

## 172nd SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*Washington, D.C., USA, 26–30 June 2023*

---

*Provisional Agenda Item 7.11-A*

CE172/INF/11(A)

2 June 2023

Original: English

### SEVENTY-SIXTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

1. The Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO) was held from 21-30 May 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. Representatives and delegates of 194 Member States were in attendance. The President of the World Health Assembly was Malta, represented by Dr. Christopher Fearne.
2. Five countries served as Vice Presidents of the World Health Assembly in representation of their respective regions, with Ecuador representing the Region of the Americas. El Salvador served as Chair of Committee B. The Region was also represented at the General Committee by Cuba, Saint Lucia, and the United States of America, as well as in the Committee of Credentials by Guatemala and Guyana.
3. In honor of the 75th anniversary of WHO, during his High-Level Welcome,<sup>1</sup> Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, reflected on the major advancements in human health in the three quarters of a century since the Organization was founded and recalled some of the notable achievements and milestones reached over the last 75 years—particularly WHO’s work on vaccine-preventable diseases.
4. During the Health Assembly, there was active participation and involvement from Member States of the Region of the Americas. Speaking at the plenary, Member States of the Americas took the opportunity to congratulate WHO on 75 years of good work and its dedication to protecting the health of all people, with many expressing appreciations for the Organization’s continued support during the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. The need for stronger national health systems to better prepare for and respond to future health emergencies was a common theme. The importance to decentralize the production of medicines, vaccines, and other strategic inputs to ensure equitable access to everyone was also underlined. Member States emphasized the need for increased solidarity and multilateral cooperation to achieve universal health for all, signaling equitable access to health as a key priority. Member States also recognized the work of the Pan American

---

<sup>1</sup> The Director-General's High-Level Welcome at the Seventy-Sixth World Health Assembly is available from: <https://www.who.int/news-room/speeches/item/who-director-general-s-high-level-welcome-at-the-seventy-sixth-world-health-assembly---21-may-2023>

---

Health Organization and expressed their gratitude for its continued guidance and support. Member States highlighted their own achievements at the national level, as well as challenges faced in achieving health for all.

6. The agenda of the Health Assembly included general items related to technical and health issues, as well as administrative, budgetary, and institutional items.<sup>2</sup> As on previous occasions, these matters were dealt with in committees A and B, and in plenary sessions.

7. A list of selected resolutions and decisions adopted by the 76th World Health Assembly that are of interest to the Region of the Americas, the related resolutions of the Pan American Health Organization, and some of the implications that the Health Assembly resolutions have for the Region can be found in the Annex.<sup>3</sup>

### **Other Matters: Executive Board**

8. The 153rd Session of the Executive Board was held on 31 May 2023. The Chair of the Executive Board was Qatar. Paraguay was elected as Vice-chair. Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Peru, and United States of America currently occupy the other five seats of the Board that represent the Region of the Americas.

9. The agenda of the 153rd Session of the Executive Board included items related to the Report of the Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response, matters of management and governance, and staffing matters, among others.<sup>4</sup>

10. Regarding dates for future sessions of the Executive Board and the Health Assembly, the Board agreed on the following timetable:

- a) The Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to hold its thirty-ninth meeting from 16–19 January 2024 at WHO headquarters, following an agreement to extend the meeting by one day.
- b) The 154th Session of the Executive Board to begin on 22 January 2024, at WHO headquarters, and to close no later than 27 January 2024.
- c) The Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly to be held at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, starting on 27 May 2024 and closing no later than 1 June 2024.
- d) The Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to hold its fortieth meeting from 22–24 May 2024 at WHO headquarters.

---

<sup>2</sup> The agenda of the 76th World Health Assembly, as well as other related documents discussed at the Assembly, are available from: [https://apps.who.int/gb/e/e\\_wha76.html](https://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha76.html).

<sup>3</sup> At the time of development of this report, the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly were not available. The complete reference and a more exhaustive analysis of the implications of the WHO Resolutions for the Region will be presented to the 60th Directing Council in September 2023.

<sup>4</sup> The full versions of these reports, as well as other related documents discussed at the 153rd Session of the WHO Executive Board, are available from: [https://apps.who.int/gb/e/e\\_eb153.html](https://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_eb153.html).

