

Ref.: C.L.6.2025

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to Member States and Associate Members and has the honour to convene the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly at 09:00 on Monday, 19 May 2025, at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. The Health Assembly will be held in person and will close no later than Tuesday, 27 May 2025.

Online registration is required to participate in the Health Assembly. Registration can be initiated as of 14 April 2025 by going to the following link: <https://indico.un.org/e/WHA78>.
Registration should be completed by 5 May 2025.

There is no limitation applying to the number of persons registering as part of Member States and Associate Members' delegations.

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](#).

In accordance with the call for meaningful youth engagement of the UN Youth Strategy to scale up global, regional and national actions to meet young people's needs, realize their rights and tap their possibilities as agents of change, the Director-General invites Member States to consider the inclusion of young people, in particular those whose activities and efforts are commendable and impactful at national level within the health sector and its determinants.

Member States are also encouraged to include Parliamentarians in their delegation.

... The provisional agenda for the Health Assembly, as prepared by the Secretariat following the decision of the Executive Board at its 156th session, and the preliminary daily timetable are enclosed. The provisional agenda and the preliminary daily timetable are subject to approval by the Health Assembly.

... Practical information for delegates and information concerning arrangements for the conduct of discussion in plenary meetings are enclosed. The debate this year will focus on the theme "One World for Health".

... ENCLS: Documents A78/1 and Preliminary timetable
WHA78/ENCL./1 and WHA78/ENCL./2

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Documents for the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly can be accessed on the Internet through the WHO website (<https://apps.who.int/gb/gov/>), as they become available. Delegates 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 Member States and Associate Members the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 28 March 2025

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR DELEGATES PARTICIPATING IN THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Online registration is required to participate in the World Health Assembly, 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/WHA78>.

Before each meeting, an invitation will be sent to Member States and Associate Members 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 for in-person meetings 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. A copy of the credentials will have to be uploaded and submitted through the online registration system **before the opening 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).

TRAVEL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

In accordance with resolution WHA50.1 (1997), 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. The process of reimbursement takes at least 24 hours therefore requests made after Tuesday, 20 May (close of business) will not be taken into consideration.**

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 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.

ACCESS TO THE PALAIS DES NATIONS

Members of the delegations should register through INDICO in order to collect their badge at WHO headquarters to access the Palais des Nations.

In view of the space restrictions in connection with ongoing renovations at the Palais des Nations, please note the following arrangements:

- Up to two members of each delegation of Member States and Associate Members may be present at a time in each room where official meetings of the Health Assembly are convened; there is no restriction to the number of delegates forming part of the delegation, and all delegation members of Member States and Associate Members would be issued with a badge to access the Palais des Nations.
- Up to one member of each delegation of Observers and United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations may be present at a time in each meeting room where the plenary and main committees are convened; a maximum of **six** badges would be issued for individual delegates of each delegation of Observers and United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations to access the Palais des Nations.
- Non-State actors in official relations with WHO would be able to access the floor of the meeting rooms where the main committees are convened for purposes of delivering a statement under relevant agenda items; a maximum of **six** badges would be issued for individual delegates of each non-State actor in official relations with WHO to access the Palais des Nations.

SIDE-EVENTS AT WHA78

Side events will be held at the Palais from Monday 19 May to Saturday 24 May. Member States interested in organizing a side event should submit an application form per the guidelines provided at [WHO | Governance](#). The list of events will be included in the WHA78 Journal.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONDUCT OF DISCUSSION IN PLENARY MEETINGS

Resolution WHA52.21 (1999) 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 three minutes their individual statements in this debate. Group or regional statements may last up to four minutes.

Theme of general debate: “One World for Health”.

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.

- Please speak at a reasonable pace.
- **If you have a written statement, please make sure you send your text at least 30 minutes in advance to interpret@who.int, clearly indicating the member state or region on whose behalf the statement will be read, as well as the specific session and agenda item to which the statement relates. It will be treated as confidential.**
- **For guidance, three minutes are roughly equivalent to 330 words.**
- Please state figures and names clearly.
- Please spell out acronyms.

Geneva, 19–27 May 2025

A78/1

28 March 2025

Provisional agenda¹

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 Chairs 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 A78/1

2. Report of the Executive Board on its 155th and 156th sessions

Document A78/2

3. Address by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General

Document A78/3

4. Invited speaker(s)

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

6. Executive Board: election

7. Awards

Document A78/INF./1

8. Reports of the main committees

9. Closure of the Health Assembly

¹ In accordance with Rules 3 and 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly, the provisional agenda (providing document numbers) will be dispatched, together with the notice of convocation, not less than 60 days before 19 May 2025.

