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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-fourth 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 in this regard will be transmitted to the Director-General.

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs
FIFTY-THIRD WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY	1-8
Ministerial Round Tables	2-4
World health report	5-8
METHOD OF WORK AND DURATION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY	9-22
Credentials	14-15
Reimbursement of travel expenses	16
President of the World Health Assembly	17
Vice-President of the World Health Assembly	18
Members States entitled to designate persons to serve on the Executive Board	19-22
MAIN COMMITTEES OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY	23-29
Member States due for elective posts at the 54 th session of the World Health Assembly	28
Informal meeting of the Regional Committee	29-30
TECHNICAL ISSUES	31

ANNEXES

	Pages
1. Draft procedural decision	6
2. Presidents of the World Health Assembly	7
3. List of Member States of the WHO African Region who are, or have been, entitled to designate persons to serve on the Executive Board	8
4. Distribution by country of functions during preceding assemblies	10

FIFTY-THIRD WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

1. The Fifty-third World Health Assembly lasted six days

Ministerial Round Tables

2. The Ministerial Round Tables whose main purpose is to promote interaction among, and the participation of, ministers and heads of delegation, has now become a feature of the World Health Assembly and had as its theme this year, "**Addressing the major health system challenges**". Four round tables were thus held during the Fifty-third World Health Assembly and were moderated by Chairmen selected by the Health Assembly.
3. Participants were ministers of health or persons designated to personally represent ministers of health at policy-making gatherings. The discussions which were held in public and which all delegates were welcome to attend were inspiring and productive. The discussions focused on the three key goals of health systems identified in WHO's new framework for assessing the performance of health systems: achieving good health, enhancing responsiveness to the expectations of the population and assuring fairness of financial contributions.
4. The ministers welcomed the framework as a crucial tool for strengthening health systems. A composite report summarizing the discussions was presented to the plenary.

World Health Report 2000

5. The world health report this year is entitled - "**Health Systems: Improving Performance**". The primary goal of health systems is obviously to improve and protect health. However, in the pursuit of this goal, due consideration must be given to equitable sharing of the cost of health care and how health systems respond to people's expectations about how they will be treated.
6. The report defined four key functions that health systems must fulfil: the stewardship role of governments; health services provision; human and physical resource generation; appropriate financing.
7. WHO considers The world health report 2000 as just a milestone in a long-term process and notes that the measurement of health system performance will be a regular feature of World health reports from now on.
8. In her message that prefaced the report, the Director-General stated that although the report could not provide definite answers to every question about the performance of health systems, she hoped that it would help policy makers to make wise choices so that substantial gains would be possible for all countries, with the poor being the principal beneficiaries.

METHOD OF WORK AND DURATION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

9. It has been proposed that the fifty-fourth World Health Assembly be convened on Monday 14 May 2001 at the *Palais des Nations*, Geneva and that the Assembly be closed not later than Tuesday, 22 May 2001.

10. 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 deliberating upon The World Health Report 2000 at a shortened plenary meeting, delegates at the Health Assembly will be:

- (a) requested to limit, to five minutes, their statements in such discussions;
- (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. The statements should focus on the theme of *The world health report*.

11. 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.

12. 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 (Room A656) by the morning of Monday, 14 May 2001.

13. *World Health Day 2001 and The world health report 2001* will be devoted to mental health. Mental health problems are taking a heavy toll on all societies. The world health report 2001 will underline the premise that mental health is vital to the health of each individual and that all Member States need therefore to develop national policies and programmes for the promotion of mental health, the prevention of mental disorders and the provision of care for persons with mental illness. The events being planned in conjunction with World Health Day 2001 are expected to raise awareness of the burden of mental health problems, provide information on advances made in neurosciences and service research, and initiate or strengthen programmes and services.

Credentials

14. Member States shall be represented at the Fifty-fourth Health Assembly by not more than three delegates who may be accompanied by alternates and advisers. Credentials, to be issued by the Head of State, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Health or any other appropriate authority should be delivered to the Secretariat of WHO Governing Bodies by 27 April 2001. Only original documents shall be examined and considered formal credentials by the Committee on Credentials. Faxes, though not considered as formal means of presenting credentials, may be sent to the Governing Bodies (fax: 41 22 791 41 73) for advanced information prior to the delivery of the original credentials document.

15. Member States, especially those that have been proposed to hold elective posts during the Assembly, should note that it is very important to submit their credentials and confirm their attendance early. Failure to do so will result in another country being assigned to the post concerned.

Reimbursement of travel expenses

16. Resolution WHA50.1 provides that Member States that the United Nations has classified as *Least Developed Countries* shall be reimbursed for the actual travel expenses of one delegate each. In accordance with WHO policy, the reimbursement shall cover travel by the most direct route. This rule also applies to attendance of Regional Committee meetings (WHA52.9).

