



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**

**Twenty-second Standing Committee
of the Regional Committee for Europe**

First session

Copenhagen, Denmark, 18 September 2014

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Report of the first session

Introduction

1. The Twenty-second Standing Committee of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (SCRC) held its first session at UN City, Copenhagen, Denmark on 18 September 2014, the last day of the 64th session of the Regional Committee (RC64).
2. The Chairperson welcomed the new members of the SCRC from Germany, Portugal, Romania and Turkmenistan, as well as the representative of the Russian Federation who would act as the link between the Standing Committee and the Executive Board during the year.

Election of officers of the Twenty-second SCRC

3. In accordance with Rule 14.2.4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for Europe, Ms Taru Koivisto (Finland), as Deputy Executive President of RC64, is ex officio the Chairperson of the Twenty-second SCRC. Professor Benoît Vallet (France), as per Rule 9 of the SCRC's Rules of Procedure, was elected Vice-Chairperson of the Twenty-second SCRC.
4. One member acknowledged that the SCRC had invested in increasing the transparency of elections of new members to the SCRC and the Executive Board and expressed concern about the Vice-Chairperson election for the SCRC. The Secretariat emphasized that geographic balance needed to be taken into account and promised to raise the issue with the SCRC subgroup on governance.

Reflections on the 64th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe

5. The Executive President of RC64, attending sessions of the Twenty-first SCRC as an observer, said that the Regional Committee session had been successful and productive because of the excellent preparatory work done by the Secretariat. Working documents, draft resolutions and proposals concerning elections and nominations had largely been available at the May session of the Twenty-first SCRC. The efforts made by the Standing Committee to involve Member States as much as possible in the preparations for and conduct of RC64 had paid off. Member States were participating more, and allowance should be made for that fact when drawing up the agenda of future RC sessions. Agenda items should be better "choreographed", and the length of introductory statements by members of the Secretariat and the SCRC, as well as invited speakers, would need to be carefully controlled.
6. Members of the SCRC observed that RC64 had been a smoothly organized and productive session. The extensive consultations with Member States before the session, reaching out from the technical to the governance level, were welcomed. The weighting system developed by the SCRC subgroup on governance for use by the Standing Committee when considering candidates for elections had been piloted. The tool had resulted in the same outcome for the SCRC elections and Executive Board nominations as the actual deliberations of the SCRC. The technical briefings, especially the one on migration and health, were much appreciated. The inclusion of summary boxes on the front page of working documents was an example of good practice that could also be adopted at the global level.
7. It was generally acknowledged that the heavy agenda of RC64 had imposed time constraints on some items. It had also proved difficult to solve some of the problems posed by the layout of the conference hall in UN City: the screens on which presentations were projected were not visible to all participants, and seating arrangements were not conducive to communication within delegations.

SCRC subgroups

8. In view of the further work to be done on governance matters and strategic budget space allocation, and given the continuing importance of Health 2020, the Twenty-second SCRC decided to continue the subgroups on those topics established by its predecessor. Members of the Standing Committee would consult with each other by electronic mail about the composition and choice of chairpersons of those subgroups.

Dates and places of future sessions of the Twenty-second SCRC

9. The Twenty-second SCRC agreed to hold the following sessions:

- 9–10 December 2014, Helsinki, Finland
- 17–18 March 2015, WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 16–17 May 2015, WHO headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland
- 13 September 2015, Vilnius, Lithuania

Preliminary outline of the 65th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe

10. The Regional Director said that, based on the idea of a “rolling agenda” for Regional Committee sessions, consideration could be given to taking up the following topics at RC65:

- Health 2020 (intersectoral approaches involving education, environment and health, transport, etc.)
- Health systems strengthening (reporting on the Tallinn process, presentation of a renewed vision prior to finalization for RC66)
- Human resources for health (implementation of the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel, including nursing and midwifery)
- Noncommunicable diseases (action plan on physical activity; roadmap on tobacco control; and women’s health, especially reproductive health and women’s rights)
- *The European health report 2015* (launch and discussion) and evidence-into-policy strategy
- New “contract” based on the Organization’s programme budget 2016–2017
- Partnership strategy (depending on progress with adoption of the framework for engagement with non-State actors)
- Migration and health (initial discussion)
- Prevention and control of multidrug- and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis in the WHO European Region (resolution EUR/RC61/R7) and next steps

11. The Secretariat would prepare concept notes on those topics for consideration at the second session of the Twenty-second SCRC.

Other matters

12. The Standing Committee was informed that, following a meeting held the previous day with national counterparts to clarify their roles and responsibilities as well as those of the national technical focal points, the Secretariat hoped to finalize the list of national counterparts and technical focal points in the near future.

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