Committee A

10. Opening of the Committee²

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

11. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board

11.1 Governance reform

- Secretariat implementation plan on reform (decision WHA75(8) (2022))

Document A78/4

- Process of handling and investigating potential allegations against WHO Directors-General (decision WHA77(15) (2024))

Document A78/5

11.2 Proposed programme budget 2026–2027

Document A78/6

Pillar 1: One billion more people benefiting from universal health coverage

12. The role of the global coordination mechanism on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases in WHO's work on multistakeholder engagement for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases: report on independent evaluation

Document A78/INF./2

13. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board

13.1 Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

- Reducing the burden of noncommunicable diseases through strengthening prevention and control of diabetes (resolution WHA74.4 (2021))
- Oral health (resolution WHA74.5 (2021))
- Comprehensive mental health action plan 2013–2030 (resolution WHA77.3 (2024) and decision WHA74(14) (2021))
- Global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem and its associated goals and targets for the period 2020–2030 (resolution WHA73.2 (2020))

Documents A78/4 and EB156/2025/REC/1, decisions EB156(18), EB156(20), EB156(21) and EB156(22)

² Including election of Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur.

13.2 Mental health and social connection

Document A78/4

13.3 Universal health coverage

- Primary healthcare

Documents A78/4 and EB156/2025/REC/1, decisions EB156(14), EB156(15), EB156(16), EB156(17) and EB156(19)

13.4 Communicable diseases

Documents A78/4 and EB156/2025/REC/1, decisions EB156(23) and EB156(24)

- Global road map on defeating meningitis by 2030

Document A78/4

13.5 Substandard and falsified medical products

Documents A78/4 and EB156/2025/REC/1, decision EB156(25)

13.6 Standardization of medical devices nomenclature

Document A78/4

13.7 Health and care workforce

- WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel

Documents A78/4 and EB156/2025/REC/1, decision EB156(26)

- Global strategy on human resources for health: workforce 2030

Documents A78/4 and EB156/2025/REC/1, decision EB156(27)

13.8 Draft global traditional medicine strategy 2025–2034

Documents A78/4, A78/4 Add.1 and EB156/2025/REC/1, decision EB156(28)

13.9 Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health

Documents A78/4 and EB156/2025/REC/1, decisions EB156(29) and EB156(30)

14. Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Document A78/7

15. Antimicrobial resistance

Document A78/8

Pillar 2: One billion more people better protected from health emergencies

16. Health emergency preparedness and response

16.1 Strengthening the global architecture for health emergency prevention, preparedness, response and resilience

Document A78/9

- 16.2 Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response

Document A78/10

- 16.3 Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)

Documents A78/11, A78/11 Add.1 and A78/11 Add.2

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

Document A78/12

17. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board

- 17.1 WHO's work in health emergencies

Documents A78/13 and EB156/2025/REC/1, decision EB156(31)

- 17.2 Implementation of resolution WHA75.11 (2022)

Document A78/14

- 17.3 Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem

Documents A78/15 and EB156/2025/REC/1, resolution EB156.R3

- 17.4 Universal Health and Preparedness Review

Document A78/4

- 17.5 Poliomyelitis

Document A78/4

Pillar 3: One billion more people enjoying better health and well-being

18. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board

- 18.1 The impact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health

Documents A78/4 and EB156/2025/REC/1, decision EB156(32)

- 18.2 Updated road map for an enhanced global response to the adverse health effects of air pollution

Documents A78/4 and EB156/2025/REC/1, decision EB156(33)

- 18.3 Climate change and health

Documents A78/4, A78/4 Add.2 and EB156/2025/REC/1, decision EB156(40)

Committee B

19. Opening of the Committee³

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

Document A78/16

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

21. Budget and finance matters

21.1 Results report 2024 (Programme budget 2024–2025: performance assessment) and Financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Documents A78/17, A78/18 and A78/INF./3

21.2 Financing and implementation of the Programme budget 2024–2025

Documents A78/19, A78/20 and A78/INF./4

21.3 Sustainable financing: WHO investment round

Document A78/21

21.4 Scale of assessments 2026–2027

Document A78/22

21.5 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 A78/23

21.6 Special arrangements for settlement of arrears [if any]

21.7 Assessment of new Members and Associate Members [if any]

21.8 Amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules

Document A78/24

22. Audit and oversight matters

22.1 Report of the External Auditor

Document A78/25

³ Including election of Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur.