President of the World Health Assembly

17. In accordance with Decision 5(3) of the thirty-third session of the Regional Committee, the Forty-ninth session of the Regional Committee proposed the Chairman of the forty-ninth session of the Regional Committee for the office of President of the Fifty-third World Health Assembly.

Vice-President of the World Health Assembly

18. The African Region will designate a candidate for the post of Vice-President of the Fifty-fourth World Health Assembly.

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

19. Following the usual English alphabetical order, Equatorial Guinea designated a representative to serve on the Executive Board starting from its 106th session which took place immediately after the Fifty-third World Health Assembly. Equatorial Guinea thus joined Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo (Brazzaville) and Cote d'Ivoire from the African Region (Annex 4).

20. The term of office of Cape Verde and Central African Republic will expire with the closure of the Fifty-fourth World Health Assembly. They will be replaced by Eritrea and Ethiopia which will attend the 108th session of the Executive Board in May 2001.

21. Member States entitled to designate persons to serve on the Executive Board as from its 108th session should confirm their availability at least six weeks before the Fifty-fourth World Health Assembly.

22. 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

23. The Thirty-first World Health Assembly, by resolution its WHA31.1, decided that:

(i) the terms of reference of Committee A shall be:

- to deal primarily with programme and budget matters;
- to review the proposed programme budget and the Executive Board's report thereon;
- to recommend the budget level and the appropriation resolution;
- 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);

(ii) the terms of reference of Committee B shall be:

- to deal primarily with administrative, financial and legal matters;
- to review WHO's financial position including: the Financial Report and the Report of the External Auditor; 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;
- to recommend the scale of assessment; and
- to study such other items as shall be referred to it by the World Health Assembly.

24. The Chairmen of these main committees shall be elected by the World Health Assembly after consideration of the Report of the Committee on Nominations.

25. Each main committee shall, after consideration of the report of the Committee on Nominations, elect two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

26. 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.

27. The Director-General, in consultation with the Regional Director shall, if necessary, consider before the Fifty-fourth World Health Assembly, delegates of Member States of the African Region who may serve effectively as:

- Chairmen of the Main Committees A or B; and
- Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees.

Member States due for elective posts at the 54th session of the World Health Assembly

28. The following Member States are due to be elected to offices of the World Health Assembly:

Rapporteur (English) Committee B: Swaziland;
Chairman: Committee A: Kenya;
Vice-President: *Burkina Faso* (Chairman RC50);
Credentials Committee: Uganda, Mozambique, Liberia;
Nominations Committee: Chad, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea, Nigeria;
General Committee: Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Mali.

Informal meeting of the Regional Committee

29. Before the opening of the Fifty-fourth World Health Assembly, the Regional Director will convene an informal meeting of the Regional Committee on Monday, 14 May 2001, at 8.00 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. Member States are requested to note the countries that will be proposed and ensure that credentials are promptly sent to the WHO Headquarters.

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-FOURTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

President of the World Health Assembly

1. The President of the Fifty-third session of the World Health Assembly held in May 2000, was designated by the African Region. Furthermore, the Chairman of the fiftieth session of the Regional Committee for Africa will be designated as Vice - President of the Fifty-fourth session of the World Health Assembly to be held in May 2001.

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:

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

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

3. Following the usual English alphabetical order, Equatorial Guinea designated persons to serve on the Executive Board starting from the 106th session of the Board which took place immediately after the Fifty-third World Health Assembly, thus joining Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo (Brazzaville) and Cote d'Ivoire from the African Region (Annex 3).

4. The term of office of Cape Verde and Central African Republic will expire with the closure of the Fifty-fourth Health Assembly. They will be replaced by Eritrea and Ethiopia which will attend the 108th session of the Executive Board in May 2001.

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-fourth 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, 14 May 2001, at 08.00 a.m. at the *Palais des Nations*, Geneva, to confirm the decisions taken by the Regional Committee at its fiftieth session.

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)

ANNEX/ANNEXE 3

**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 BOARD¹**

**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 EXECUTIF¹**

**LISTA DOS ESTADOS-MEMBROS DA REGIAO AFRICANA DA OMS
QUE ESTAO OU ESTIVERAM HABILITADOS A DESIGNAR PESSOAS
PARA O CONSELHO EXECUTIVO¹**

¹In accordance with Rule 105 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly, "The term of office of each Member State 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".

