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Matters arising out of resolutions and decisions of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board

This document reviews the resolutions and decisions adopted at the Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly, Geneva, 19–28 May 2003 and at the 111th and 112th sessions of the Executive Board in January and May 2003 respectively. In tabular form, reference is made to the relevant background documents and a summary is given of the implications for Member States and the WHO Secretariat. During the discussion of the agenda item, the Regional Office Secretariat will, upon request, give further details of individual technical and administrative issues and describe the progress made since the World Health Assembly.

Documents and resolutions mentioned in this document are available from the Secretariat and can also be downloaded from the Internet (<http://www.who.int>).

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Technical issues	1
II. Administrative matters	7
III. Budget 2004–2005	8
IV. Staffing matters	9
V. Miscellaneous.....	9

I. Technical issues

Resolution	Title	Background	Action by WHO Secretariat	Action by Member States
WHA56.1	WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control	WHA49.17 WHA52.18 A56/INF.DOC./7	Support Member States in implementation of the Convention. Act as Secretariat.	Consider signing or acceding to the Convention, with a view to bringing it into force as soon as possible.
WHA56.6	International Conference on Primary Health Care, Alma-Ata: twenty-fifth anniversary	A56/27	Celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of Alma-Ata by convening a meeting to examine the lessons learned. Incorporate the principles of primary health care (PHC) into WHO programmes. Report to WHA57.	Develop PHC at national level. Develop human resources for PHC. Actively involve communities.
WHA56.7	Pan African tsetse and trypanosomiasis eradication campaign	A56/9	Streamline activities to combat trypanosomiasis. Report to WHA57.	Eradicate tsetse flies and support the Pan African eradication campaign.
WHA56.19	Prevention and control of influenza pandemics and annual epidemics	WHA22.47 WHA48.13 EB111.R6	Support Member States. Advocate new partnerships to combat influenza. Provide leadership. Strengthen global surveillance.	Establish/strengthen national vaccination campaigns. Increase epidemic preparedness. Support research to improve vaccines.

Resolution	Title	Background	Action by WHO Secretariat	Action by Member States
WHA56.20	Reducing global measles mortality	E111.R5	<p>Work through Regional Offices to support national immunization programmes and disease surveillance.</p> <p>Strengthen global/regional/international partnerships.</p> <p>Report to WHA57.</p>	<p>Fully implement the WHO/UNICEF plan for measles mortality reduction.</p> <p>Strengthen national immunization programmes.</p>
WHA56.21	Strategy for child and adolescent health and development	A56/15 United Nations General Assembly resolution 48/104 WHO/FCH/CAH/02.21	<p>Support Member States achieving international goals.</p> <p>Promote research.</p> <p>Advocate a public health approach to combating common diseases.</p> <p>Support research into the determinants of adolescent lifestyles.</p> <p>Report to WHA57.</p>	<p>Expand efforts to meet international targets for the reduction of maternal and child mortality, and malnutrition.</p> <p>Increase coverage of evidence-based interventions to support the healthy development of children and adolescents.</p>
WHA56.22	Strategic approach to international chemicals management: participation of global health partners		<p>Oversee development of the strategic approach.</p> <p>Liaise with the United Nations Environment Programme.</p> <p>Submit the strategic approach to WHA when completed.</p>	<p>Take full account of health aspects of chemical safety.</p> <p>Develop the strategic approach to international chemicals management.</p>

Resolution	Title	Background	Action by WHO Secretariat	Action by Member States
WHA56.23	Joint FAO/WHO evaluation of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission	WHA40.20 WHA53.15 A56/34	<p>Develop an action plan to address the recommendations in the Codex Evaluation Report.</p> <p>Collaborate with FAO.</p> <p>Strengthen capacity-building in food safety.</p> <p>Analyse the links between data on foodborne diseases and food contamination.</p>	<p>Actively participate in international standard-setting within the Codex framework.</p> <p>Stimulate intersectoral collaboration at national level.</p> <p>Facilitate participation of national experts in international work.</p>
WHA56.24	Implementing the recommendations of the <i>World report on violence and health</i>	EB111.R7 WHA49.25 WHA50.19	<p>Cooperate with Member States in establishing public health policy on this issue.</p> <p>Stimulate research on evidence-based approaches.</p> <p>Collaborate with other organizations of the United Nations system.</p>	<p>Promote the report nationally.</p> <p>Appoint a focal point within the ministry of health.</p> <p>Prepare national reports.</p>
WHA56.25	The role of contractual arrangements in improving health systems' performance	A56/22	<p>Create an evidence base for evaluating different types of contractual arrangements.</p> <p>Facilitate the exchange of experience.</p> <p>Develop tools and methodologies.</p>	<p>Adopt contractual arrangements that are in harmony with national health policy.</p> <p>Shape contractual policies that maximize the performance of health systems.</p> <p>Share experiences.</p>

