

Ref.: C.L.39.2017

The World Health Organization (WHO) presents its compliments to Member States and has the honour to refer to Article 28(g) of the WHO Constitution which provides that the Executive Board will “submit to the Health Assembly for consideration and approval a general programme of work (GPW) covering a specific period.”

At the meeting with the Director-General and the Officers of the Executive Board on 31 July–1 August 2017, the Officers of the Board supported the Director-General’s recommendation that the preparation of the next GPW (GPW13) be fast-tracked to promote resource mobilization, preparation of the Proposed Programme Budget 2020–2021 and rapid implementation of the new Director-General’s mandate from Member States. The Officers of the Board envisioned a timeline such that the Board might submit in January 2018 GPW13 for consideration and approval by the Health Assembly in May 2018.

The Officers of the Board further supported the Director-General’s recommendation that GPW13 focus on high-level policy directions, centred around the Sustainable Development Goals and in line with the Director-General’s vision and priorities, as well as other global commitments. They proposed a schedule for its development that might be feasible to attain this target, including consultation on a concept note towards the 13th GPW with Member States, regional committees, and stakeholders. A mission briefing in WHO headquarters outlining the timeline and schedule was also anticipated.

Accordingly, following a mission briefing in WHO headquarters on 4 August 2017 and circulation of the Note for the Record of this meeting of the Officers of the Board (which may be found at <http://apps.who.int/gb/gov/chairman-and-officers-of-the-executive-board.html>), the Secretariat prepared a *Draft Concept Note towards WHO’s 13th General Programme of Work 2019–2023*. This document has been placed on the WHO website as of today’s date and may be found at <http://who.int/about/gpw-thirteen-consultation/en/>.

The Draft Concept Note will be discussed by the six regional committees taking place between 28 August and 13 October 2017.

During the same period, an informal web-based consultation on the Draft Concept Note will be open from Monday 28 August to Friday 13 October at the following website <http://who.int/about/gpw-thirteen-consultation/en/> for comments by Member States and other stakeholders. Comments received will be posted on the WHO website and publicly available.

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Following the completion of regional committee meetings and the web-based consultation, the Secretariat, based on feedback received, proposes to dispatch a draft 13th General Programme of Work (GPW13) to Member States on 1 November 2017. This draft would then be considered at a special session of the Executive Board on 22–23 November, should such a session be requested, as has been anticipated by the Officers of the Board at their meeting on 31 July–1 August.

Following the consideration of this matter at an anticipated special session of the Executive Board on 22–23 November, the Secretariat would, based on that consideration, prepare a draft 13th GPW for the 142nd session of the Executive Board in January 2018, with a view to its further consideration and submittal by the Board to the Health Assembly in May 2018 for final consideration and approval.

The relevant dates referred to above, are, in sum, as follows:

25 August:	Posting of the <i>Draft Concept Note towards WHO's 13th General Programme of Work 2019–2023</i> on the WHO website
28 August to 13 October:	Open period for feedback through regional committees and informal web-based consultation
1 November:	Posting of the <i>Draft 13th General Programme of Work (GPW13)</i> on the WHO website
22–23 November:	Special session of the Executive Board to consider the Draft GPW13 (subject to the session being requested)
22–27 January 2018:	142nd session of the Executive Board to further consider and submit GPW13 to the World Health Assembly in May 2018

The World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States the assurance of its highest consideration.

GENEVA, 25 August 2017