
Consolidated report by the Director-General¹

PILLAR 1: ONE BILLION MORE PEOPLE BENEFITTING FROM UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

13. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board

13.3 Expanding access to effective treatments for cancer and rare and orphan diseases, including medicines, vaccines, medical devices, diagnostics, assistive products, cell- and gene-based therapies and other health technologies; and improving the transparency of markets for medicines, vaccines, and other health products

The Board noted the report on expanding access to effective treatments for cancer and rare and orphan diseases, including medicines, vaccines, medical devices, diagnostics, assistive products, cell- and gene-based therapies and other health technologies; and improving the transparency of markets for medicines, vaccines, and other health products.² During the discussions, Board members highlighted the importance of both collaboration for improving the affordability of medicines and regulatory cooperation for medicines for rare and orphan diseases. They also stressed the need for national strategies and plans for equitable access.

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

The Board noted the report on the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property.³ The Board also considered a draft resolution on strengthening local production of medicines and other health technologies to improve access. It was agreed that further consultations should be held during the intersessional period with a view to submission of a final version to the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly.

¹ In the present document the texts under each agenda item should be read in conjunction with the corresponding reports considered by the Executive Board at its 147th or 148th session, as appropriate. The summary records of those sessions are available at the following link: <http://apps.who.int/gb/or/>.

² Document EB148/9; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, eighth meeting, section 1, and ninth meeting, section 1.

³ Document EB148/10; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, ninth meeting, section 2.

13.6 Substandard and falsified medical products

The Board noted the report on substandard and falsified medical products.¹

13.7 Standardization of medical devices nomenclature

The Board noted the report on the standardization of medical devices nomenclature, with members' interventions highlighting the need both for continued discussion with key stakeholders and for the Secretariat to keep Member States updated regarding any related outcomes.²

13.8 Immunization Agenda 2030

The Board noted the report on the Immunization Agenda 2030.³ In response to comments made, the Secretariat undertook to provide more detailed information before the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly on equitable access to vaccines against the pandemic pathogens, and on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on essential health services. Technical annexes have now been prepared for each of the strategic priorities, providing more detail on some of the financial issues, and a dedicated website has been set up⁴ with information on the following aspects of the Agenda: vision and strategy; strategic priority technical annexes; framework for action; and other annexes and companion documents.

13.9 Integrated people-centred eye care, including preventable vision impairment and blindness

The Board noted the report on integrated people-centred eye care, including preventable vision impairment and blindness.⁵

¹ Document EB148/12; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, twelfth meeting, section 1.

² Document EB148/13; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, twelfth meeting, section 1.

³ Document EB148/14; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, twelfth meeting, section 2.

⁴ Available at www.immunizationagenda2030.org (accessed 8 March 2021).

⁵ Document EB148/15; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, twelfth meeting, section 2, and fourteenth meeting, section 3.

PILLAR 2: ONE BILLION MORE PEOPLE BETTER PROTECTED FROM HEALTH EMERGENCIES

17. Public health emergencies: preparedness and response

17.1 COVID-19 response

The Board noted the report on the response to the pandemic of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response.¹ Information on implementation of resolution WHA73.1 (2020) will be provided in a separate report.²

17.3 WHO's work in health emergencies

The Board noted the report on WHO's work in health emergencies.³

- **Strengthening WHO's global emergency preparedness and response**

The Board noted the report on strengthening WHO's global emergency preparedness and response.⁴ It also adopted decision EB148(2), in which it decided to call for the development of a draft resolution, with full participation of Member States, for consideration by the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly, on strengthening WHO's health emergency preparedness and response capacities, including to address the recommendations of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response, the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme and the Review Committee on the Functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) during the COVID-19 Response.

- **Strengthening preparedness for health emergencies: implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)**

The Board noted the report on strengthening preparedness for health emergencies: implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005).⁵ In the discussions, Board members highlighted the need to implement the Regulations in an effective manner, improve cross-sector coordination, update and implement national action plans for health security, ensure predictable and sustainable financing, strengthen national health systems, and improve risk communication and community engagement. They also noted the importance of improving: monitoring of the implementation and evaluation of the Regulations; information sharing; international cooperation on zoonotic diseases; use of tools to strengthen country capacities (such as the WHO benchmarks for

¹ Document EB148/16; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, second and third meetings.

² Document A74/15.

³ Document EB148/17; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, fourth and fifth meetings.

⁴ Document EB148/18; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, fourth and fifth meetings.

⁵ Document EB148/19; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, fourth and fifth meetings.

International Health Regulations (2005) capacities and national resource mapping and impact analysis); and the strengthening and resourcing of WHO for its central role in global leadership and coordination.

19. The public health implications of implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

The Board noted the report on the public health implications of implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.¹

PILLAR 3: ONE BILLION MORE PEOPLE ENJOYING BETTER HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

22. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board

22.1 Social determinants of health

The Board noted the report on social determinants of health.² It also adopted resolution EB148.R2.

PILLAR 4: MORE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT WHO PROVIDING BETTER SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES

Budget matters

11. Proposed programme budget 2022–2023

Under this item, Board noted the report on progress towards achieving the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.³ The Proposed Programme budget 2022–2023 itself, updated in the light of the Board's comments, is presented in a separate document.⁴

¹ Document EB148/21; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, fourteenth meeting, section 4, and fifteenth meeting, section 1.

