WHO Reform

Summary by the Chair of the Executive Board

Following adoption of the decision on programmes and priority setting, the Chairman summarized the conclusions of the Executive Board on WHO reform as follows:

1. Programmes and priority setting

As we have decided, programme and priority setting will be discussed in a Member State-driven process, which will include a meeting to be held here on 27 and 28 February and open to all Member States. The Secretariat will provide documentation for this meeting no fewer than seven days in advance of the meeting.

2. Governance

Member States are invited to submit comments on two of the governance reform proposals considered by this Executive Board. These are (i) the draft revised terms of reference for the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee, and (ii) proposals for increasing linkages between Regional Committees and the global governing bodies and harmonization of the practices of Regional Committees. Member States are invited to submit their comments through the password protected web site open to all Member States, before 17 February. Member States who currently do not have access to the web site are invited to contact the Secretariat for details on how to register for the site. Based on the feedback received, the Secretariat will prepare revised proposals for submission to the Executive Board at its 131st session, through the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee.

Based on the discussions in this Executive Board, the Secretariat will revise the proposed options for the schedule of the governing bodies, incorporating the proposal for a revised schedule of meetings of the Regional Committees, Executive Board and Programme, Budget and Administration Committee, and the World Health Assembly. This will include a detailed analysis of the advantages and disadvantages, feasibility and costs of the different options. The Secretariat will also take forward the work on streamlining national reporting.
Further discussion will be required on WHO's engagement with other stakeholders, including different categories of nongovernmental organizations and industry, and the proposals to review and update principles governing WHO relations with nongovernmental organizations, and to develop comprehensive policy frameworks to guide interaction with the private-for-profit sector, as well as not-for-profit philanthropic organizations. These will be held during the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly.

We have agreed on the importance of partnerships and on the need for better management and greater oversight by the governing bodies, in particular the Executive Board. Members of the Executive Board have proposed a review of WHO's hosting arrangements, along with further efforts to harmonize work with hosted partnerships.

**Managerial reforms**

The Secretariat will further elaborate the proposals for the predictable financing mechanism, and the contingency fund, based on the feedback from this Executive Board, and present these to the Executive Board at its 131st session, through the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee.

Member States are invited to submit comments on the draft evaluation policy through the password protected web site open to all Member States, before 17 February. Based on the feedback received, the Secretariat will prepare a revised draft of the evaluation policy for submission to the Executive Board at its 131st session, through the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee.

Concerning stage one of the independent evaluation of WHO, the Executive Board welcomes the offer of the External Auditor to carry this out, and expects that the report of stage one will be presented to the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly, and will include a proposed road map for stage two of the independent evaluation. As discussed in this Executive Board, the Secretariat will update the Terms of Reference for stage one of the independent evaluation based on the written comments submitted by the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations system.

The Executive Board has also welcomed the agreement of the Joint Inspection Unit to update their reports of 1997 on decentralization within the World Health Organization, and 2003 on management and administration in the World Health Organization.

**Preparations for the May 2012 meetings of the governing bodies**

The Secretariat will prepare a consolidated report covering all aspects of WHO reform for submission to the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly. The report will cover the three areas of programmes and priorities, governance and managerial reforms, incorporating the outcome of the Member State-driven process on priority setting, showing linkages and indicating areas where consensus has been reached, and those areas where further discussion is required. It will include the elements of WHO reform agreed in the special session of the Executive Board in November 2011, and further elaboration of the proposals where the Executive Board has requested
additional work. The report will include a draft implementation plan, with a budget and a monitoring framework, for consideration by the Health Assembly.

In line with the desire of the Executive Board to strengthen the oversight of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee, which already has a crowded agenda for a one-day meeting, I propose that this particular May Programme, Budget and Administration Committee be extended to three days, to consider the documents on WHO reform being presented to the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly and 131st session of the Executive Board. For the same reason, I also propose that the 131st session of the Executive Board is extended to two days, to ensure adequate time to consider these proposals.