

**WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION**



**ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉ**

**REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DU PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL**

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

**Sixty-ninth session
Manila, Philippines
8–12 October 2018**

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Provisional agenda item 17

**COORDINATION OF THE WORK OF
THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
AND THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

Coordinating the work of WHO governing bodies is critical to accomplish the strategic priorities set in the *Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019–2023* and WHO transformation. To improve transparency and inclusiveness in governing body processes, proposed main agenda items for the seventieth session of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific in 2019 are provided in Annex 2 for Regional Committee review and prioritization. Member States may also share other proposals for technical agenda items, along with background information to support their prioritization.

In addition, updates are provided on WHO reform and transformation, including geographically dispersed specialized offices, and items recommended for Regional Committee discussion by the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board. Resolutions of the World Health Assembly in 2018 are listed in Annex 3. The provisional agenda of the 144th session of the WHO Executive Board is in Annex 4.

1. PROPOSED TECHNICAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE SEVENTIETH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

In accordance with the revised agenda development process endorsed in 2015 by the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific, the Secretariat proposes four technical agenda items for the seventieth session of the Regional Committee in 2019. The Secretariat has considered: (a) regional strategies to be renewed; (b) adaptation of World Health Assembly resolutions to the context of the Region; and (c) issues requested by Regional Committee resolutions.

Table 1 shows the list of proposed technical agenda items along three agenda categories. Annex 1 provides the list of technical agenda items discussed at the Regional Committee from 2013 to 2018, along with information on categories for inclusion. Annex 2 provides background information on each proposed agenda item for 2019.

Member States are requested to review the four proposed technical agenda items for the seventieth session of the Regional Committee in 2019. Member States may also wish to share other proposed technical items with background information to support their prioritization.

Table 1. Proposed technical agenda items for the seventieth session of the Regional Committee

Categories	Agenda item
(a) Renewal of regional strategies	1. Tobacco Free Initiative in the Western Pacific Region 2. Regional implementation plan on ageing and health 3. Review of antimicrobial resistance action agenda (updating priority areas for action in light of progress and the global action plan)
(b) Adaptation of World Health Assembly resolutions	(No items proposed for 2019)
(c) Issues requested by Regional Committee resolutions	4. Protecting children from the harmful impact of food marketing

2. WHO REFORM

In relation to programme and management reforms, the World Health Assembly in May 2018 endorsed the *Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019–2023* (GPW 13). This document sets the mission and strategic priorities for WHO work over the next five years. To deliver on GPW 13, WHO

will have to evolve its ways of working. To that end, the Director-General launched the *WHO Transformation Plan and Architecture*. This plan builds on reforms since 2009 in the Region and in other major offices, guiding continuing efforts to improve ways of working in WHO.

In relation to governance reforms, the WHO Executive Board in May 2018 adopted decision EB143(6) requesting the officers of the Executive Board to apply on a trial basis an amended prioritization tool for preparation of the provisional agenda of the 144th session of the Executive Board, where they will also report on the use of tool.

The Regional Committee is requested to note the progress on WHO reform and transformation.

2.1 Update on geographically dispersed specialized offices

Geographically dispersed specialized offices (GDSOs) are WHO offices that are housed in a different location from the major WHO office that manages them, but contribute to the major office's work. In 2017, in considering the Secretariat's review of existing WHO GDSOs globally, the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific supported the use of GDSOs as an innovative modality for attracting resources and advancing the WHO programme of work.¹

The WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific issued a request for expressions of interest to ministers of health on 5 December 2017. The request identified three areas of Secretariat interest for establishing a GDSO in line with WHO priorities, namely ageing, environmental health and urban health. Non-binding expressions of interest were received from China to host a GDSO on urban health and from the Republic of Korea to host a GDSO on environmental health.

Thereafter, the Secretariat entered into ongoing bilateral discussions with each Member State towards establishment of these offices.

3. ITEMS RECOMMENDED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Seventy-first World Health Assembly adopted 16 resolutions and 16 decisions contained in Annex 3. The 143rd session of the Executive Board adopted two resolutions and nine decisions. The draft provisional agenda of the 144th session of the Executive Board is available in Annex 4.

