

Ref.: C.L.10.2017

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents her compliments to Member States and Associate Members and has the honour to convene the Seventieth World Health Assembly at 09:30 on Monday, 22 May 2017, at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. The Health Assembly will close no later than Wednesday, 31 May 2017.

In line with ongoing efforts to streamline the registration process, online registration is required for the Health Assembly. Registration can be initiated as of **10 April 2017** by going to the following link: <http://extranet.who.int/bpmext/meetingregistration.aspx>, using the following username: whauser, and password: Nekifo13.

Instructions for online registration are available for downloading from the Governance website (<http://www.who.int/governance/registration/en/index.html>). **Registration should be completed by 8 May 2017.**

In accordance with resolution WHA49.9 (May 1996), and to support the aim of achievement of SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), the Director-General invites Member States to consider that gender balance be applied to their delegations.

... The provisional agenda for the Health Assembly and the preliminary daily timetable, as prepared by the Secretariat following the decision of the Executive Board at its 140th session, are enclosed. The daily timetable is subject to approval by the Health Assembly.

... Information is also enclosed concerning arrangements for the conduct of discussion in plenary meetings. The debate this year will focus on the theme “Building Better Systems for Health in the Age of Sustainable Development”. Background information on this theme is contained in the aforementioned enclosure (WHA70/ENCL./2).

Documents related to the agenda will be dispatched starting late March and can be accessed on the Internet through the WHO website (<http://www.who.int/gb/>).

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States and Associate Members the assurance of her highest consideration.

GENEVA, 9 March 2017

... ENCLS: Documents A70/1 and Preliminary timetable
WHA70/ENCL./1 and WHA70/ENCL./2

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Online registration is required for both the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly and the online registration system will be available as of **10 April 2017**.

Before each meeting, an invitation will be sent to Member States indicating a link to access the electronic Governing Bodies Meeting Registration System in order to register one Focal Point at the Permanent Mission in Geneva, who will be responsible for registering the delegation. Member States without a Permanent Mission in Geneva should designate a Focal Point in the capital. The same process will apply to all categories of invited participants (the United Nations, Observers, Intergovernmental Organizations and Nongovernmental Organizations in official relations with WHO).

Once a Focal Point has been entered into the registration system, he/she will receive by email a unique username and password, and the link to access the registration system.

The Focal Point will register and submit the names of the delegates and attach a note verbale containing the composition of the delegation. **As of January 2015, for security reasons, all delegates will be required to wear photo ID badges in order to access the meeting room. For this reason, during the online registration process, the Focal Point will be asked to upload a passport style photograph of each member of the delegation. Previously uploaded photographs can be accessed by the Focal Point during the registration process.**

Guidance on the nature of the image required, and brief instructions on how to upload and resize an existing image you may have, are both available on the WHO website: <http://www.who.int/governance/en/>.

The WHO Office of Governing Bodies will verify the information received from the Focal Point, which will then be submitted into the registration system to generate both meeting badges and the List of Participants.

CREDENTIALS

The credentials shall be issued by the Head of State, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Health, or any other appropriate authority, i.e. Permanent Missions and senior government officials, such as Directors-General for Health. Member States will be represented at the Assembly by not more than three delegates. Alternates and advisers may accompany delegates. Although a copy of the credential will have been submitted through the online registration system, Member States must deliver the original credentials to the Secretariat (Office of Governing Bodies) **before the opening of the session of the World Health Assembly (WHA)**. 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). Only original documents are considered formal credentials by the Committee on Credentials.

IN VIEW OF THE ELECTION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE SEVENTIETH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS WILL EXCEPTIONALLY MEET SHORTLY AFTER THE OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY ON MONDAY, 22 MAY 2017. MEMBER STATES ARE, THEREFORE, URGED TO SUBMIT THEIR ORIGINAL CREDENTIALS TO THE SECRETARIAT BEFORE SUNDAY, 21 MAY 2017.

TRAVEL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

In accordance with resolution WHA50.1, special consideration will be given to delegates whose countries are classified as least developed countries by the United Nations. WHO will cover the cost of an economy/tourist airfare by the most direct route to Geneva for one delegate of such countries. However, following the rules set forth by the World Health Assembly, WHO will not be able to provide per diem or any other non-airfare expenditures. **Please note that reimbursement will be made in Geneva, upon presentation of the air ticket and the invoice.**

VISAS

Attention is drawn to the strict provisions in force regarding entry into Switzerland – those not having the required visa will be refused entry.

