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A79/5

28 April 2026

Consolidated report by the Director-General²

Provide health

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

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

1. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on follow-up to the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.³ It also adopted resolution EB158.R1 on steatotic liver disease: a missing piece in the global noncommunicable disease response, and decisions EB158(1) on the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and EB158(2) on global action to advance health equity for people with haemophilia and other bleeding disorders. In the discussions, Board members highlighted the need to strengthen primary healthcare and mobilize sustainable resources to accelerate progress in tackling noncommunicable diseases.

12.2 Mental health

2. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on mental health.⁴ In the discussions, Board members drew attention to the timely inclusion of mental health in the political declaration of the fourth high-level meeting on non-communicable diseases and welcomed its inclusion as a stand-alone item on the Board's agenda. They highlighted the need for community-based mental healthcare and called for whole-of-government and whole-of society approaches to address the determinants of mental health and improve access to relevant services.

¹ See document A79/5 Add.4.

² In the present document, the texts under each agenda item should be read in conjunction with the corresponding reports considered by the Executive Board at its 158th session. The summary records of those sessions will be available as of 11 May 2026 at the following link: https://apps.who.int/gb/or/e/e_158-PSR.html.

³ Document EB158/6; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, second meeting, section 4, and third meeting, section 1.

⁴ Document EB158/7; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, third meeting, section 2.

12.3 Communicable diseases

- Immunization Agenda 2030

3. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on the Immunization Agenda 2030: mid-term review.⁵ In the discussions, Board members expressed concern that progress towards the Immunization Agenda 2030 targets was off track and discussed challenges associated with misinformation and declining public trust. They expressed support for the recommendations of the review, especially the need to further reduce persistent inequities in access to vaccines by prioritizing zero-dose and under-vaccinated children in remote and conflict-affected settings. They also articulated support for the other recommendations, such as the need to continue integrating immunization into primary healthcare and universal health coverage; strengthen national immunization, data and surveillance systems; ensure sustainable financing at the national and international levels; and reinforce global cooperation.

- Road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030

4. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on communicable diseases: road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030.⁶ In the discussions, Board members highlighted the importance of integrating neglected tropical disease services into primary healthcare and universal health coverage. They recognized the need for multisectoral action and integrated approaches and called for strengthened surveillance, diagnostics, data systems and monitoring. Board members also called for further capacity-building, research, technical support, and adequate and sustainable financing, as well as measures to address health system limitations and the potential challenges related to increased vectors and disease morbidity due to the climate crisis.

- End TB Strategy

5. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on communicable diseases: End TB Strategy.⁷ It also adopted decision EB158(3), in which it recommended that the Health Assembly request the Director-General to develop a WHO post-2030 tuberculosis strategy, in consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders, for submission to the Eighty-first World Health Assembly in 2028. In the discussions, Board members underscored the need to integrate patient-centred tuberculosis services within primary healthcare and universal health coverage. They also highlighted the importance of integrated and multisectoral approaches to address the social, economic and environmental determinants of tuberculosis and called for increased innovation, research and access to new tools.

12.4 Universal health coverage

6. The Executive Board at its 158th session adopted resolutions EB158.R2 on precision medicine: a path towards targeted, personalized and equitable care, EB158.R3 on strengthening equitable access to diagnostic imaging through teleradiology, EB158.R4 on reducing the burden of

⁵ Document EB158/8; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, third meeting, section 3, and fourth meeting, section 1.

⁶ Document EB158/9; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, third meeting, section 3, and fourth meeting, section 1.

⁷ Document EB158/10; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, third meeting, section 3, and fourth meeting, section 1.

stroke: strengthening prevention, acute care, rehabilitation and health system readiness and EB158.R5.on advancing smart, efficient pharmacovigilance as an essential tool for robust, sustainable, resilient and responsive health systems, for everyone, everywhere.

