

Ref.: C.L.7.2025

... The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) has the honour to communicate to Members of the Organization, in accordance with Rules 5 and 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the provisional agenda and provisional annotated agenda for the **157th session of the Executive Board, which will be convened on Wednesday, 28 May 2025**,¹ commencing at 09:30 (CEST) at WHO headquarters, Geneva.

The Executive Board will be held in person. There is no limitation applying to the number of persons registering as part of Member States and Associate Members' delegations. However, in view of the space restrictions two persons per each Member State may be present in the meeting room where the Executive Board is convened.

Registration can be initiated **as of 14 April 2025** by going to the following link: <https://indico.un.org/e/EB157>. Registration should be completed by 26 May 2025.

In accordance with resolution WHA49.9 (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 Code of Conduct to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment at WHO events is available at the following link: [Code of Conduct to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment, at WHO events](#).

... Documents for the 157th session of the Executive Board can be accessed on the Internet through the WHO website (<https://apps.who.int/gb/gov/>) as they become available and practical information for delegates is attached. Member States are reminded that, as agreed by the Executive Board at its 143rd session, governing body meetings are paperless.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Members of the Organization the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 2 April 2025

¹ See Executive Board decision EB156(12), 10 February 2025.

... ENCLS.: (3)

REGISTRATION

Online registration is required to participate in the Executive Board which will be held in person.

Registration can be initiated as of 14 April 2025 by going to the following link: <https://indico.un.org/e/EB157> and should be completed by 26 May 2025.

Before each meeting, an invitation will be sent to Member States indicating a link to access the electronic Registration System (INDICO). Each participant is invited to register her/himself.

The WHO Department of Governing Bodies will verify the information received which will then be submitted into the registration system to generate the meeting badges and the list of participants.

CREDENTIALS

The credentials shall be issued by the Head of State, the Head of Government, 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. A copy of the credentials will have to be uploaded and submitted through the online registration system **before the opening of the 157th session of the Executive Board**. 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).

ACCESS TO WHO HEADQUARTERS

Members of the delegations should register through INDICO in order to collect their badge and access WHO.

In view of the space restrictions, please note that up to two members of each delegation of Member States may be present at a time in the meeting room.

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 in order to obtain a visa. A visa support letter prepared by WHO/HQ is now required.

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 do so when they register for the meeting through INDICO.

Geneva, 28 and 29 May 2025

EB157/1

1 April 2025

Provisional agenda

1. Election of Chair, Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur

2. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda

Documents EB157/1 and EB157/1 (annotated)

3. Outcome of the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly

4. Report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board

Document EB157/2

5. Report of the Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response

Document EB157/3

Pillar 4: More effective and efficient WHO providing better support to countries

6. Management, governance and financial matters

6.1 Evaluation: annual report

Documents EB157/4 and EB157/4 Add.1

6.2 Governance reform

- Improving the effectiveness of the WHO governing bodies: implementation of the discretionary mandate on the postponement of agenda items (decision EB154(3) (2024))

Document EB157/5

- Matters emanating from the Agile Member States Task Group on Strengthening WHO's Budgetary, Programmatic and Financing Governance: results of the questionnaire on the preparation of draft resolutions and decisions (decision EB153(2) (2023))

Document EB157/6

- Proposals for improving the effectiveness of the governing bodies

Document EB157/7

6.3 Process for the nomination and appointment of Regional Directors (decision EB154(14) (2024))

Document EB157/8

6.4 Hosted partnerships

- Proposals for WHO to host formal partnerships [if any]
- Report on hosted partnerships

Document EB157/9

- Review of hosted partnerships

Document EB157/10

6.5 Committees of the Executive Board: filling of vacancies

Documents EB157/11 and EB157/11 Add.1

6.6 Membership of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee [if any]

6.7 Amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules

Document EB157/12

7. Staffing matters

7.1 Appointment of the Regional Director for Africa

Document EB157/13

7.2 Statement by the representative of the WHO staff associations

Document EB157/INF./1

7.3 Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules [if any]

8. Matters for information: report on meetings of expert committees and study groups

Document EB157/14

9. Future sessions of the Executive Board and the Health Assembly

Document EB157/15

10. Closure of the session

Geneva, 28 and 29 May 2025

EB157/1 (annotated)

1 April 2025

Provisional agenda (annotated)

- 1. Election of Chair, Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur**
- 2. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda**
- 3. Outcome of the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly**
- 4. Report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board**

The Board will receive at the opening of its session the report of the forty-second meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee, which is scheduled to be held from Wednesday 14 May to Friday 16 May, 2025.

