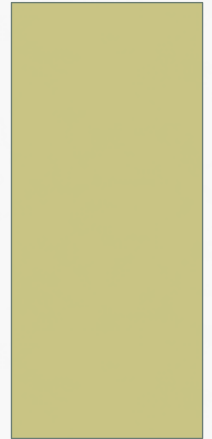


# WHA71 BRIEFING: WHA PROCEDURES & GOVERNANCE

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# MAIN POINTS

- 1) Who participates
- 2) What is discussed
- 3) WHA's governance – how the work is done
- 4) How decisions are taken



# WHO PARTICIPATES

- Member States, up to 194. Ministers of Health sometimes only at the beginning.
- Delegates need credentials
- Intergovernmental organizations, e.g. EU, UN – agreement with WHO
- Palestine invited by the WHA
- Observers invited by the Director-General, e.g. ICRC, IPU, Global Fund,
- Public and media

# NON-STATE ACTORS

- Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (FENSA) adopted by WHA in 2016 increases the categories of participants in official relations
  - 1) Non-governmental organizations
  - 2) International business associations
  - 3) Philanthropic foundations
- Admitted into official relations by the Executive Board. Similar rights of participation as before, but more transparency and more robust process of admission.



# WHAT IS DISCUSSED? AGENDA OF THE WHA

- Agenda formally prepared by EB and considered by the General Committee on Monday morning
- Three main groups of items in the agenda, organized along six categories
  - 1) New items proposed by Member States or DG, coming through the EB sometimes with a draft resolution or decision
  - 2) Older items coming back through reporting requirements
  - 3) Supplementary items proposed directly to the WHA
  - 4) Progress reports, considered only at WHA
- WHO governance reform: attempt to rationalize and streamline work of governing bodies. Some achievements, but still work in progress



# HOW DOES THE WHA WORK?

- Short session compared to other UN organizations. Fast pace, parallel meetings, intense discussions
- It can be confusing and challenging for new participants and small delegations
- WHA App with real time information
- WHA officers: president, five-vice presidents
- MAIN COMMITTEES officers: chairperson, two vice-chairpersons, one rapporteur



## HOW DOES THE WHA WORK? CONT'D

- **Plenary:** general debate, election of EB members, adoption of resolutions and decisions
- **Credentials Committee**
- **General Committee**, meetings on Monday and Wednesday. Main functions: agenda, organization of work, EB membership
- **Committee A:** programmatic and technical items, usually busier but items can be moved
- **Committee B:** administrative, financial, legal items as well as health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory
- Many **informal consultations** and drafting groups
- **Technical briefings, side events**
- WHA as **Global Health Week**, with multiple events inside and outside the Palais des Nations



# HOW DECISIONS ARE TAKEN

- Proposed resolutions and decisions can only be introduced until Monday evening: no surprises!
- Discussions in main committees, drafting groups, very informal groups at coffee shop....
- How to manage multiple amendments
- Adoption of draft in main committees, final adoption in plenary
- Strong principle of consensus – voting is a defeat
- Formal vote: election of DG and usually on Palestine