

60th DIRECTING COUNCIL

75th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

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Provisional Agenda Item 8.11-A

CD60/INF/11(A)

7 August 2023

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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 Fearné.
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,¹ 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

¹ 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.² 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.

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.³

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.

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.

² 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.

³ 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.

Action by the Directing Council

12. The Directing Council 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
WHA76.1 Programme budget 2024–2025	Proposed programme budget 2024–2025 Documents A76/4 , A76/4 Add. 1 , A76/4 Add. 2 and A76/43	SPBA17/2 (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.¹ 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).</p>

¹ 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
WHA76.7 Behavioural sciences for better health	Behavioural sciences for better health Document A76/7 Rev. 1 and decision EB152(23)	CD57/10 and CD57.R10 (2019) Strategy and Plan of Action on Health Promotion within the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals 2019–2030	<p>The Strategy and Plan of Action on Health Promotion within the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals 2019–2030, adopted by Member States in 2019, includes community participation and health literacy as a key component to promote health and wellbeing, and to reduce health inequities. Behavioral science approaches have also been implemented throughout technical cooperation in immunizations and communication. It is emphasized that behaviors respond to social constructs and, therefore, in order to make behavioral changes it is essential to address the social determinants of health and also to include among the objectives of its approach the reduction of inequities.</p>
WHA76.16 The health of Indigenous Peoples	Social determinants of health Documents A76/7 Rev. 1 , A76/7 Rev. 1 Add. 1 , A76/7 Rev. 1 Add. 4	CD57/13, Rev. 1 and CD57.R14 (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. 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
<p>WHA76(9) Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and mental health</p>	<p>Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and mental health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft updated menu of policy options and cost-effective interventions for the prevention and control of noncommunicable disease <p>Documents A76/7 Rev.1, A76/7 Add. 1 Rev. 1 and decision EB152(11)</p>	<p>CSP30/9 and CSP30.R3 (2022) Policy for Improving Mental Health</p> <p>CD58/INF/6 (2020) Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases: Final Report</p> <p>CD52/7, Rev. 1 (2013) Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases</p>	<p>Decision WHA76(9) endorses the draft updated menu of policy options and cost-effective interventions for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and requests the Director-General to <i>a)</i> submit a draft updated menu of policy options and cost-effective interventions for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases for consideration by the Eightieth World Health Assembly, and <i>b)</i> incorporate revised interventions to Appendix 3 of the WHO global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2030 on a continuous basis.</p> <p>NCDs continue to be the leading causes of death and disability in the Region of the Americas, and progress has been slow to implement the NCD cost effective interventions. In fact, no country is on track to achieve all nine voluntary global targets for 2025 set by the Health Assembly in 2013 against a baseline of 2010.</p> <p>This updated menu of policy and cost-effective interventions for NCD prevention and control will be used by PAHO for its technical cooperation with Member States and will be promoted throughout the Region with governments and civil society, with an aim to spur implementation.</p> <p>This updated menu of NCD policy and cost-effective interventions is also considered, and referred to, in the Policy on Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults, which was developed in consultation with PAHO Member States and will be presented to the 60th Directing Council in September 2023.</p>

Decision	Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<p>WHA76(11) Global strategy on infection prevention and control</p>	<p>Draft global strategy on infection prevention and control Documents A76/7 Rev. 1 and EB152/2023/REC/1, decision EB152(7)</p>	<p>CD59/INF/10 (2021) Plan of Action on Antimicrobial Resistance: Final Report</p> <p>CD57/12 and CD57.R13 (2019) Strategy and Plan of Action to Improve Quality of Care in Health Service Delivery 2020–2025</p> <p>CD54/12, Rev. 1 and CD54.R15 (2015) Plan of Action on Antimicrobial Resistance</p>	<p>Through Decision WHA76(11), Member States adopted the WHO global strategy on infection prevention and control, which provides strategic directions to significantly reduce the ongoing risk of health care-associated infections, including those that exhibit antimicrobial resistance. The global strategy will be complemented by, and used in conjunction with, an associated global action plan and monitoring framework, to be developed in 2023–2024.</p> <p>Many health care facilities in the Region of the Americas face resource constraints, including shortages of trained infection prevention and control staff and limited funding for related measures. The global strategy will provide Member States with strategic directions to prioritize infection prevention and control efforts and allocate resources effectively to maximize their impact under a people-centered approach that emphasizes health workers’ protection and patient safety and compassion.</p> <p>Implementation of the global strategy will require prioritization of infection prevention and control interventions and domestic financial resources mobilization in addition to strong donor support particularly for low-resources settings to ensure sustainability. The Pandemic Fund and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria could provide specific opportunities for Latin America and the Caribbean to implement sustainable and cost-effective programs and interventions.</p>

Decision	Reference Documents	PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<p>WHA76(19) Sustainable financing: feasibility of a replenishment mechanism, including options for consideration</p>	<p>Sustainable financing: feasibility of a replenishment mechanism, including options for consideration Document A76/32</p>		<p>WHO will develop, in consultation with Member States, the Fourteenth General Programme of Work (GPW 14), in replacement of the Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW 13) 2019–2025, one year early, to be approved by the 77th World Health Assembly in 2024. The GPW 14 will cover the period of 2025–2028 and will serve as the technical strategy to underpin the first WHO Investment Round.</p> <p>WHO’s first Investment Round will hold a pledging event in November of 2024, with a target funding envelope comprised of the entire base budget, less the increase in assessed contributions, for the period 2025–2028. A WHO investors’ forum would be established, bringing together WHO’s financial contributors, including Member States and non-State actors. The forum will provide an annual opportunity to review the status of implementation of GPW 14, showcase the results achieved with the investments made to date, and discuss the future financing situation.</p> <p>Specific mention is made to PAHO, calling for more alignment with WHO in the context of the development of the draft GPW 14, invite interested Member States to assess PAHO and WHO results hierarchy and provide recommendations² with the expectation of providing an improved, more explicit alignment between PAHO and the WHO results hierarchy.</p>
<p>WHA76(21) Voluntary Health Fund for small island developing States (terms of reference)</p>	<p>Voluntary Health Trust Fund for small island developing States (terms of reference) Documents A76/34 and A76/34 Add. 1</p>		<p>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.</p>

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² See Document A76/31 Matters emanating from the Working Group on Sustainable Financing: Secretariat implementation plan on reform. Available at: https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA76/A76_31-en.pdf