- 5. Report of the Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response**

The Board will receive the report of the sixth meeting of the Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response, which is scheduled to be held on 14 and 15 April 2025.

Pillar 4: More effective and efficient WHO providing better support to countries

- 6. Management, governance and financial matters**

6.1 Evaluation: annual report

In line with WHO's evaluation policy, approved by the Executive Board in decision EB143(9) (2018), an annual report on evaluation will be submitted to the Board through its Programme, Budget and Administration Committee. It describes the progress made and challenges faced in implementing the policy and the Organization-wide evaluation workplan for 2024–2025, and summarizes the findings of and organizational learning for recently-conducted evaluations. The Board will be invited to note the report and, following from decision EB155(1), to consider the updated evaluation policy (2025) for approval.

6.2 Governance reform

- Improving the effectiveness of the WHO governing bodies: implementation of the discretionary mandate on the postponement of agenda items (decision EB154(3) (2024))

With reference to decision EB154(3) (2024), the report provides an update on the implementation of the discretionary mandate granted to the Chair of the Executive Board starting at the 155th session of the Board to consider, in consultation with the Officers of the Board, the postponement of agenda items with late documentation.

- Matters emanating from the Agile Member States Task Group on Strengthening WHO's Budgetary, Programmatic and Financing Governance: results of the questionnaire on the preparation of draft resolutions and decisions (decision EB153(2) (2023))

Further to the 153rd session of the Executive Board and decision EB153(2), the report provides an overview of the results of two surveys to assess Member States experience in using the template, checklist and timeline in preparing resolutions and/or decisions for consideration by the Health Assembly. The first survey was conducted following 154th session of the Board and the second following 156th session.

- Proposals for improving the effectiveness of the governing bodies

A report outlining the challenges for improving the effectiveness of the governing bodies, including the management of agendas and resolutions, will be submitted for consideration by the Board.

6.3 Process for the nomination and appointment of Regional Directors (decision EB154(14) (2024))

In accordance with decision EB154(14) (2024), the Director-General will report on the consultations that took place in the regional committees and with Member States regarding possible measures to enhance the transparency, accountability and integrity of the process for the nomination of Regional Directors and submit options for the Board's consideration.

6.4 Hosted partnerships

The Board will consider reports submitted pursuant to decision EB132(10) (2013), in which, inter alia, it requested its Programme, Budget and Administration Committee to ensure that the arrangements for hosted health partnerships were regularly reviewed on a case-by-case and timely basis in respect of their contributions to improved health outcomes, WHO's interaction with individual hosted partnerships, and the harmonization of their work with the work of WHO; and to make recommendations for the consideration of the Board, as appropriate, through a standing item on the subject on the Board's agenda. The Board will be invited to note the reports.

- Proposals for WHO to host formal partnerships [if any]
- Report on hosted partnerships

The Director-General will submit to the Board a general annual update on hosted partnerships. The Board will be invited to note the report.

- Review of hosted partnerships

The Director-General will submit to the Board a report on the review of the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research in the context of the periodic review of arrangements for hosted partnerships. The Board will be invited to note the report.

6.5 Committees of the Executive Board: filling of vacancies

This is a standing item.

6.6 Membership of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee [if any]

6.7 Amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules

The Director-General will submit a report on amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules.

7. Staffing matters

7.1 Appointment of the Regional Director for Africa

The Regional Committee's proposal for the appointment of the Regional Director will be transmitted to the Board for its consideration. The Board will be invited to consider a draft resolution.

7.2 Statement by the representative of the WHO staff associations

This is a standing item.

7.3 Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules [if any]

8. Matters for information: report on meetings of expert committees and study groups

In compliance with Regulation 4.23 of the Regulations for Expert Advisory Panels and Committees, the Director-General will submit to the Board for its consideration his report on meetings of expert committees, including a summary of the recommendations contained in the reports of expert committees and his observations on their significance for public health policies and implications for the Organization's programmes.

9. Future sessions of the Executive Board and the Health Assembly

This is a standing item.

10. Closure of the session

Note:

*In accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Director-General transmitted the draft provisional agenda to Member States for comment on **7 March 2025**. No proposal for additional items was received from Member States by the deadline of **19 March 2025**.*
