



REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

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Provisional agenda item 7.3

**METHOD OF WORK AND DURATION OF THE  
WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

**Report of the Regional Director**

This document is designed to facilitate the work of the Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly, in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly concerning the method of work and duration of the Health Assembly. The Regional Committee is hereby invited to examine the document. Decisions taken will be transmitted to the Director-General.

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## **FIFTY-FOURTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

1. The Fifty-fourth World Health Assembly lasted eight days.

### **Outcome of the Assembly**

2. In her address to the Assembly, the Director-General started by describing this year as one of hope and declared that there were new reasons to be optimistic. She further described the Assembly as an opportunity to share experiences, define new steps and rally to the cause.
3. The Fifty-fourth World Health Assembly dealt with a heavy agenda which included review and approval of WHO's proposed programme budget for 2002-2003. Some of the items on the agenda of the Assembly were controversial, touching not just health concerns but also economic interests. Despite the complexity of some of the issues discussed, the meetings were conducted in a spirit of collaboration and cooperation among delegates.
4. Throughout the deliberations, the delegates looked for ways to build a united approach to fight some of the pressing public health problems such as HIV/AIDS and the ways of ensuring equitable access to essential medicine at affordable prices.
5. Indeed the debate on HIV/AIDS attracted great attention from delegates who sometimes, conveying with great feeling, their first-hand experiences of the social and economic devastation, described the human misery and premature deaths caused by this disease. The resolution - *Scaling up the response to HIV/AIDS* was adopted by consensus.
6. The Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed a special plenary meeting and underscored the commitment of the entire UN system to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic at all levels.

### **Ministerial Round Tables**

7. The Ministerial Round Tables introduced at the 52nd World Health Assembly in order to enhance the involvement of the ministers and heads of delegations in policy debate has added value to the Assembly, making it possible to deal more effectively with the overall health agenda, and enabling the delegates to learn from one another.
8. This year, in the four Round Tables held concurrently on the theme: *Mental Health* (which was also the theme for this year's World Health Day), the ministers shared recent developments and approaches in mental health care in their respective countries. The ministers all agreed that mental health problems contributed to the global disease burden, have huge economic and social costs and cause human suffering and they expressed their commitment to dealing with the pressing mental health needs of their populations.
9. The current social context of mental health is a complex one since it is determined by a variety of factors in different countries: unemployment, family breakdown, poverty, political instability, physical and sexual violence against women, social upheavals and substance abuse.
10. In many parts of the world, mental health systems are poorly funded and organized and are ill-equipped to effectively treat mentally ill persons.
11. Ministers repeatedly called for urgent action to reduce stigmatization, discrimination and the violations of rights of people with mental illness since, these all reduce the effectiveness of care and they further agreed that mental health care should be integrated into the general health care system.

## **METHOD OF WORK AND DURATION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

12. It is proposed to convene the Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly on Monday, 13 May 2002 at the *Palais des Nations*, Geneva, and to close the Assembly no later than Saturday 18 May 2002.
13. In line with resolution WHA 52.21 on the reform of the Health Assembly by which the Director-General was requested to make appropriate arrangements for a shortened plenary meeting, delegates at the

Health assembly will be:

- (a) requested to limit, to five minutes, their statements in such debates;
- (b) encouraged to make group or regional statements;
- (c) invited to submit written statements of not more than 600 words for inclusion in the verbatim records of the plenary meeting in lieu of taking the floor.

14. Delegates wishing to have their names placed on the list of speakers for the general discussion should notify the Governing Bodies Department, fax number 41 22 791 4173.

15. Copies of statements to be made during the general discussion should be submitted to the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of the Health Assembly by the morning of Monday, 13 May 2002.

16. World Health Report 2002 is on the theme: *“Risks of Health”*. The theme for World Health Day is *“Fit for Health”*. This will give particular visibility to ways in which individuals and communities can influence their own health and well-being.

### **Credentials**

17. The credentials of delegates, alternates and advisers should be delivered to the Secretariat (Governing Bodies Department) by 26 April 2002. Credentials shall be issued by the Head of State, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Health, or any other appropriate authority. Member States shall be represented at the Assembly by not more than three delegates. Alternates and advisers may accompany delegates. Only original documents are examined and considered for formal credentials by the Committee on Credentials. Faxes and e-mails are not considered formal credentials but may be sent to the Governing Bodies Department (fax: +41 22 791 41 73; e-mail: credentials@who.int) for advance information prior to delivery of the original document. Credentials should include the following information for each participant: LAST NAME (in capital letters) first name, title, function, institution, city, gender (unless indicated in title).