22.2 Report of the Internal Auditor

Document A78/26

22.3 External and internal audit recommendations: progress on implementation

Document A78/27

23. Staffing matters

23.1 Human resources: annual report

Document A78/28

23.2 Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules

Documents A78/4 and EB156/2025/REC/1, resolutions EB156.R5 and EB156.R6

23.3 Report of the International Civil Service Commission

Document A78/4

23.4 Report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board

Document A78/29

23.5 Appointment of representatives to the WHO Staff Pension Committee

Document A78/30

24. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board

Management, legal and governance matters

24.1 Prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment

Document A78/4

24.2 Global strategies and plans of action that are scheduled to expire within one year

- Global strategic directions for nursing and midwifery 2021–2025

Documents A78/4 and EB156/2025/REC/1, decision EB156(34)

- Global strategy on digital health 2020–2025

Documents A78/4 and EB156/2025/REC/1, decision EB156(35)

- Global action plan on the public health response to dementia 2017–2025

Documents A78/4 and EB156/2025/REC/1, decision EB156(36)

- Comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition 2012–2025

Documents A78/4, A78/4 Add.3 and EB156/2025/REC/1, decision EB156(37)

24.3 International Health Regulations (2005): proposed procedure for the correction of errors in the text of the instrument

Documents A78/4, A78/INF./5 and EB156/2025/REC/1, decision EB156(38)

25. Reassignment of Indonesia from the South-East Asia Region to the Western Pacific Region

Document A78/31

26. Agreements with intergovernmental organizations

Document A78/32

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

Document A78/33

28. Matters for information

28.1 Progress reports

Document A78/34

Pillar 1: One billion more people benefiting from universal health coverage

- A. Strengthening diagnostic capacity (resolution WHA76.5 (2023))
- B. WHO global action plan on promoting the health of refugees and migrants, 2019–2030 (resolution WHA76.14 (2023))
- C. Integrated emergency, critical and operative care for universal health coverage and protection from health emergencies (resolution WHA76.2 (2023))
- D. Global strategy on infection prevention and control (resolution WHA75.13 (2022))
- E. Strengthening local production of medicines and other health technologies to improve access (resolution WHA74.6 (2021))
- F. Eradication of dracunculiasis (resolution WHA64.16 (2011))
- G. Global action on patient safety (resolution WHA72.6 (2019) and decision WHA74(13) (2021))

Pillar 2: One billion more people better protected from health emergencies

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

Pillar 3: One billion more people enjoying better health and well-being

- J. WHO global strategy on health, environment and climate change: the transformation needed to improve lives and well-being sustainably through healthy environments (decision WHA74(24) (2021))
- K. Plan of action on climate change and health in small island developing States (decision WHA72(10) (2019))
- L. Behavioural sciences for better health (resolution WHA76.7 (2023))
- M. Accelerating action on global drowning prevention (resolution WHA76.18 (2023))
- N. WHO global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system within a national multisectoral response to address interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children (resolution WHA69.5 (2016)) and Ending violence against children through health systems strengthening and multisectoral approaches (resolution WHA74.17 (2021))

Preliminary daily timetable for the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly

May 2025	Plenary	Committee A	Committee B	Other
Monday 19				
09:00	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 Chairs of the main committees, and establishment of the General Committee High-level welcome	– –	– –	– –
Upon closure of the plenary	–	–	–	General Committee
14:30	– Presidential address 1.4 Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items to the main committees 2. Report of the Executive Board on its 155th and 156th sessions 3. Address by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General – General discussion	– Upon commencement of the General discussion 10. Opening of the Committee	– –	– –

May 2025	Plenary	Committee A	Committee B	Other
Monday 19 (continued)		Pillar 4 11. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board Pillar 1 12. The role of the global coordination mechanism on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases in WHO's work on multistakeholder engagement for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases: report on independent evaluation 13. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board		
Tuesday 20				
09:00	3. Address by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General – General discussion (continued)	Pillar 2 16. Health emergency preparedness and response 17. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board	–	–
14:00	–		–	Committee on Credentials
14:30	3. Address by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General – General discussion (continued)		–	–

May 2025	Plenary	Committee A	Committee B	Other
Wednesday 21				
09:00	– Report of the Committee on Credentials 5. Admission of new Members and Associate Members [if any]	Pillar 1 13. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board (continued)	19. Opening of the Committee Pillar 4 21. Budget and finance matters	–
14:30	–	Pillar 1 13. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board (continued) 14. Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	20. Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan	–
17:30	–	–	–	General Committee (list for election Executive Board)
Thursday 22				
09:00 and 14:30	–	Pillar 2 17. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board (continued)	Pillar 4 21. Budget and finance matters (continued) 22. Audit and oversight matters	–
Friday 23				
09:00 and 14:30	6. Executive Board: election 7. Awards	Pillar 1 13. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board (continued) 14. Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (continued)	Pillar 4 23. Staffing matters 24. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board	–

May 2025	Plenary	Committee A	Committee B	Other
Saturday 24 09:00 and 14:30		Pillar 1 15. Antimicrobial resistance Pillar 3 18. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board	Pillar 4 24. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board (continued) 25. Reassignment of Indonesia from the South-East Asia Region to the Western Pacific Region 26. Agreements with intergovernmental organizations 27. Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations	–
Monday 26 09:00 and 14:30		Pillar 3 18. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board (continued)	Pillar 4 28. Matters for information	
Tuesday 27 09:00 and 14:30	8. Reports of the main committees 9. Closure of the Health Assembly	– Finalization of resolutions/decisions and reports	– Finalization of resolutions/decisions and reports	