² Document EB148/24; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, tenth meeting, section 1.

³ Document EB148/25 Add.1; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, sixth meeting, section 2, and seventh meeting, section 2.

⁴ Document A74/5.

26. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board

Managerial, administrative and governance matters

26.1 Update on the Infrastructure Fund

- **Update on information management and technology**

The Board noted the report with the update on information management and technology.¹ Information on the Infrastructure Fund will be provided in a separate report.²

- **Geneva buildings renovation strategy**

The Board noted the report on the Geneva buildings renovation strategy.³

26.2 WHO transformation

The Board noted the report on WHO transformation.⁴ It also concurred with the recommendations of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board.⁵

26.3 WHO reform

- **WHO reform: governance**

The Board noted the report on WHO reform: governance.⁶ It also adopted decision EB148(9).

- **WHO reform: World health days**

The Board noted the report on WHO reform: World health days.⁷ It also adopted decision EB148(10).

¹ Document EB148/30; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, eleventh meeting, section 2.

² Document A74/23.

³ Document EB148/31; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, eleventh meeting, section 2.

⁴ Document EB148/32; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, eleventh meeting, section 3.

⁵ Document EB148/5, paragraph 43.

⁶ Document EB148/33; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, eleventh meeting, section 5.

⁷ Document EB148/34; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, eleventh meeting, section 5.

- **Review of entitlements of members of the Executive Board**

In November 2020, the Board at its 147th session noted the report on the review of entitlements of members of the Executive Board.¹ It also adopted decision EB147(11).

- **WHO reform: involvement of non-State actors in WHO's governing bodies**

In January 2021, the Executive Board at its 148th session noted the report on the involvement of non-State actors in WHO's governing bodies, including a proposed approach for improving such involvement.² The Secretariat will duly be organizing from 20 to 22 April 2021 an informal meeting – involving Member States, the Secretariat and non-State actors in official relations with WHO – as part of preparations for the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly. Furthermore, at that Health Assembly, constituency statements will be tested for a limited number of agenda items. The Secretariat will report back on these initiatives to the Executive Board at its 150th session.

26.4 Global strategies and plans of action that are scheduled to expire within one year

- **WHO global disability action plan 2014–2021: better health for all people with disability**

The Board noted the report on the WHO global disability action plan 2014–2021.³ It also adopted resolution EB148.R6.

- **The global health sector strategies on, respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, for the period 2016–2021**

The Board noted the report on the global health sector strategies on, respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, for the period 2016–2021.⁴ In support of, inter alia, the development of global health sector strategies on these three matters for the period 2022–2030, it also adopted decision EB148(13).

¹ Document EB147/3; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 147th session, first meeting (resumed), section 4.

² Document EB148/35; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, fourteenth meeting, section 4, and eleventh meeting, section 3.

³ Document EB148/36; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, tenth meeting, section 2, and fourteenth meeting, section 2.

⁴ Document EB148/37; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, tenth meeting, section 2, and fourteenth meeting, section 2.

Staffing matters

26.7 Report of the International Civil Service Commission

Owing to the challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, an Executive Board report on the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2020 was not released.¹ Instead, the Board received a verbal update from the Secretariat.²

26.8 Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules

Having considered the report on amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules,³ the Board adopted resolutions EB148.R3, EB148.R4 and EB148.R5.

ACTION BY THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

The Health Assembly is invited to note this report. The Health Assembly is further invited:

- under item 13.4, to give due consideration to the outcome of the intersessional consultations on the draft resolution presented to the Executive Board at its 148th session on strengthening local production of medicines and other health technologies to improve access;
- under item 17.3, first bullet, to consider the outcome of the process to develop a draft resolution for its consideration;
- under item 19, to consider requesting the Secretariat to continue its work in this area, with a specific focus on options to provide additional transparency, equity, clarity and consistency in pathogen-sharing practices and associated equitable benefit-sharing arrangements globally, and to increase capacity worldwide for both the sequencing of pathogen genomes and the analysis of those genomes;
- under item 22.1, to adopt the resolution recommended by the Executive Board in [resolution EB148.R2](#);
- under item 26.3, first bullet, to adopt the decision recommended by the Executive Board in [decision EB148\(9\)](#);
- under item 26.3, second bullet, to adopt the decision recommended by the Executive Board in [decision EB148\(10\)](#);
- under item 26.3, third bullet, to adopt the decision recommended by the Executive Board in [decision EB147\(11\)](#);

¹ The Commission's report is available at <https://icsc.un.org/Resources/General/AnnualReports/AR2020.pdf?r=02277816> (accessed on 7 March 2021).

² See the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, eleventh meeting, section 4.

³ Document EB148/45; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 148th session, eleventh meeting, section 4.

- under item 26.4, first bullet, to adopt the resolution recommended by the Executive Board in [resolution EB148.R6](#);
- under item 26.4, second bullet, to adopt the decision recommended by the Executive Board in [decision EB148\(13\)](#);
- under item 26.8, to adopt the resolution recommended by the Executive Board in [resolution EB148.R4](#).

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