As of 13 December 2008, Switzerland has applied the Schengen visa regulations. Therefore, certain nationalities travelling to WHO headquarters to participate in meetings will require a Schengen visa in order to enter Switzerland. Since that date, it is no longer sufficient for a participant to present the invitation letter to obtain a visa. A visa support letter signed by one of the recognized WHO/HQ signatories is now required. Furthermore, WHO has been advised that the visa procedure will be more rigorous and **may take up to 21 days**.

Before requesting a visa support letter, participants are advised to contact their nearest Swiss embassy or consulate to determine whether or not they require a visa.

Member States requiring the assistance of WHO to obtain a Swiss Schengen visa are kindly invited to send an email with the following information: the last name, first name, title, institution, date and place of birth, passport number, expiry date, date and place of issuance and attach a copy of the credential containing the composition of the delegation to **visagbs@who.int at the earliest** in order that action can be taken as soon as possible.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONDUCT OF DISCUSSION IN PLENARY MEETINGS

Resolution WHA52.21 on reform of the Health Assembly requested the Director-General to make appropriate arrangements for a shortened plenary meeting and, to this end, encouraged group or regional statements in plenary debate. Delegates are requested to limit to five minutes their individual statements in this debate. Group or regional statements may last up to 10 minutes.

Delegates wishing to have their name placed on the list of speakers for the general discussion should notify the Office of Governing Bodies by email (piazzap@who.int) or fax (+41 22 791 41 73). Copies of statements should be submitted preferably by email (statementsWHA70@who.int) or to the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of the Assembly (Room A656) by the morning of Monday, 22 May 2017.

Theme of general discussion: “Building Better Systems for Health in the Age of Sustainable Development”

The Goals have been set, the Targets defined, and ways of working debated. There is now wide agreement good health and well-being depend on, and contribute to, social inclusion, shared prosperity, and environmental protection.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a stimulus and an opportunity to build better systems for health and well-being – by strengthening health systems *per se* to achieve universal health coverage, and by recognizing that health is linked to productivity in other systems: agriculture, education, employment, energy, environment, and the economy.

Better systems for health contribute to prevention, promotion, treatment, rehabilitation and palliation. They are founded on fairness (leaving no one behind), driven by investment, run on renewable resources, sustained by science and innovation, and made accountable by measurement.

The Seventieth World Health Assembly will be a forum for showing and sharing the health gains that can be made by following all of these pathways towards sustainable development.

Tips for speakers in a multilingual meeting

Whether you are chairing or participating in a multilingual meeting it is useful to think about how your message gets across through interpretation. The interpreters are there to help the meeting proceed as if everyone was speaking the same language.

- Speak your mother tongue wherever possible
- Speak at a reasonable pace
- Speaking is better than reading
- **If you have to “read” your speech, make sure the Secretariat has a copy of your text in advance. It will be treated as confidential**
- **For guidance, five minutes are roughly equivalent to 550 words**
- Quote document references
- State figures and names clearly
- Explain acronyms

**PRELIMINARY DAILY TIMETABLE FOR THE
SEVENTIETH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

May 2017	Plenary	Committee A	Committee B	Other
Monday 22				
09:30	1. Opening of the Health Assembly 1.1 Appointment of the Committee on Credentials 1.2 Election of the President 1.3 Election of the five Vice-Presidents, the Chairmen of the main committees, and establishment of the General Committee	—	—	—
10:30	—	—	—	General Committee
11:30	— Presidential address 1.4 Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items to the main committees 2. Report of the Executive Board on its 139th and 140th sessions	—	—	—
13:30	4. Post of Director-General ...	— ...	— ...	Committee on Credentials ...
14:30	3. Address by the Director-General — General discussion	— 10. Opening of the Committee 12. Preparedness, surveillance and response	— —	— —
17:00	— Report of Committee on Credentials 5. Admission of new Members and Associate Members [if any]	—	—	—