- Draft global strategy for integrated emergency, critical and operative care, 2026–2035

7. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on universal health coverage: draft global strategy for integrated emergency, critical and operative care, 2026–2035.⁸ It also adopted decision EB158(4), in which it recommended that the Health Assembly adopt the draft global strategy and request the Director-General to report on progress in its implementation to the Health Assembly. In the discussions, Board members expressed concern about inequitable access to and inadequate resources for emergency, critical and operative care, especially in conflict-affected settings. They expressed appreciation for the integrated approach taken in the draft strategy and emphasized the need to integrate emergency, critical and operative care into universal health coverage and health systems; strengthen and protect the health workforce; and enhance infrastructure, referral systems and digital tools. The Secretariat was requested to provide support for implementation of the strategy, including through the development of a global action plan.

- Increasing availability, ethical access and oversight of transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs

8. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on universal health coverage: increasing availability, ethical access and oversight of transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs.⁹ It also adopted decision EB158(5), in which it recommended that the Health Assembly defer consideration of the proposed global strategy on donation and transplantation and request the Director-General to continue to develop the strategy and submit it for consideration by the Eightieth World Health Assembly in 2027. In the discussions, Board members welcomed the ongoing development of the strategy, recalling the need for inclusive consultations. They underscored the importance of strengthening governance systems, regulatory frameworks and ethical oversight, and of promoting equitable access to transplantation. They also called for capacity-building, development of a workforce specializing in transplantation services and improved centres for transplantation.

- Rare diseases: a global health priority for equity and inclusion

9. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on universal health coverage: rare diseases: a global health priority for equity and inclusion.¹⁰ In the discussions, Board members highlighted the importance of developing and implementing a global action plan on rare diseases; improving early diagnosis, newborn screening and access to treatment; strengthening international collaboration, research and data systems; and including rare diseases across health systems. They expressed concern over persistent inequities in care for persons with rare diseases, particularly in lower-income countries.

⁸ Document EB158/11; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, fourth meeting, section 2.

⁹ Document EB158/12; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, fourth meeting, section 2.

¹⁰ Document EB158/13; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, fourth meeting, section 2.

12.5 Primary healthcare

10. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on primary healthcare.¹¹ In the discussions, Board members expressed concern over persistent underfunding and underinvestment in primary healthcare. They emphasized the importance of ensuring equitable access and strengthening primary healthcare as the foundation of universal health coverage. Board members also highlighted the need to ensure sustainable financing for primary healthcare; reinforce the health and care workforce, including community-based services; use data to measure progress; tackle all diseases through a focus on primary healthcare; address the determinants of health as part of a primary healthcare approach; and form country coalitions to advance primary healthcare.

12.6 Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

11. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹² In the discussions, Board members underlined the importance of robust and resilient health systems for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the need to address persistent gaps in funding. They also emphasized the importance of prioritizing high-impact interventions and essential health services; strengthening health information systems; and promoting cooperation at the multisectoral and international levels. They called on WHO to strengthen its leadership role and to continue providing technical and financial support to drive the prioritization of a primary healthcare approach. Board members also called for structured knowledge-sharing platforms to exchange best practices.

12.7 Substandard and falsified medical products

12. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on substandard and falsified medical products containing the report of the fourteenth meeting of the Member State mechanism on substandard and falsified medical products.¹³ In the discussions, Board members expressed concern at the ongoing risks posed by such products and highlighted the importance of strengthening national regulatory systems and enhancing international cooperation, knowledge and data sharing. They also called for strengthened surveillance and monitoring mechanisms and requested the Secretariat to provide further technical and capacity-building support, particularly to lower-income countries.

12.8 Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel

13. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report of the Expert Advisory Group on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel.¹⁴ It also adopted decision EB158(7), in which it reiterated support for the Code of Practice, called for

¹¹ Document EB158/14; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, fourth meeting, section 2.

¹² Document EB158/15; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, fourth meeting, section 2.

¹³ Document EB158/16; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, fifth meeting, section 1.