### **Reimbursement of travel expenses**

18. Resolution WHA 50.1 provides that only Members that are classified as least developed countries by the United Nations shall be reimbursed for the actual travelling expenses of one delegate each and, in accordance with WHO policy, only for travel by the most direct route.

### **Vice-President of the World Health Assembly**

19. The African Region will designate a candidate for the post of Vice-President of the Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly. In accordance with Decision 5 (3) of the 33rd session of the Regional Committee, the Chairman of the fifty-first session of the Regional Committee will be proposed to hold the office of Vice-President of the Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly.

### **Member States entitled to designate persons to serve on the Executive Board**

20. Following the usual English alphabetical order, Eritrea and Ethiopia designated representatives to serve on the Executive Board starting from its 108th session which took place immediately after the Fifty-fourth World Health Assembly. Eritrea and Ethiopia joined Chad, Comoros, Congo (Brazzaville), Cote d'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea from the African Region.

21. The term of office of Chad, Comoros, Congo and Cote d'Ivoire will expire with the closure of the Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly. They will be replaced by Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, and Guinea which will attend the 110th session of the Executive Board in May 2002.

22. Member States entitled to designate persons to serve on the Executive Board as from its 110th session should confirm their availability at least six weeks before the Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly.

23. The Fifty-first World Health Assembly, by its resolution WHA51.26, decided that Member States entitled to designate a representative to serve on the Executive Board should designate them as

government representatives technically qualified in the field of health.

#### **MAIN COMMITTEES OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

24. The Thirty-first World Health Assembly, by its resolution WHA 31.1, decided that:
- (a) the terms of reference of Committee A shall be:
    - (i) to deal primarily with programme and budget matters;
    - (ii) to review the proposed programme budget and the Executive Board's report hereon;
    - (iii) to recommend the budget level and the appropriation resolution;
    - (iv) to consider the tentative budgetary projections for the following biennium and study such other items as shall be referred to it by the World Health Assembly (Rule 34);
  - (b) the terms of reference of Committee B shall be:
    - (i) to deal primarily with administrative, financial and legal matters;
    - (ii) to review WHO's financial position including: the Financial Report and the Report of the External Auditors; the status of contributions and advances to the Working Capital Fund; the status of any funds that have a bearing on WHO's financial position; and consideration of the amount of available casual income to be used to help finance the budget;
    - (iii) to recommend the sale of assessment; and
    - (iv) to study such other items as shall be referred to it by the World Health Assembly.
25. The Chairmen of these main committees shall be elected by the World Health Assembly after consideration of the Report of the Committee on Nominations.
26. Each main committee shall, after consideration of the report of the Committee on Nominations, elect two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.
27. Annex 4 to this report prepared for the information of members of the Committee on Nominations, shows the distribution by country of office-bearers at earlier health assemblies.
28. The Director-General, in consultation with the Regional Director shall, if necessary, consider before the Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly, delegates of Member States of the African Region who may serve effectively as:
- (a) Chairmen of the Main Committees A or B; and
  - (b) Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees.

#### **Informal meeting of the Regional Committee**

29. Before the opening of the Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly, the Regional Director will convene an informal meeting of the Regional Committee on Monday, 13 May 2002, at 8.30 a.m. at the *Palais des Nations*, Geneva. Information regarding the committee room where the meeting is to be held will be communicated in due course.
30. The informal meeting will confirm the decisions of the Regional Committee regarding Member States that will serve on the different committees of the World Health Assembly.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

31. In accordance with Executive Board resolution EB99.R28, the World Health Assembly, by its resolution WHA50.18, operative paragraph 2(1), decided that the Executive Board, when preparing the provisional agenda of each World Health Assembly, shall normally include individual technical programme items in that agenda as separate items only in the years when the World Health Assembly does not undertake a full review of the proposed biennial programme budget, thus allowing more time for discussing such technical items.