Resolution	Title	Background	Action by WHO Secretariat	Action by Member States
WHA56.26	Elimination of avoidable blindness	A56/26 WHA22.29 WHA25.55 WHA28.54 WHA45.10 WHA51.11	Coordinate implementation of the Global Initiative for the Elimination of Avoidable Blindness (Vision 2020). Develop human resources. Report to WHA59.	Commit themselves to supporting the Global Initiative (Vision 2020). Ensure national coordination and effective data collection.
WHA56.27	Intellectual property rights, innovation and public health	A56/17	Support Member States in the transfer of technology and research findings. Make an analysis of intellectual property rights. Monitor the public health implications of relevant international agreements.	Adopt national legislation to make full use of the flexibilities within the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). Maintain efforts to reach consensus on paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration.
WHA56.28	Revision of the International Health Regulations (IHR)	EB111.R13 WHA48.7 WHA48.13 WHA54.14 WHA55.16	Convene an intergovernmental working group on revision of IHR. Alert the international community to public health threats. Collaborate with national authorities to assess the severity of national incidents. Facilitate completion of the revised IHR.	Give priority to work on revision of IHR. Establish national task forces. Ensure multisectoral collaboration at national level.

Resolution	Title	Background	Action by WHO Secretariat	Action by Member States
WHA56.29	Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)	A56/48 WHA48.13 WHA54.14 EB111.R6 EB111.R13	Sustain efforts to control SARS. Update/standardize various guidelines. Update information on transmission. Mobilize scientific research. Strengthen WHO's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network. Report to WHA57.	Commit themselves fully to controlling SARS. Apply WHO recommended guidelines. Report cases promptly. Increase capacity for SARS surveillance. Collaborate with and give assistance to the Global Network.
WHA56.30	Global health-sector strategy for HIV/AIDS	EB111.R4 A56/12	Provide support to Member States in implementing the strategy. Provide technical support in the preparation of submissions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Facilitate efforts of Member States to reach WHO targets on access to antiretroviral treatment. Coordinate multilateral offers of support. Report to WHA57.	Adopt the global strategy. Engage all sectors in order to implement the strategy and evaluate its effectiveness. Strengthen the mobilization of resources and cooperation to fight HIV/AIDS. Reaffirm that public health interests are paramount in pharmaceutical and health policies.

Resolution	Title	Background	Action by WHO Secretariat	Action by Member States
WHA56.31	Traditional medicine	EB111.R12 WHA22.54 WHA29.72 WHA30.49 WHA31.33 WHA40.33 WHA41.19 WHA42.43 WHA54.11	<p>Help Member States to formulate national policies.</p> <p>Provide technical support for the development of tools/methodologies to ensure product quality.</p> <p>Support Member States in defining indications for treatment.</p> <p>Seek evidence-based information on traditional therapies.</p> <p>Report to WHA58.</p>	<p>Base national programmes or work plans on WHO's traditional medicines strategy.</p> <p>Recognize the role of traditional practitioners.</p> <p>Provide support for research on traditional remedies.</p> <p>Provide reliable information.</p> <p>Encourage inclusion of herbal medicines in national essential drug lists.</p>

