

Daily Report for WHA70
Day 2, 23 May 2017

1. Committee A continues its deliberations

Committee A with agenda items on financial matters and on preparedness, surveillance and response with respect to health emergencies

The first agenda item discussed health with the special arrangements for settlement of arrears, which was transferred from Committee B. Somalia expressed their gratitude towards the Member States and emphasized that it will work closely with WHO. The resolution on agenda 20.3 (Document [A70/67](#)) was then adopted.

The next item on the agenda was a continuation of agenda item 12 on preparedness, surveillance and response. Agenda item 12.1 on health emergencies and agenda item 12.4 on the implementation on international health regulations were jointly discussed.

Preparedness, surveillance and response

Countries commended WHO's work on dealing with emergencies and agreed with the overall conclusions of the report. Many countries expressed concern at the huge number of emergencies that WHO had to respond to. Many countries emphasized on the need for sustainable financing and logistical support.

The vulnerability of the African region to health emergencies was discussed both by the countries of the region and others. Switzerland expressed its concern about the outbreak of cholera in Yemen and Somalia and urged the Secretariat to give Member States further information about how it plans to address this situation. Angola, on behalf of 47 MS of the Africa region raised the concern that these emergencies threatened the economic and social development of the affected countries.

Malta and others emphasized the need for stronger coordination during health emergencies and more solidarity in responding to such events.

The importance of research, speedier communication, promptness in responding, and knowledge exchange were emphasized. Strengthening human resources at all level for health emergencies was highlighted, and dimensions of training, psychological support for health workers, funding, technical support were mentioned.

Countries that had been affected by natural disasters, like Nepal and Bangladesh, narrated their experience in responding to the health situation that arose from these disasters. Nepal and a few other countries emphasized the need to develop plans and capacities for post recovery.

The Syrian Arab Republic objected to certain statements in Document 79. It said that figures related to number of health centres not functioning and number of displaced people were inflated. It maintained that the government is not hampering the WHO's efforts and said that it did not have a 'civil crises', but that it was a war against terrorism.

Israel highlighted the need to be prepared to respond health emergencies related to cybersecurity threats.

International Health Regulations

Countries welcomed the plan and emphasized the importance of implementation of IHRs. Many countries mentioned the utility of joint external evaluations and countries where the evaluations had been undertaken, shared their experience.

Malta pointed at the important linkage between AMR, health systems strengthening and Universal Health Coverage.

Tuvalu, spoke on behalf of the Pacific Island states and stressed that the countries are committed to accelerate the implementation of IHRs because they are one of the highest risk countries and said that climate change has posed a major threat.

Many countries spoke about the need for better communication

Burundi on behalf of the African region spoke about the need for more support to developing countries, including financial support. African region stressed the need to speed up yellow fever vaccinations in accordance with WHA resolution in 2014

The need for intersectoral action along with commensurate financial arrangements, along with trans-boundary coordination, was emphasized.

Countries like Vietnam and Bahamas spoke of the need for regulation related to travel and tourism.

Colombia stated that with respect to exchange of samples, there is a need for clearer global guidelines on the exchange of biological and micro-biological samples, particularly where LMICs are involved.

Statements by non-state actors

[Save the Children](#)

[World Medical Association](#)

[Médecins Sans Frontières International](#)

[International Baby Food Action Network](#)

[Global Health Council, Inc.](#)

2. Election of the new Director General

The election of the new DG took place in the afternoon. There were three candidates running for the post of DG- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, David Nabarro and Sania Nishtar. The Member States voted in three rounds. The background to the election process can be found [here](#). Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus from Ethiopia emerged as the [winner](#) and has been designated as Director General Elect.

3. Tomorrows agenda

What is happening tomorrow at WHA70

The discussions this morning in Committee A are about program and budget matters. Delegates will deliver their views on the present financial situation of the program budget 2016-2017 (11.1) and they will talk about the proposed program budget 2018-2019 (11.2).

Later today the delegates will continue with agenda items 12.1 and 12.4 on respectively Health Emergencies and the Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005).

Also on the agenda are Antimicrobial Resistance (12.2) and Poliomyelitis (12.3).

Today's agenda can be found [here](#)

We will continue with live updates from the Assembly on our Skype channel.