May 2017	Plenary	Committee A	Committee B	Other
Tuesday 23				
09:00	3. Address by the Director-General – General discussion (continued)	12. Preparedness, surveillance and response (continued)	–	–
11:30	4. Post of Director-General (continued) ...	...	...	...
14:30	Private meeting 4. Post of Director-General (continued) Public meeting 4. Post of Director-General (continued)	– –	– –	– –
Wednesday 24				
09:00 and 14:30	3. Address by the Director-General – General discussion (continued)	12. Preparedness, surveillance and response (continued) 13. Health systems	–	–
17:30	–	–	–	General Committee (list for election, Executive Board)
Thursday 25				
09:00 and 14:30	–	11. Programme and budget matters 13. Health systems (continued)	18. Opening of the Committee 19. Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan 20. Financial matters 21. Audit and oversight matters	–

May 2017	Plenary	Committee A	Committee B	Other
Friday 26 09:00 and 14:30	7. Awards 6. Executive Board: election 8. Reports of the main committees –	– 13. Health systems (continued) 14. Communicable diseases	– 22. Staffing matters 23. Management, legal and governance matters	– –
Saturday 27 09:00	–	14. Communicable diseases (continued) 15. Noncommunicable diseases	–	–
Monday 29 09:00 and 14:30	– –	15. Noncommunicable diseases (continued) 16. Promoting health through the life course –	24. Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations – Finalization of resolutions and reports	– –
Tuesday 30 09:00 and 14:30	–	17. Progress reports	–	–
Wednesday 31 09:00 and 14:30	8. Reports of the main committees (continued) 9. Closure of the Health Assembly	– Finalization of resolutions and reports	–	–

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Provisional agenda

PLENARY

1. Opening of the Health Assembly

- 1.1 Appointment of the Committee on Credentials
- 1.2 Election of the President
- 1.3 Election of the five Vice-Presidents, the Chairmen of the main committees, and establishment of the General Committee
- 1.4 Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items to the main committees

Document A70/1

2. Report of the Executive Board on its 139th and 140th sessions

Document A70/2

3. Address by Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General

Document A70/3

4. Post of Director-General

- 4.1 Procedures for the conduct of the election

Documents A70/4 and EB140/2017/REC/1, decision EB140(2)

- 4.2 Appointment of the Director-General

Documents A70/4 and EB140/2017/REC/1, resolution EB140.R3

- 4.3 Contract of the Director-General

Documents A70/5 and EB140/2017/REC/1, resolution EB140.R4

5. Admission of new Members and Associate Members [if any]

6. Executive Board: election

7. Awards

Document A70/INF./1

8. Reports of the main committees

9. Closure of the Health Assembly

COMMITTEE A

10. Opening of the Committee¹

11. Programme and budget matters

11.1 Overview of financial situation: Programme budget 2016–2017

Document A70/6

11.2 Proposed programme budget 2018–2019

Document A70/7

12. Preparedness, surveillance and response

12.1 Health emergencies

- The Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme

Document A70/8

- WHO response in severe, large-scale emergencies

Document A70/9

- Research and development for potentially epidemic diseases

Document A70/10

- Health workforce coordination in emergencies with health consequences

Document A70/11

¹ Including election of Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur.

12.2 Antimicrobial resistance

Documents A70/12, A70/13 and EB140/2017/REC/1, resolution EB140.R5

12.3 Poliomyelitis

Documents A70/14 and A70/14 Add.1

12.4 Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)

Documents A70/15 and A70/16

12.5 Review of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework

Document A70/17

13. Health systems

13.1 Human resources for health and implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations' High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth

Document A70/18

13.2 Principles for global consensus on the donation and management of blood, blood components and other medical products of human origin

Document A70/19

13.3 Addressing the global shortage of, and access to, medicines and vaccines

Document A70/20

13.4 Evaluation and review of the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property

Document A70/21

13.5 Follow-up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination

Document A70/22

13.6 Member State mechanism on substandard/spurious/falsely-labelled/falsified/counterfeit medical products

Documents A70/23 and EB140/2017/REC/1, decision EB140(6)