**ANNEX 1**

**DRAFT PROCEDURAL DECISION**

**METHOD OF WORK AND DURATION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH  
WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

**Vice President**

1. The Chairman of the Fifty-first session of the Regional Committee for Africa will be designated as Vice President of the Fifty-fifth session of the World Health Assembly to be held in May 2002.

**Main committees of the World Health Assembly**

2. The Director-General, in consultation with the Regional Director will, if necessary, consider before each World Health Assembly, the delegates of Member States of the African Region who are to serve effectively as:

- (a) Chairmen of the Main Committees A or B;
- (b) Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteurs of the main committees.

**Member States entitled to designate persons to service on the Executive Board**

3. Following the usual English alphabetical order, Eritrea and Ethiopia designated persons to serve on the Executive Board starting from the 108th session of the Board which took place immediately after the Fifty-fourth World Health Assembly, joining Chad, Comoros, Congo (Brazzaville), Cote d'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea from the African Region.

4. The term of office of Chad, Comoros, Congo and Cote d'Ivoire will expire with the closure of the Fifty-fifth Health Assembly. They will be replaced by Gabon, Gambia, Ghana and Guinea which will attend the 110th session of the Executive Board in May 2002.

5. The Member States entitled to designate persons to serve on the Executive Board should confirm their availability at least six weeks before the Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly.

6. The Fifty-first World Health Assembly, by resolution WHA51.26, decided that Member States entitled to designate a representative to the Executive Board should designate them as government representatives, technically qualified in the field of health.

**Informal meeting of the Regional Committee**

7. The Regional Director will convene this meeting on Monday, 13 May 2002, at 8.30 a.m. at the *Palais des Nations*, Geneva, to confirm the decisions taken by the Regional Committee at its Fifty-first session.

## ANNEX 2

## PRESIDENTS OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Thirtieth World Health Assembly (May 1977)	Dr S. TAPA (Tonga)	Forty-second World Health Assembly (May 1989)	Professor Minzhang CHEN (China)
Thirty-first World Health Assembly (May 1978)	Mr Kamaluddin MOHAMMED (Trinidad and Tobago)	Forty-third World Health Assembly (May 1990)	Dr P. NARANJO (Equador)
Thirty-second World Health Assembly (May 1979)	Professor P. TUCHINDA (Thailand)	Forty-fourth World Health Assembly (May 1991)	Dr P. NYMADAWA (Mongolia)
Thirty-third World Health Assembly (May 1980)	Dr A.R. AL-AWADI (Kuwait)	Forty-fifth World Health Assembly (May 1992)	Mr A. AL-BADI (United Arab Emirates)
Thirty-fourth World Health Assembly (May 1981)	Dr Neropi VIOLAKI-PARASKEVA (Greece)	Forty-sixth World Health Assembly (May 1993)	Mr C. ORTENDAHL (Sweden)
Thirty-fifth World Health Assembly (May 1982)	Mr M. DIOP (Senegal)	Forty-seventh World Health Assembly (May 1994)	Mr B.K. TEMANE (Botswana)
Thirty-sixth World Health Assembly (May 1983)	Mr TANSRI CHONG HONNYAN (Malaysia)	Forty-eighth World Health Assembly (May 1995)	Dato Dr H. JOHAR NOORDIN (Brunei Darussalam)
Thirty-seventh World Health Assembly (May 1984)	Dr G Soberon ACEVEDO (Mexico)	Forty-ninth World Health Assembly (May 1996)	Dr A.J. MAZZA (Argentina)
Thirty-eighth World Health Assembly (May 1985)	Dr S SURJANINGRAT (Indonesia)	Fiftieth World Health Assembly (May 1997)	Mr Saleem I. SHERVANI (India)
Thirty-ninth World Health Assembly (May 1986)	Dr Z. HAMZEH (Jordan)	Fifty-first World Health Assembly (May 1998)	Dr F.R. AI-MOUSAWI (Bahrain)
Fortieth World Health Assembly (May 1987)	Dr J. VAN LONDEN (The Netherlands)	Fifty-second World Health Assembly (May 1999)	Mrs Maria de Belem ROSEIRA (Portugal)
Forty-first World Health Assembly (May 1988)	Dr NGANDU-KABEYA DIBANDALA (Zaire)	Fifty-third World Health Assembly (May 2000)	Dr. Libertina AMATHILA (Namibia)
		Fifty-fourth World Health Assembly (May 2001)	Dr Hong Sun Huot (Cambodia)