¹ WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific. [Coordination of the work of the World Health Assembly, the Executive Board and the Regional Committee](#), 21 September 2017

The following items are referred to regional committees for further action or consideration:

- Executive Board decision EB142(5) on health, environment and climate change
- World Health Assembly decision WHA71(8) on addressing the global shortage of, and access to, medicines and vaccines
- World Health Assembly resolution WHA70.15 on promoting the health of refugees and migrants

The background of each of these items is described below. Member States may provide comments on each draft document to the respective focal point at WHO headquarters, or if preferred by email to wprorcm@who.int.

3.1 Executive Board decision EB142(5) on health, environment and climate change

Through decision EB142(5) on health, environment and climate change, the Director-General was requested to develop, in consultation with Member States and other stakeholders, and in coordination with the regional offices and with other relevant United Nations programmes and specialized agencies, a draft comprehensive global strategy on health, environment and climate change. Regional committees are asked to comment and provide input on the [draft WHO global strategy on health, environment and climate change](#) in accordance with decision WHA65(9). The focal point is Dr Joy St. John (stjohnjo@who.int).

3.2 World Health Assembly decision WHA71(8) on addressing the global shortage of, and access to, medicines and vaccines

Through decision WHA71(8), the Director-General was requested to elaborate a road map report, in consultation with Member States, outlining the programming of WHO work on access to medicines and vaccines, including activities, actions and deliverables for 2019–2023. A document has been prepared describing the [development of the road map on access to medicines and vaccines](#), including Member State consultations. The focal point is Dr Mariangela Simão (simaom@who.int).

3.3 World Health Assembly resolution WHA70.15 on promoting the health of refugees and migrants

Through resolution WHA70.15, the Director-General was requested to identify best practices, experiences and lessons learnt on the health of refugees and migrants in each region, in order to contribute to the [development of a draft global action plan on the health of refugees and migrants](#) to be considered for adoption by the Seventy-second World Health Assembly in 2019. The focal point is Dr Ranieri Guerra (guerrar@who.int).

ANNEX 1

LIST OF TECHNICAL AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE FROM 2013 TO 2018 WITH INFORMATION ON CATEGORIES FOR INCLUSION

Regional Committee session (Year)	Agenda items	Categories for inclusion for main technical agenda items		
		(a) Regional strategies to be renewed	(b) Adaptation of World Health Assembly resolutions	(c) Issues proposed by Member States or the Secretariat ²
Sixty-ninth (2018)	Neglected tropical diseases	✓		
	Rehabilitation		✓	
	Strengthening legal frameworks for health in the Sustainable Development Goals			✓
	E-health for integrated service delivery			✓
	Planning and managing hospitals			✓
Sixty-eighth (2017)	Measles and rubella elimination			✓
	Protecting children from the harmful impact of food marketing			✓
	Health promotion in the Sustainable Development Goals			✓
	Triple elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B		✓	
	Transitioning to integrated financing of priority health services			✓
	Regulatory strengthening and convergence for medicines and health workforce			✓
	Food safety	✓		
Sixty-seventh (2016)	Dengue	✓		
	Malaria	✓	✓	
	Environmental health			✓
	Sustainable Development Goals			✓
	Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies	✓	✓	

² Items classified under category (c) issues proposed by Member States or the Secretariat were newly raised issues or those not recently addressed by the Regional Committee or the World Health Assembly. Proposal by Member States or the Secretariat is also a prerequisite for categories (a) and (b).

Annex 1

Sixty-sixth (2015)	Viral hepatitis			✓
	Tuberculosis	✓	✓	
	Universal health coverage	✓		✓
	Violence and injury prevention			✓
	Urban health	✓		
Sixty-fifth (2014)	Mental health		✓	
	Tobacco Free Initiative	✓		
	Antimicrobial resistance		✓	
	Expanded Programme on Immunization		✓	
	Emergencies and disasters		✓	
Sixty-fourth (2013)	Blindness prevention		✓	
	Ageing and health			✓
	Hepatitis B control through vaccination			✓
	Noncommunicable disease	✓	✓	

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE SEVENTIETH SESSION
OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC
WITH SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

A. Regional strategies to be renewed

1. Tobacco Free Initiative in the Western Pacific Region

Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death, killing both tobacco users and those exposed to second-hand smoke. Guided by five-year regional action plans endorsed by Member States, the Tobacco Free Initiative in the Western Pacific Region supports countries to strengthen tobacco control measures in line with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. While the midterm assessment of the *Regional Action Plan for the Tobacco Free Initiative in the Western Pacific (2015-2019)* showed significant progress among Member States, efforts must be intensified further to achieve the global voluntary target of 30% relative reduction in adult tobacco use prevalence by 2025 and the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Regional implementation plan on ageing and health