¹⁴ Document EB158/17; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, fifth meeting, section 1.

renewed efforts to strengthen its implementation and requested the Director-General to facilitate Member State-led informal consultations on a decision or resolution, focusing on the Expert Advisory Group's recommendations, including those for additional text to be included in the Code, to be considered for adoption by the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly.¹⁵ In the discussions, Board members highlighted the need to ensure flexible application of the WHO health workforce support and safeguards list, promote effective governance and ethical management of the international recruitment of health personnel and improve relevant data systems. They also called for enhanced international cooperation to respond to the negative impact of international recruitment of health personnel on source countries' health systems.

12.9 Draft updated global action plan on antimicrobial resistance

14 The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on the draft updated global action plan on antimicrobial resistance.¹⁶ It also adopted decision EB158(6), in which it decided that informal consultations on the draft updated global action plan, and specifically on the subject of voluntary and mutually agreed technology transfer, would continue to be facilitated by the Secretariat during the intersessional period with a view to enabling the adoption of the global action plan at the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly.¹⁷ In the discussions, Board members expressed concern at the threat posed by antimicrobial resistance, highlighting the need for a One Health approach and reinforced surveillance, regulatory systems and laboratory capacity. They also emphasized the need for sustainable funding for implementation of the global action plan and the importance of a collaborative approach to serve the most disadvantaged and vulnerable populations.

12.10 Harmonization of regulatory approaches, governance and standards for data, digital health and artificial intelligence in the health sector

15 The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on harmonization of regulatory approaches, governance and standards for data, digital health and artificial intelligence in the health sector.¹⁸ In the discussions, Board members emphasized the importance of harmonizing regulatory frameworks and governance relating to data, digital health and artificial intelligence; ensuring ethical and safe use of artificial intelligence, including data protection; and establishing interoperable health information systems to be addressed in the next strategy on digital health (2028–2033). They also called for efforts to address fragmented systems and increase investment in digital health and public infrastructure.

¹⁵ Please see document A79/5 Add.3 for a draft resolution.

¹⁶ Document EB158/18; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, fifth meeting, section 1.

¹⁷ Please see document A79/5 Add.2 for the latest version of the draft updated global action plan on antimicrobial resistance.

¹⁸ Document EB158/19; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, fifth meeting, section 1.

Protect health

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

14.2 Strengthening the evidence base for public health and social measures

16 The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on strengthening the evidence base for public health and social measures.¹⁹ In the discussions, Board members expressed support for the development of an evidence base for public health and social measures, highlighting in particular its essential role in informing proportionate and equitable decision-making during health emergencies. They discussed the persistent challenges posed by resource constraints and underscored the importance of multisectoral collaboration and investment in research.

14.3 Poliomyelitis

17. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on poliomyelitis.²⁰ In the discussions, Board members expressed support for the Polio Eradication Strategy 2022–2026 and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative 2026 Action Plan,²¹ highlighting the importance of targeted measures to reach zero-dose children and vulnerable communities, especially in conflict-affected settings, and the need for high coverage rates, rapid outbreak response and robust surveillance systems. The Board further expressed support for Sustaining a Polio-free World: A strategy for long-term success,²² developed to prepare for and sustain a polio-free world. Board members called for sustained international commitment and global resource mobilization to finance polio eradication efforts, with a focus on predictable financing.

Promote health

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

15.1 Strengthening rehabilitation in health systems

18. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on strengthening rehabilitation in health systems.²³ In the discussions, Board members emphasized the importance of integrating rehabilitation into public health, including emergency preparedness, and into health policies, taking account of social participation, equity and gender equality. They also underlined the need for proposing feasible rehabilitation indicators adapted for country contexts, calling for a phased measurement approach. Board members further highlighted the need to enhance workforce competencies and ensure equal access to rehabilitation services across the levels of healthcare.

¹⁹ Document EB158/21; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, fifth meeting, section 2, and sixth meeting, section 1.

²⁰ Document EB158/23; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, fifth meeting, section 2, and sixth meeting, section 1.

²¹ [Global Polio Eradication Initiative 2026 Action Plan](#). Geneva: Global Polio Eradication Initiative; 2025 (accessed 31 March 2026).