**ANNEX/ANNEXE 3**

**REGIONAL LIST OF MEMBER STATES OF THE AFRICAN  
REGION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION SHOWING  
MEMBERS WHO ARE, OR WHO HAVE BEEN, ENTITLED TO  
DESIGNATE PERSONS TO SERVE ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD<sup>1</sup>**

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**LISTE DES ETATS MEMBRES DE LA REGION AFRICAINE  
DE L'ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE QUI SONT OU ONT ETE  
HABILITES A DESIGNER DES PERSONNES DEVANT  
FAIRE PARTIE DU CONSEIL EXECUTIF<sup>1</sup>**

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**LISTA DOS ESTADOS-MEMBROS DA REGIAO AFRICANA DA OMS  
QUE ESTAO OU ESTIVERAM HABILITADOS A DESIGNAR PESSOAS  
PARA O CONSELHO EXECUTIVO<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>In accordance with Rule 105 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly, "The term of office of each Member entitled to designate a person to serve on the Board shall begin immediately after the closing of the session of the Health Assembly at which the Member concerned is elected and shall end immediately after the closing of the session of the Health Assembly during which the Member is replaced".

Conformément à l'Article 105 du Règlement intérieur de l'Assemblée, "Le mandat de chaque Membre habilité à désigner une personne devant faire partie du Conseil commence immédiatement après la clôture de l'Assemblée de la Santé au cours de laquelle ce Membre est élu, et prend fin immédiatement après la clôture de la session de l'Assemblée de la Santé au cours de laquelle ce Membre est remplacé."

Nos termos do artigo 105º do Regulamento Interno da Assembleia da Saúde, "O mandato de cada Membro habilitado a designar uma pessoa para o Conselho Executivo começará imediatamente a seguir ao encerramento da Assembleia da Saúde no decorrer da qual esse Membro é eleito, e cessará logo após o encerramento da sessão da Assembleia no decurso da qual esse Membro é substituído".

IES

MEMBERS ENTITLED TO DESIGNATE PERSONS TO SERVE ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD  
 MEMBRES HABILITÉS À DESIGNER DES PERSONNES DEVANT FAIRE PARTIE DE CONSEIL EXECUTIF  
 MEMBROS HABILITADOS A DESIGNAR PESSOAS PARA O CONSELHO EXECUTIVO

YEAR OF ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE - ANNEE D'ELECTION ET DUREE DU MANDAT

	WHA43 1990	WHA44 1991	WHA45 1992	WHA46 1993	WHA47 1994	WHA48 1995	WHA49 1996	WHA50 1997	WHA51 1998	WHA52 1999	WHA53 2000	WHA54 2001	WHA55 2002	WHA56 2003	WHA57 2004
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**ANNEX/ANNEXE 4**

**DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTRY OF FUNCTIONS DURING  
PRECEDING ASSEMBLIES**

**REPARTITION PAR PAYS DES FONCTIONS EXERCEES  
AU COURS DES ASSEMBLEES PRECEDENTES**

The attached table provides information, by type of function, for each of the previous Assemblies.

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Le tableau ci-joint donne les informations par type de fonctions, pour chacune des Assemblées précédentes.