Ageing is a key public health challenge globally and for Member States in the Western Pacific Region. Countries across the Region have made good progress in line with the *Regional Framework for Action on Ageing and Health in the Western Pacific (2014–2019)* and the *Global Strategy and Action Plan on Ageing and Health (2016–2020)*. However, there is a need for greater urgency and better preparedness. This item would take stock of the situation across the Region, build on the work conducted under the expiring regional action framework and propose an action plan for strengthening and accelerating action into the future to maximize the health and well-being of people as they age and ensure that older people have access to services that meet their needs.

3. Review of antimicrobial resistance action agenda (updating priority areas for action in light of progress and the global action plan)

In 2014, the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific endorsed the *Action Agenda for Antimicrobial Resistance in the Western Pacific Region*, which encompassed the development of national action plans to improve surveillance and strengthen health systems capacity. There has been substantial progress across the Region, particularly in light of the resources available following the *Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (2015)*. However, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) continues to increase and threatens to reverse public health gains and the achievement of universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals. The review of the regional action agenda will take stock of progress to date and consider how to accelerate action to combat AMR in the broader context of health and development, including strengthening multisectoral actions, raising accountability and linking with actions around the reduction of health inequalities across countries and populations.

Annex 2

B. Adaptation of World Health Assembly resolutions to the Region

No items are proposed in this category for 2019.

C. Issues requested by Regional Committee resolutions

4. Protecting children from the harmful impact of food marketing

The nutrition landscape has undergone dramatic changes in past decades, spurred by rapid economic growth, urbanization and globalization. Unhealthy foods have now become more available and accessible. Increased consumption of unhealthy foods and beverages is a major contributor to overweight and obesity, which is rising in the Region. At no time in history have children been more exposed to potential harm from the marketing of unhealthy breast-milk substitutes, food and non-alcoholic beverages. Concerned with this, the Regional Committee requested in 2017 that the Regional Director develop a regional action plan on protecting children from the harmful impact of food marketing, in consultation with Member States and seeking views of key stakeholders ([WPR/RC68.R3](#)).

**RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE SEVENTY-FIRST
WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

Resolution number	Title of resolution
WHA71.1	Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019–2023
WHA71.2	Preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, to be held in 2018
WHA71.3	Preparation for a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on ending tuberculosis
WHA71.4	Cholera prevention and control
WHA71.5	Addressing the burden of snakebite envenoming
WHA71.6	WHO global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030
WHA71.7	Digital health
WHA71.8	Improving access to assistive technology
WHA71.9	Infant and young child feeding
WHA71.10	Status of collection of assessed contributions, including Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution
WHA71.11	Deputy Directors-General
WHA71.12	Salaries of staff in ungraded positions and of the Director-General
WHA71.13	Reform of the global internship programme
WHA71.14	Rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease
WHA71.15	Multilingualism: respect for equality among the official languages
WHA71.16	Poliomyelitis – containment of polioviruses

Decision number	Title of decision
WHA71(1)	Composition of the Committee on Credentials
WHA71(2)	Election of officers of the Seventy-first World Health Assembly
WHA71(3)	Election of officers of the main committees
WHA71(4)	Establishment of the General Committee
WHA71(5)	Adoption of the agenda
WHA71(6)	Verification of credentials
WHA71(7)	Election of Members entitled to designate a person to serve on the Executive Board
WHA71(8)	Addressing the global shortage of, and access to, medicines and vaccines
WHA71(9)	Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property: overall programme review
WHA71(10)	Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

Annex 3

WHA71(11)	Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework for the sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits
WHA71(12)	WHO programmatic and financial reports for 2016–2017, including audited financial statements for 2017
WHA71(13)	Report of the External Auditor
WHA71(14)	Appointment of representatives to the WHO Staff Pension Committee
WHA71(15)	Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005): five-year global strategic plan to improve public health preparedness and response, 2018–2023
WHA71(16)	Selection of the country in which the Seventy-second World Health Assembly would be held