11. Additionally, the Board agreed that the Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response should hold its third meeting on 13 and 14 September 2023, and its fourth meeting on 17 and 18 April 2024.

**Action by the Executive Committee**

12. The Executive Committee is invited to take note of this report and provide any comments it deems pertinent.

Annex

## Annex

**Table 1. Selected Resolutions Adopted by the 76th World Health Assembly, Documents of Reference, and Implications for the Region of the Americas**

Resolution	Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<a href="#">WHA76.1</a> Programme budget 2024–2025	Proposed programme budget 2024–2025 Documents <a href="#">A76/4</a> , <a href="#">A76/4 Add.1</a> , <a href="#">A76/4 Add.2</a> and <a href="#">A76/43</a>	<a href="#">SPBA17/2</a> (2023) Outline of the Proposed Program Budget of the Pan American Health Organization 2024-2025	<p>The WHO Programme budget 2024–2025 has three main overarching objectives and reflects a renewed approach in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic with a greater country focus and more efficient presentation features. It also benefits from an increase in assessed contributions, as part of efforts to move towards a more sustainably financed WHO.</p> <p>For this Programme budget, Member States played an increased role through a greater consultative and participatory process, which resulted in a robust prioritization process for budget development, to ensure alignment with the country situation and priorities. It is important to note that half of the base budget is allocated to countries.</p> <p>The total WHO Programme budget 2024–2025 is US\$ 6.83 billion.<sup>1</sup> This represents a 17% increase with respect to the 2020–2021 biennium but only a 2% increase with respect to the revised Programme budget 2022–2023, driven by the increase in planned actions related to the polio eradication segment. All other budget segments, except for Special programmes, remain unchanged with respect to the revised Programme budget 2022–2023.</p> <p>The Programme budget 2024–2025 includes a historic 20% increase in assessed contributions. The Regional Office for the Americas (AMRO) will receive an overall allocation of \$313.7 million. As it relates to base programs, the allocation to AMRO base programs is \$295.6 million, which constitutes a 1.2% increase (\$3.5 million) compared to the AMRO base program allocation for 2022–2023 (\$292.1 million). The increase in budget will require commensurate funding from WHO.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, all monetary figures in this document are expressed in United States dollars.

Resolution	Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<a href="#">WHA76.16</a> The health of Indigenous Peoples	Social determinants of health Documents <a href="#">A76/7 Rev.1</a> , <a href="#">A76/7 Rev.1 Add.1</a> , <a href="#">A76/7 Rev.1 Add.4</a>	<a href="#">CD57/13, Rev. 1</a> and <a href="#">CD57.R14</a> (2019) Strategy and Plan of Action on Ethnicity and Health 2019–2025	<p>Resolution WHA76.16 requests the Director-General of WHO to <i>a)</i> develop, in consultation with Member States and relevant actors, a Global Plan of Action for the Health of Indigenous Peoples for the consideration of the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly; <i>b)</i> provide technical support for the development of national plans for the promotion, protection and enhancement of the physical and mental health of Indigenous Peoples; and <i>c)</i> propose, in consultation with Member States, strategic lines of action for the improvement of the health of Indigenous Peoples in the development of the fourteenth WHO General Programme of Work.</p> <p>The resolution aims to accelerate efforts towards ensuring the health of Indigenous populations and includes measures to tackle the determinants of health impacting these populations.</p>

**Table 2. Selected Decisions Adopted by the 76th World Health Assembly, Documents of Reference, and Implications for the Region of the Americas**

Decision	Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<a href="#">WHA76(21)</a> Voluntary Health Fund for small island developing States (terms of reference)	Participation of Member States in WHO meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary Health Trust Fund for small island developing States (terms of reference)</li> </ul> Documents <a href="#">A76/34</a> and <a href="#">A76/34 Add.1</a>		Decision WHA76(21), which contains the terms of reference for a Voluntary Health Fund for Small Island Developing States, requests the Director-General to <i>a)</i> make the necessary arrangements to make the Health Fund operational; and <i>b)</i> report on the Health Fund's operations, including its terms of reference, at the Eightieth World Health Assembly.

---