REGION AND COUNTRIES REGION ET PAYS	MEMBERS STATES ENTITLED TO DESIGNATE PERSONS TO SERVE ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBRES HABILITES A DESIGNER DES PERSONNES DEVANT FAIRE PARTIE DE CONSEIL EXECUTIF MEMBROS HABILITADOS A DESIGNAR PERSONAS PARA O CONSELHO EXECUTIVO													
	YEAR OF ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE ANNEE DELECTION ET DUREE DU MANDAT													
	WHA41 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
Algeria														
Angola														
Benin														
Botswana														
Burkina Faso														
Burundi														
Cameroon														
Cape Verde														
Central African Republic														
Chad														
Comoros														
Congo, Republic of														
Côte d'Ivoire														
Equatorial Guinea														
Eritrea														
Ethiopia														
Gabon														
Gambia														
Ghana														
Guinea														
Guinea Bissau														
Kenya														
Lesotho														
Liberia														
Madagascar														
Malawi														
Mali														
Mauritania														
Mauritius														
Mozambique														
Namibia														
Niger														
Nigeria														
Rwanda														
Sao Tome & Principe														
Senegal														
Seychelles														
Sierra Leone														
South Africa														
Swaziland														
Togo														
Tanzania														
Uganda														
Congo Democratic														
Zambia														
Zimbabwe														

X = Served/Serving Members STATES
 * = Likely to be elected at WHA

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.

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

TABLE/TABLEAU

	46th Health Assembly 46ème Assemblée 1993	47th Health Assembly 47ème Assemblée 1994	48th Health Assembly 48è Assemblée 1995	49th Health Assembly 49ème Assemblée 1996
Président President	Sweden	Botswana	Brunei Darussalam	Argentina
Vice-Présidents Vice-Presidents	Honduras Lebanon Maldives Vanuatu Zambia	Lao People's Demo. Rep. Egypt Thailand Slovenia Argentina	Burkina Faso Mexico Iran Belarus Myanmar	Gabon Qatar Bulgaria Sri Lanka Fiji
Chairmen of Main Committees Présidents des commissions principales	Tunisia, Com. "A" Barbados, Com. "B"	Indonesia, Com. "A" Saudi Arabia, Com. "B"	Tanzania, Com. "A" Poland, Com. "B"	Netherlands, Com. "A" South Africa, Com. "B"
Other members of the General Committee Autres membres du Bureau de l'Assemblée	Bangladesh Brazil Cameroon China Cuba France Ghana Japan Kuwait Mali Norway Qatar Russian Federation Uganda U.K. of Great Britain and Northern Ireland United States of America Zimbabwe	Bahrain Burkina Faso Cape Verde China Cuba France Gabon Guatemala Guinea Iran Israel Japan Nigeria Russian Federation U.K. of G.B. & Northern Ireland U.S.A. Venezuela	Bolivia Botswana China Cuba France Indonesia Japan Kenya Malawi Morocco Mozambique Oman Panama Russian Federation United Arab Emirates United Kingdom 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 & Northern Ireland United States of America Zaire Zambia
Vice-Chairmen of Main Committees Vice-Présidents des Commissions principales	Argentina) Com "A" Ireland)	Belgium) Com. "A" Singapore)	Morocco) Com. "A" Solomon Islands)	El Salvador) Com. "A" Philippines)
Rapporteurs of Main Committees Rapporteurs des Commissions principales	Fiji, Com "A" United Arab Emirates, Com. "B"	Iraq, Com "A" Papua New Guinea, Com. "B"	Luxembourg, Com. "A" Egypt, Com. "B"	Bhutan, Com. "A" Hungary, Com. "B"

TABLE/TABLEAU

	50th Health Assembly 50ème Assemblée 1997	51 Health Assembly 51ème Assemblée 1998	52 Health Assembly 52è Assemblée 1999	53 Health Assembly 53è Assemblée 2000
Président President	India	Bahrain	Portugal	Namibia
Vice-Présidents Vice-Presidents	Algeria Venezuela Libya Portugal China	South Africa Dominican Republic Azerbaijan Bhutan Federated States of Micronesia	Bangladesh Jamaica Libyan Arab Jamahiriya Samoa Zimbabwe	Australia Haiti Kuwait India Uzbekistan
Chairmen of Main Committees Présidents des commissions principales	Belize, Com "A" Kiribati, Com "B"	New Zealand, Com. "A" Sri Lanka, Com. "B"	Oman, Com. "A" Mexico Co. "B"	Bangladesh Com. "A" Lebanon Com. "B"
Other members of the General Committee Autres membres du Bureau de l'Assemblée	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	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 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland United States of America Uruguay
Vice-Chairmen of Main Committees Vice-Présidents des Commissions principales	Tunisia) Com "A" Mauritius) Russian Fed) Com "B" Nepal)	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"
Rapporteurs of Main Committees Rapporteurs des Commissions principales	Switzerland, Com. "A" Lebanon, Com. "B"	Pakistan, Com. "A" Czech Rep., Com. "B"	Kazakhstan Com. "A" Chad Com. "B"	Madagascar Com. "A" Thailand Com. "B"