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD



EXECUTIVE BOARD
144th session
Geneva, 24 January–1 February 2019

EB144/1 (draft)
26 June 2018

Draft provisional agenda

1. *Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda*
2. **Report by the Director-General**
3. **Report of the Regional Committees**
4. **Report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board**
5. **Strategic priority matters**
 - 5.1 Proposed programme budget 2020–2021
 - 5.2 Public health preparedness and response: Report of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme
 - 5.3 Polio
 - Eradication
 - Transition
 - 5.4 Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
 - 5.5 Health, environment and climate change
 - 5.6 Addressing the global shortage of, and access to, medicines and vaccines, including for cancer prevention and control
 - 5.7 Eleventh revision of the International Classification of Diseases

Annex 4

6. *Other technical matters*

- 6.1 Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework for the sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits
- 6.2 Member State mechanism on substandard and falsified medical products
- 6.3 Human resources for health
- 6.4 Promoting the health of refugees and migrants

7. *Managerial, administrative and governance matters*

- 7.1 WHO reform
- 7.2 Evaluation of the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization
- 7.3 Engagement with non-State actors
- 7.4 Membership of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee
- 7.5 Multilingualism
- 7.6 World health days
- 7.7 Reports of committees of the Executive Board
 - Foundations and awards
- 7.8 Future meetings of the governing bodies
 - Provisional agenda of the Seventy-second World Health Assembly
 - Date and place of the 145th session of the Executive Board

8. *Financial matters*

- 8.1 Financing and implementation of the Programme budget 2018–2019
- 8.2 Scale of assessments for 2020–2021
- 8.3 Amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules [if any]

9. *Human resources*

- 9.1 Appointment of the Regional Director for South-East Asia
- 9.2 Appointment of the Regional Director for the Western Pacific
- 9.3 Statement by the representative of the WHO staff associations
- 9.4 Report of the Ombudsman
- 9.5 Human resources update, including on the global internship programme
- 9.6 Report of the International Civil Service Commission
- 9.7 Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules [if any]

10. *Matters for information*

- 10.1 Outcome of the third High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and control of Non-communicable diseases
- 10.2 Outcome of the Second International Conference on Nutrition
- 10.3 Outcome of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on ending tuberculosis
- 10.4 Evaluation: update
- 10.5 Reports of advisory bodies
 - Expert committees and study groups
 - Expert advisory panels and committees and their membership

11. *Closure of the session*

Annex 4

Note: in line with resolution WHA67.2 (2014), the following items will be considered by the Health Assembly under progress reports.

<i>Communicable diseases</i>
<i>Addressing the burden of mycetoma (resolution WHA69.21 (2016))</i>
<i>Global technical strategy and targets for malaria 2016–2030 (resolution WHA68.2 (2015))</i>
<i>Eradication of dracunculiasis (resolution WHA64.16 (2011))</i>
<i>Pandemic influenza preparedness: sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits (resolution WHA64.5 (2011))</i>
<i>Noncommunicable diseases</i>
<i>Sustaining the elimination of iodine deficiency disorders (resolutions WHA60.21 (2007))</i>
<i>Promoting health through the life course</i>
<i>Strategy for integrating gender analysis and actions into the work of WHO (resolution WHA60.25 (2007))</i>
<i>Working towards universal coverage of maternal, newborn and child health interventions (resolution WHA58.31 (2005))</i>
<i>Health systems</i>
<i>The role of the health sector in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond (decision WHA70(23) (2017))</i>
<i>Promoting the health of refugees and migrants (resolution WHA70.15 (2017))</i>
<i>Strengthening emergency and essential surgical care and anaesthesia as a component of universal health coverage (resolution WHA68.15 (2015))</i>
<i>Regulatory system strengthening for medical products (resolution WHA67.20 (2014))</i>
<i>WHO's response, and role as the health cluster lead, in meeting the growing demands of health in humanitarian emergencies (resolution WHA65.20 (2012))</i>
<i>Substandard/spurious/falsely labelled/falsified/counterfeit medical products (resolution WHA65.19 (2012))</i>
<i>Health workforce strengthening (resolution WHA64.6 (2011))</i>
<i>Strengthening nursing and midwifery (resolution WHA64.7 (2011))</i>
<i>Progress in the rational use of medicines (resolution WHA60.16 (2007))</i>
<i>Corporate services/enabling functions</i>
<i>Human resources for health and implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations' High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth (resolution WHA70.6 (2017))</i>