**Annex/Annexe 4**

**TABLE/TABLEAU**

	WHA47 47ème Assemblée 1994	WHA48 48è Assemblée 1995	WHA49 49ème Assemblée 1996	WHA50 50ème Assemblée 1997
Président President	Botswana	Brunei Darussalam	Argentina	India
Vice-Présidents Vice-Presidents	Lao People's Demo. Rep. Egypt Thailand Slovenia Argentina	Burkina Faso Mexico Iran Belarus Myanmar	Gabon Qatar Bulgaria Sri Lanka Fiji	Algeria Venezuela Libya Portugal China
Chairmen of Main Committees  Présidents des commissions principales	Indonesia, Com. "A"  Saudi Arabia, Com. "B"	Tanzania, Com. "A"  Poland, Com. "B"	Netherlands, Com. "A"  South Africa, Com. "B"	Belize, Com "A"  Kiribati, Com "B"
Other members of the General Committee  Autres membres du Bureau de l'Assemblée	Bahrain Burkina Faso Cape Verde China Cuba France Gabon Guatemala Guinea Iran Israel Japan Nigeria Russian Federation U.K. of Great Britain and Northern Ireland United States of America Venezuela	Bolivia Botswana China Cuba France Indonesia Japan Kenya Malawi Morocco Mozambique Oman Panama Russian Federation United Arab Emirates U.K. of Great Britain and Northern Ireland United States of America	Australia Canada China Croatia Cuba Ecuador France Lebanon Mali Nigeria Oman Russian Federation Thailand U.K. of Great Britain and Northern Ireland United States of America Zaire Zambia	Argentina Bulgaria Côte d'Ivoire Cuba Eritrea France Japan Morocco Mozambique Myanmar Russian Federation Seychelles South Africa Sweden United Arab Emirates U.K. of Great Britain and Northern Ireland United States of America
Vice-Chairmen of Main Committees  Vice-Présidents des Commissions principales	Belgium) Com. "A" Singapore)  Mexico) Com."B" Central Africa)	Morocco) Com."A" Solomon Islands)  India) Com. "B" Honduras)	El Salvador) Com. "A" Philippines)  Bangladesh) Com. "B" Kuwait)	Tunisia) Com. "A" Mauritius)  Russian Fed.) Com. "B" Nepal)
Rapporteurs of Main Committees  Rapporteurs des Commissions principales	Iraq, Com. "A"  Papua New Guinea, Com. "B"	Luxembourg, Com. "A"  Egypt, Com. "B"	Bhutan, Com. "A"  Hungary, Com. "B"	Switzerland, Com. "A"  Lebanon, Com. "B"

Annex/Annexe 4

TABLE/TABLEAU

	WHA51 51ème Assemblée 1998	WHA52 52è Assemblée 1999	WHA 53 53è Assemblée 2000	WHA 54 54è Assemblée 2001
Président President	Bahrain	Portugal	Namibia	Cambodia
Vice-Présidents Vice-Presidents	South Africa Dominican Republic Azerbaijan Bhutan Federated States of Micronesia	Bangladesh Jamaica Libyan Arab Jamahiriya Samoa Zimbabwe	Australia Haiti Kuwait India Uzbekistan	Burkina Faso Nicaragua Pakistan Belarus Dem. People's Rep. of Korea
Chairmen of Main Committees Présidents des commissions principales	New Zealand, Com. "A" Sri Lanka, Com. "B"	Oman, Com. "A" Mexico Co. "B"	Bangladesh Com. "A" Lebanon Com. "B"	Kenya Com. "A" Iceland Com. "B"
Other members of the General Committee  Autres membres du Bureau de l'Assemblée	Argentina Belarus Burundi China Cuba Cyprus France Guinea Bissau Jamaica Lebanon Niger Russian Federation Sierra Leone Spain Uganda U.K. of Great Britain and Northern Ireland United States of America	Argentina Benin Burkina Faso Cape Verde China Cuba France Israel Japan Kenya Lebanon Lithuania Russian Federation Sri Lanka U.K. of Great Britain and Northern Ireland United States of America Zambia	Bosnia and Herzegovina Burkina Faso Cape Verde Canada China Cuba France Germany Ghana Lesotho Oman Palau Russian Federation South Africa U.K of Great Britain and Northern Ireland United States of America Uruguay	Bahrain Bhutan Bolivia China Cuba D.R. of Congo Dominica France Guinea Bissau Iran (Islamic Republic of) Japan Mali Niger Russia Federation Sweden United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland United States of America
Vice-Chairmen of Main Committees Vice-Présidents des Commissions principales	Denmark) Com. "A" Nepal)  Equat. Guinea) Com. "B" Venezuela)	Ghana, Malaysia Com. "A"  Bhutan Finland Com. "B"	Nicaragua Com. "A" Malta  Algeria Com. "B" Fiji Com. "B"	United Arab Emirates Com. "A" Palau  Bahamas Com. "B" Thailand
Rapporteurs of Main Committees Rapporteurs des Commissions principales	Pakistan, Com. "A"  Czech Rep., Com. "B"	Kazakhstan Com. "A"  Chad Com. "B"	Madagascar Com. "A"  Thailand Com. "B"	Swaziland