²² See [Sustaining a Polio-free World strategy](#) (accessed 28 April 2026).

²³ Document EB158/26; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, seventh meeting, section 3, and eighth meeting, section 1.

15.2 Well-being and health promotion

19. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on well-being and health promotion.²⁴ In the discussions, Board members expressed strong support for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to well-being and health promotion, including cross-sectoral collaboration beyond traditional indicators. They also emphasized the need to integrate well-being and health promotion into public health and multisectoral policy-making, in alignment with country contexts, and to establish platforms supporting community-driven solutions. Board members also expressed support for the global framework for integrating well-being into public health utilizing a health promotion approach.

20. The Board also adopted decision EB158(9) on radiation and health: strengthening global protection, preparedness and response.

- Outcome of the WHO Commission on Social Connection

21. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on well-being and health promotion: outcome of the WHO Commission on Social Connection.²⁵ In the discussions, Board members expressed support for the work of the WHO Commission on Social Connection, recognizing social connection as a key determinant of physical and mental health. They discussed the need to further integrate social connection into health policies and called for coordination among primary health, social and community services to identify and address the challenges associated with social isolation. They also underscored the need for a whole-of-society approach to strengthen social cohesion and community involvement, and for the development of evidence and measures to track progress.

15.3 The health of Indigenous Peoples

22. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on the draft global plan of action for the health of Indigenous Peoples.²⁶ It also adopted decision EB158(10), in which it recommended that the Health Assembly defer consideration of the draft global plan of action to the Eightieth World Health Assembly in 2027. In the discussions, Board members emphasized the importance of deep and inclusive consultations with Indigenous Peoples and stakeholders across all regions to ensure that the draft global plan of action fully reflected their diverse perspectives and contexts. They also expressed support for the five priorities identified in the draft global plan of action.

15.4 Maternal, infant and young child nutrition

23. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on maternal, infant and young child nutrition: comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child

²⁴ Document EB158/27; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, seventh meeting, section 3, and eighth meeting, section 1.

²⁵ Document EB158/28; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, seventh meeting, section 3, and eighth meeting, section 1.

²⁶ Document EB158/29; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, eighth meeting, section 2.

nutrition.²⁷ In the discussions, Board members underscored the importance of integrating nutrition targets into primary healthcare and national policies, protecting breastfeeding and restricting unregulated digital advertising of breast-milk substitutes. They expressed concern at the stagnation or slow progress towards some of the global nutrition targets and called on all stakeholders to intensify actions to reduce inequalities, fulfil commitments and accelerate implementation of the comprehensive implementation plan, prioritizing support for fragile settings. The Secretariat was requested to support the strengthening of country capacity for early prevention of malnutrition and integration of nutrition across food systems.

15.5 Draft strategy on the economics of health for all

24. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on the economics of health for all.²⁸ It also adopted decision EB158(8), in which the Health Assembly was recommended to adopt the draft strategy on the economics of health for all and request the Director-General to report on progress in its implementation to the Eighty-first and Eighty-third World Health Assemblies in 2028 and 2030, respectively. In the discussions, Board members expressed support for the draft strategy and underlined the need for a whole-of-government approach and multisectoral collaboration to achieve an economy that both served and benefited from health for all. In that context, they highlighted the need to strengthen the evidence base and build technical capacities. The Secretariat agreed that additional consultations would be held during the intersessional period to further refine the draft strategy.²⁹

Power and performance

18. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board and the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board

Audit and oversight matters

18.10 Proposed amendments to the process for the selection of the External Auditor

25. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on the proposed amendments to the process for the selection of the External Auditor.³⁰ It also adopted decision EB158(19), in which it recommended that the Health Assembly adopt the revised process for selecting the External Auditor and for renewing for a second term. In the discussions, Board members stressed the importance of a rigorous, transparent, merit-based selection process for the External Auditor, who played a critical role as an independent guarantor of financial transparency.

²⁷ Document EB158/30; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, eighth meeting, section 2.