II. Administrative matters

Resolution	Title	Background	Implications
WHA56.2	Appointment of the Director-General	EB111.R15 EB111.R16 A56/4	Dr Jong-Wook Lee appointed Director-General.
WHA56.3	Contract of the Director-General		Contract approved.
WHA56.4	Expression of appreciation to Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland	EB111.R17	Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland declared Director-General Emeritus.
WHA56.18	Salaries of staff in ungraded posts and of the Director-General	EB111.R10	Revised salaries for the Director-General and ungraded posts established as from January 2003.
WHA56.8	Appointment of the External Auditor	A56/31 A56/31 Add.1 A56/31 Add.2	Comptroller and Auditor-General of India appointed for two financial periods, 2004–2005 and 2006–2007.
WHA56.9	Unaudited interim financial report on the accounts of WHO for 2002	A56/28 A56/28 Add.1 A56/47	Unaudited financial report for 2002 accepted.
WHA56.10	Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution	A56/32	Voting rights of Belarus, Peru, Saint Lucia and Venezuela suspended as from WHA57 if countries are still in arrears by then. Members without voting rights at start of WHA56 (eight from European Region) noted.
WHA56.11	Arrears in payment of contributions: Kazakhstan	A56/32 A56/33	Kazakhstan accepts repayment scheme. Voting rights of Kazakhstan restored.
WHA56.12	Assessments for 2002 and 2003	Decision EB111(3)	Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste 2002 = US \$ 1 053 2003 = US \$ 4 213 Afghanistan 2003 = US \$ 4 213 Argentina 2003 = US \$4 026 622
WHA56.13	Real Estate Fund	A56/5	WHO authorized to proceed with construction of new buildings at headquarters and the Regional Office for Africa in Brazzaville.
WHA56.14	Real Estate Fund: Regional Office for Africa	WHA55.8	

Resolution	Title	Background	Implications
WHA56.15	Assignment of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to the South-East Asian Region	A56/36	Resolves that the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste shall form part of the South-East Asian Region.
WHA56.16	Reassignment of Cyprus from the Eastern Mediterranean Region to the European Region	A56/37	Resolves that Cyprus shall form part of the European Region.

III. Budget 2004–2005

Resolution	Title	Background	Implications
WHA56.32	Appropriation resolution for the financial period 2004–2005	PB/2004–2005 A56/INF.DOC./1 A56/51 EB111/2003/REC/1 EB111.R3 A56/5 A56/50 A56/6 A56/7	<p>Appropriates an amount of US \$960 111 000 for the Regular Budget.</p> <p>Notes that the estimated income from other sources is US \$1 824 500 000, leading to a total budget under all sources of funds of US \$2 704 611 000.</p> <p>Decides that US \$12 364 000 will be financed from miscellaneous income, to provide an adjustment mechanism for Member States with increases in assessments between 2000–2001 and 2004–2005.</p> <p>Request the Director-General to report on expenditure categories resulting from operational planning for 2004–2005 to the Executive Board at its 113th session.</p>
WHA56.33	Scale of assessments for the financial period 2004–2005	A56/35 A56/INF.DOC./3 A56/51 EB111/2003/REC/1 Decision EB111(3)	Accepts henceforth the latest available United Nations scale of assessment, with minimum of 0.0001% and a maximum of 22%.
WHA56.34	Adjustment mechanism	WHA56.33	Establishes an adjustment mechanism to compensate for differences in assessment for 2004–2005 and 2006–2007 compared with 2000–2001.

IV. Staffing matters

Resolution	Title	Background	Implications
WHA56.17	Human resources: gender balance	A56/39 WHA50.16	Reaffirms the target of 50% for appointments of women to professional and higher-category posts. Prepare plan of action to increase efforts. Report to EB113.
WHA56.35	Representation of developing countries in the Secretariat	WHA55.24 A56/40	Approves the following formula for appointment of WHO staff: contribution 45%, membership 45%, population 10%. Sets a target of 60% (in the next two years) of recruitment of staff from unrepresented and underrepresented countries. Report to WHA57 on progress.

V. Miscellaneous

Resolution	Title	Background	Action by WHO Secretariat
WHA56.5	Health conditions of, and assistance to, the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine	A56/44 Previous resolutions on the health conditions in the occupied Arab territories	Support the Palestinian Ministry of Health. Provide technical assistance to health programmes for the Palestinian people. Report to WHA57.