13.7 Promoting the health of refugees and migrants

Document A70/24

14. Communicable diseases

14.1 Global vaccine action plan

Document A70/25

14.2 Global vector control response

Document A70/26

15. Noncommunicable diseases

15.1 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

Documents A70/27 and EB140/2017/REC/1, resolution EB140.R7

15.2 Draft global action plan on the public health response to dementia

Documents A70/28 and EB140/2017/REC/1, decision EB140(7)

15.3 Public health dimension of the world drug problem

Document A70/29

15.4 Outcome of the Second International Conference on Nutrition

Document A70/30

15.5 Report of the Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity: implementation plan

Document A70/31

15.6 Cancer prevention and control in the context of an integrated approach

Document A70/32

15.7 Strengthening synergies between the World Health Assembly and the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

Document A70/33

15.8 Action plan for prevention of deafness and hearing loss

Documents A70/34 and EB139/2016/REC/1, resolution EB139.R1

16. Promoting health through the life course

16.1 Progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Document A70/35

16.2 The role of the health sector in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond

Document A70/36

16.3 Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016–2030): adolescents' health

Document A70/37

17. Progress reports

Document A70/38

Noncommunicable diseases

- A. WHO global disability action plan 2014–2021: better health for all people with disability (resolution WHA67.7 (2014))
- B. Addressing the challenges of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011–2020): outcome of the second Global High-level Conference on Road Safety – Time for Results (resolution WHA69.7 (2016))
- C. Towards universal eye health: a global action plan 2014–2019 (resolution WHA66.4 (2013))

Communicable diseases

- D. Eradication of dracunculiasis (resolution WHA64.16 (2011))
- E. Global strategy and targets for tuberculosis prevention, care and control after 2015 (resolution WHA67.1 (2014))
- F. Global technical strategy and targets for malaria 2016–2030 (resolution WHA68.2 (2015))

Promoting health through the life course

- G. Public health impacts of exposure to mercury and mercury compounds: the role of WHO and ministries of public health in the implementation of the Minamata Convention (resolution WHA67.11 (2014))
- H. Strategy for integrating gender analysis and actions into the work of WHO (resolution WHA60.25 (2007))

Health systems

- I. Progress in the rational use of medicines (resolution WHA60.16 (2007))
- J. Regulatory system strengthening for medical products (resolution WHA67.20 (2014))
- K. Strengthening emergency and essential surgical care and anaesthesia as a component of universal health coverage (resolution WHA68.15 (2015))

Preparedness, surveillance and response

- L. Smallpox eradication: destruction of variola virus stocks (resolution WHA60.1 (2007))
- M. Enhancement of laboratory biosafety (resolution WHA58.29 (2005))

COMMITTEE B

18. Opening of the Committee¹

19. Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

Documents A70/39 and A70/39 Add.1

20. Financial matters

- 20.1 WHO mid-term programmatic and financial report for 2016–2017, including audited financial statements for 2016

Document A70/40

- 20.2 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

Document A70/41

- 20.3 Special arrangements for settlement of arrears [if any]

- 20.4 Scale of assessments for 2018–2019

Documents A70/42 and EB140/2017/REC/1, resolution EB140.R6

- 20.5 Assessment of new Members and Associate Members [if any]

- 20.6 Amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules [if any]

¹ Including election of Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur.

21. Audit and oversight matters

21.1 Report of the External Auditor

Document A70/43

21.2 Report of the Internal Auditor

Document A70/44

22. Staffing matters

22.1 Human resources: annual report

Document A70/45

22.2 Report of the International Civil Service Commission

Document A70/46

22.3 Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules

Documents A70/47 and EB140/2017/REC/1, resolution EB140.R9

22.4 Report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board

Document A70/48

22.5 Appointment of representatives to the WHO Staff Pension Committee

Document A70/49

23. Management, legal and governance matters

23.1 Overview of WHO reform implementation

Documents A70/50, A70/50 Add.1, A70/50 Add.2 and A70/INF./2

23.2 Governance reform: follow-up to decision WHA69(8) (2016)

Document A70/51

23.3 Engagement with non-State actors

Document A70/52

- Criteria and principles for secondments from nongovernmental organizations, philanthropic foundations and academic institutions

Document A70/53

23.4 Proposed Infrastructure Fund (consolidating the Real Estate Fund and IT Fund)

Document A70/54

23.5 Agreements with intergovernmental organizations [if any]

24. Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations

Document A70/55

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