. The Board will be invited to note the report and consider the proposal for the review of 40 years of implementation of primary health care at country level.

10.3 Reports of advisory bodies

- Expert committees and study groups

In compliance with Regulation 4.23 of the Regulations for Expert Advisory Panels and Committees, the Director-General will submit to the Board for its consideration a report on meetings of expert committees and study groups, including a summary of the recommendations contained in the reports of expert committees and observations on their significance for public health policies and implications for the Organization's programmes.

In a second report, the Secretariat will provide details of both meetings and membership of expert committees that met in 2018.

11. Closure of the session

Note:

1. *At their consultation with the Director-General on 5 October 2018, convened in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Officers of the Executive Board agreed to recommend the following in respect of the draft provisional agenda that had been transmitted to Member States for comment on 26 June 2018:*

- **to move** – in line with the proposal made by the Governments of Uruguay and Switzerland – existing item 10.1 on Outcome of the third High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and control of Non-communicable diseases in order to place it under the section on “Strategic priority matters”. At the same time, the Officers decided to **combine** that item, **under new item 5.8**, with two further reports on high-level meetings of the United Nations General Assembly. This implied **moving existing item 10.3** on Outcome of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on ending tuberculosis and **accepting for addition** to the provisional agenda of the **144th session of the Executive Board** the item on antimicrobial resistance, proposed by the Governments of Canada, the

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The new item would be **entitled “Follow-up to the high-level meetings of the United Nations General Assembly on health-related issues”** and would have three bullet points: Prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, Ending tuberculosis and Antimicrobial resistance.

- to **accept for addition** to the provisional agenda of the **144th session of the Executive Board, under a new item 5.5, entitled “Universal health coverage”**, the following proposed items, which would be presented by means of three bullet points:
 - “Community health workers delivering primary health care: opportunities and challenges” (proposed by the Government of Ethiopia)
 - “Primary health care towards universal health coverage” (proposed by the Government of Kazakhstan)
 - “Preparation for the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on universal health coverage” (proposed by the Governments of Japan and Thailand¹)
- to **defer to a future session of the Executive Board**, consideration of the item on “Further actions to address the global burden of epilepsy and its health and social implications at the country level” proposed by the Governments of Croatia and Honduras. There was agreement that the subject had recently been discussed in the governing bodies. The Secretariat was asked to advise on the placement of the item on the forward-looking planning schedule of expected agenda items.
- to **defer to a future session of the Executive Board**, consideration of the item on “Follow-up on the implementation of paragraph 3 of decision WHA70(18) on the public health dimension of the world drug problem”, which had been proposed by the Governments of Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay and Portugal. That subject also had recently been discussed in the governing bodies. The Secretariat was asked to advise on the placement of the item on the forward-looking planning schedule of expected agenda items. In view of the importance of the matter, it was also agreed that the Secretariat would provide a briefing session for Member States on activities developed by WHO, as well as submitting a report on the issue for the consideration of the Health Assembly.
- to **accept for addition** to the provisional agenda of the **144th session of the Executive Board**, the item on “Accelerating cervical cancer elimination,” which had been proposed by the Governments of Australia, Brazil, Thailand and Zambia. There was agreement that including a separate item on cervical cancer elimination would allow for a broader discussion than if the matter were included under the item on access to medicines and vaccines. That way, consideration could be given to all the dimensions of the approach needed to the subject.
- to **accept for addition** on the provisional agenda of the **144th session of the Board** the proposed new items entitled “Global action on patient safety” (proposed by the Governments of thirty-four Member States) and “Water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities” (proposed by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania). The two subjects would be considered as **bullet points under a new item 6.6, entitled “Patient safety”**.
- to **defer to the 145th session of the Executive Board**, consideration of the item on “Standardization of medical devices nomenclature” proposed by the Government of Brazil. Although the Officers recognized the importance of the subject, there was agreement that there would be insufficient time at the Board’s 144th session to give the matter the consideration that it merited. Deferral would also give the Secretariat additional time to prepare a comprehensive report, including through consultations.

¹ On behalf of the Member States of the South-East Asia Region.

- to **amend** – in line with the proposal made by the Government of France, with support from the Governments of Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Latvia and Switzerland – the title of the **existing item** on WHO reform, changing it to read “WHO reform processes, including the transformation agenda, and implementation of United Nations Development System reform.”
- to **amend** – in line with the proposal made by the Secretariat – the title of the **existing item 5.6** on Addressing the global shortage of, and access to, medicines and vaccines, including for cancer prevention and control, changing it to read as follows:

Medicines, vaccines and health products

- Access to medicines and vaccines
- Cancer medicines

2. Following a discussion launched by the Chairperson, the Officers of the Executive Board also asked that the Secretariat’s human resources update to the Board in January 2019 include information that would enable the Board to consider, in a transparent and well-informed manner, the issue of a housing allowance for the Director-General. The matter had not been discussed by the governing bodies for a long time; consideration should also be given to the practice in other United Nations specialized agencies.

Structure of the Provisional agenda of the Executive Board at its 144th session

3. The Chairperson recalled that during the continuing consultations on Governance Reform, one Member State had called for an explanation of the decision, taken by the Officers at their meeting on 31 July and 1 August 2017, to change the structure of the agenda based on the actions and outcomes expected from the Board. As a result, strategic issues of high priority had been grouped together separately. In the view of the Member State concerned, the decision had not been taken with the proper consideration of the Executive Board. The Officers agreed to recommend that the Executive Board at its 144th session in January 2019, take advantage of its first item (adoption of the agenda) to consider and approve the current structure of its agenda.

Preparation of the Provisional agenda of the Executive Board at its 144th session

4. The Chairperson reminded the Secretariat of the list of proposals on governance reform approved by the Board at its 143rd session and requested it to provide a new Provisional agenda on the basis of the Officers’ discussions, together with additional information on: how each item would be handled; what action was expected of the Board; and how much time would be available for members and non-members of the Board to express their governments’ position. The Officers also stressed the importance in the future of organizing the agenda in line with the General Programme of Work rather than according strategic priority to certain items, as that gave the impression that other items were less important.

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