²⁸ Document EB158/31; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, seventh meeting, section 3, and eighth meeting, section 1.

²⁹ Please see document A79/5 Add.1 for the latest version of the draft strategy on the economics of health for all.

³⁰ Document EB158/41; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, tenth meeting, section 4.

Management, legal and governance matters

18.11 Prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment

26. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.³¹ In the discussions, Board members highlighted the need to reinforce zero-tolerance policies and foster a zero-tolerance culture towards sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, particularly in humanitarian settings, despite financial constraints. They also discussed leveraging the Member State accountability framework in joint operations, as well as the importance of improving reporting and response mechanisms, whistle-blower protection and victim-centred support measures, and of ensuring accountability for perpetrators.

18.12 Governance reform

- Secretariat implementation plan on reform

27. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on the Secretariat implementation plan on reform.³² In the discussions, Board members expressed support for the Secretariat implementation plan on reform, emphasizing that governance reform should enhance the efficiency and transparency of the decision-making processes of the governing bodies and optimize the use of resources. They welcomed the inclusive Member State-led consultations on the implementation of reform processes, noting the need for further clarity on the procedures relating to such consultations. They also called for gradual reform, the inclusion of timelines, clear expectations and cost estimates in reform proposals, and reporting on the implementation of actions.

18.13 Update on the Infrastructure Fund

- Geneva buildings renovation strategy
- Update on information management and technology

28. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on the update on the Infrastructure Fund, including the Geneva buildings renovation strategy and update on information management and technology.³³ In the discussions, Board members noted the progress made in the management of the real estate funds, including the renovation of WHO buildings in Geneva as well as the global distribution and implementation of real estate funds, and in the area of information management and technology. They also recognized the need to renovate WHO-owned offices in the African Region and called for sustainable financing of the Infrastructure Fund, noting that a package of support measures for international organizations in Geneva had been adopted by the host government.

³¹ Document EB158/33; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, eighth meeting, section 4.

³² Document EB158/38; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, ninth meeting, section 1.

³³ Document EB158/35; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, eighth meeting, section 4.

Staffing matters

18.15 Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules

29. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report on amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules.³⁴ It also adopted resolution EB158.R7 on remuneration of staff in the Professional and higher categories, and recommended to the Health Assembly the adoption of resolution EB158.R8 on remuneration of staff in ungraded positions and of the Director-General.

18.16 Report of the International Civil Service Commission

30. The Executive Board at its 158th session noted the report of the International Civil Service Commission.³⁵

Action by the Health Assembly

31. The Health Assembly is invited to note this report and the reports contained in documents A79/5 Add.1 and A79/5 Add.2. The Health Assembly is further invited:

- under item 12.1, to adopt the decision recommended by the Executive Board in decision EB158(1), and the resolutions recommended by the Executive Board in resolution EB158.R1 and decision EB158(2);
- under item 12.3, to adopt the decision recommended by the Executive Board in decision EB158(3);
- under item 12.4, to adopt the decisions recommended by the Executive Board in decisions EB158(4) and EB158(5), and the resolutions recommended by the Executive Board in resolutions EB158.R2, EB158.R3, EB158.R4 and EB158.R5;
- under item 12.8, to consider the draft resolution contained in document A79/5 Add.3;
- under item 12.9, conditional on the outcome of informal consultations, to adopt the decision recommended by the Executive Board in decision EB158(6);
- under item 15.2, to adopt the resolution recommended by the Executive Board in decision EB158(9);
- under item 15.3, to adopt the decision recommended by the Executive Board in decision EB158(10);
- under item 15.5, to adopt the decision recommended by the Executive Board in decision EB158(8);
- under item 18.10, to adopt the decision recommended by the Executive Board in decision EB158(19);
- under item 18.15, to adopt the resolution recommended by the Executive Board in resolution EB158.R8.

³⁴ Document EB158/53; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, tenth meeting, section 2.

³⁵ Document EB158/54; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 158th session, tenth meeting, section 2.