



REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

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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-sixth 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 and advise on the draft procedural decisions. Decisions taken will be transmitted to the Director-General.

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FIFTY-FIFTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

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

Outcome of the Assembly

2. The Director-General welcomed participants and stressed the fact that Health for All is vital for human security. She pointed out the fact that advocacy for health has moved beyond circles of health professionals to become a concern of all stakeholders. The Director-General emphasized that good health is essential for the security of the future of the world.
3. The Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly tackled challenging and complex problems. Three items under technical matters were postponed to the Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly. There were two invited speakers, Dr Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF, and Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Center for International Development at Harvard University, Chair of the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health and recently-appointed Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals.
4. WHO was requested by the delegates to take a strong leadership role in the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and also to provide support to countries in the preparation of their project proposals. They commended and pledged support to WHO's contribution towards achieving the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.
5. A resolution on the global strategy for HIV/AIDS was adopted and many new alliances and partnerships were formed to address the problem of lack of access to drugs and other life-saving interventions.
6. At the World Health Assembly last year, the theme of the Round Tables was on mental health and at this year's Health Assembly, a resolution was passed stressing the universality of mental illness. Another important resolution adopted was on care and patient safety, a problem facing both rich and poor countries.

Ministerial Round Tables

7. The Ministerial Round Tables, introduced at the World Health Assembly in order to enhance the involvement of the ministers and heads of delegation in policy debate, has added value to the Assembly, making it possible to deal more effectively with the overall health agenda, with delegates learning from one another.
8. This year, the Ministerial Round Tables, four in all, were held concurrently on the same theme: *Risk to health*. Now, more than ever, governments and policy-makers are faced with many and varied risks to health. Bringing together reliable, quantitative and comparable information on the impact of different risks to health should be a key consideration for health policy.
9. How information pertaining to risks are communicated largely determines how risks are perceived and managed.
10. An important challenge for policy makers is to ensure adequate planning for uncertain risks, while not foregoing the opportunity to increase the use of cost-effective prevention strategies that address known major causes of death and disability.

11. Much of the present global burden of disease and injury could be controlled with known cost-effective interventions.

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

12. It is proposed to convene the Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly on Monday, 19 May 2003 at the *Palais des Nations*, Geneva, and to close the Assembly no later than Tuesday, 28 May 2003.

13. In line with resolution WHA52.21 on 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 in advance, using 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, 19 May 2003.

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 3 May 2003. 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 as formal credentials by the Committee on Credentials. Faxes and e-mails are not considered as 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 Member States that are classified as least developed countries by the United Nations shall be reimbursed for the actual travelling expenses of one delegate each. In accordance with WHO policy, travel will be by the most direct route, full fare economy class.

Vice-President of the World Health Assembly

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

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

20. Following the usual English alphabetical order, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea designated representatives to serve on the Executive Board starting from its 110th session which took place immediately after the fifty-fifth World Health Assembly. These four countries joined Eritrea, Ethiopia and Equatorial Guinea from the African Region.

21. The term of office of Equatorial Guinea will expire with the closure of the fifty-sixth World Health Assembly. It will be replaced by Guinea-Bissau which will attend the 112th session of the Executive Board in May 2003.

22. Member States entitled to designate persons to serve on the Executive Board as from its 112th session should confirm their availability at least six weeks before the Fifty-sixth 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 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 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;
- to recommend the scale of assessment; and
- 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-sixth 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-sixth World Health Assembly, the Regional Director will convene an informal meeting of the Regional Committee on Monday, 19 May 2003, 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 proposals 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-SIXTH
WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY****Vice President**

1. The Chairman of the Fifty-second session of the Regional Committee for Africa will be designated as Vice President of the Fifty-sixth session of the World Health Assembly to be held in May 2003.

Main committees of the World Health Assembly

2. The Director-General, in consultation with the Regional Director for Africa 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, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea designated persons to serve on the Executive Board starting from the 110th session of the Board which took place immediately after the Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly, joining Eritrea, Ethiopia and Equatorial Guinea from the African Region.
4. The term of office of Equatorial Guinea will expire with the closure of the Fifty-sixth Health Assembly. It will be replaced by Guinea-Bissau which will attend the 112th session of the Executive Board in May 2003.
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-sixth World Health Assembly.
6. The Fifty-first World Health Assembly, by its 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, 19 May 2003, at 8.30 a.m. at the *Palais des Nations*, Geneva.

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)
		Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly (May 2002)	Dr J.F. López Beltrán (El Salvador)

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 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 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".

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	WHA58 2005	WHA59 2006
AFRICA - AFRIQUE																	
Algeria						X	XX	XX	X	XX	X	X	X				
Angola							X	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX				
Benin							X	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX				
Botswana							X	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX				
Burkina Faso							X	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX				
Burundi					XX		X	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX				
Cameroon			X														
Cape Verde						X											
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	X																
Malawi	X																
Mali	X																
Mauritania	X																
Mauritius	X																
Mozambique	XX																
Namibia	XX																
Niger	XX																
Nigeria	XX																
Rwanda	X																
Sao Tome & Principe	X																
Senegal	X																
Seychelles	X																
Sierra Leone	X																
South Africa	X																
Swaziland	X																
Togo	X																
Tanzania	X																
Uganda	X																
Congo Democratic	XX																
Zambia	XX																
Zimbabwe	X																

X = Served/Serving Members
* = 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.

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	WHA 54 55è Assemblée 2002
Président President	Bahrain	Portugal	Namibia	Cambodia	El Salvador
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	Botswana Ukraine Nepal Kiribati Oman
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"	Ireland Senegal
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 Germany 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 Dorinica 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	Barbados China Cote d'Ivoire Cuba Democratic People's Republic of Korea France Japan Mexico Morocco Russian Federation Rwanda Sao Tome and Principe Sierra Leone Spain United Arab Emirates United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and 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	Brazil India Tunisia Viet Nam
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	Comoros Indonesia