

<b>From:</b>	Grigsby, Garrett (HHS/OS/OGA) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7CD78B4810D44B17B8711AAEDE9A9023-GRIGSBY, GL>
	<p>Schuchat, Anne MD (CDC/OD) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b6e506fd4b204294906aa26f44d2f2c8-Schuchat, A &lt;acs1@cdc.gov&gt;;</p> <p>Wolfe, Mitchell (CDC/OD) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6c55922ecc204695b2997a088fc5a9bc-mitchell.wo &lt;msw6@cdc.gov&gt;;</p> <p>Martin, Rebecca (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/OD) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9711ce7a7656433ba5273e0932271a9b-Martin, Reb &lt;rtm4@cdc.gov&gt;;</p> <p>Collins, Francis (NIH/OD) [E] /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4bd4f570bdc43f2800bf986fa40d75f-francis.col &lt;collinsf@od.nih.gov&gt;;</p> <p>Glass, Roger (NIH/FIC) [E] /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b683c0226ac244d5ac097c3a8b6817c3-roger.glass &lt;glassr@mail.nih.gov&gt;;</p> <p>Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E] /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=826965b24a314ffca7eddc6e8229aa7-anthony.fau &lt;AFAUCI@niaid.nih.gov&gt;;</p> <p>Handley, Gray (NIH/NIAID) [E] /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3fac3cd775e8442ba613bcbab2b90a15-gray.handle &lt;handleygr@niaid.nih.gov&gt;;</p> <p>Sharpless, Norman (NIH/NCI) [E] /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d07fb29292b342f78be09a6f02b2ed6a-norman.shar &lt;norman.sharpless@nih.gov&gt;;</p> <p>Abdoo, Mark (FDA/OC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d8893b91b3bd49b0978ac6b5d5423cd1-mark.abdoo. &lt;Mark.Abdoo@fda.hhs.gov&gt;;</p> <p><b>To:</b> Demby, Austin (HRSA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=87e31a5e3b354d7688b884ba8594245e-austin.demb &lt;ADemby@hrsa.gov&gt;;</p> <p>Pamela D Pryor &lt;PryorPD@state.gov&gt;;</p> <p>&lt;CookNJ@state.gov&gt;;</p> <p>Blackwood, Ann (OS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=66d15bfa54684b7fb989d450620a3c05-blackwoodas &lt;blackwoodas@state.gov&gt;;</p> <p>Koek, Irene (USAID.GOV) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=66cb95aecc0a4930ab87ae86150a4b0d-Irene.Koek. &lt;ikoek@usaid.gov&gt;;</p> <p>&lt;wsteiger@usaid.gov&gt;;</p> <p>Tortora, Lori - FAS, Washington, DC &lt;Lori.Tortora@usda.gov&gt;;</p> <p>Ett, Lesley - FAS, Washington, DC &lt;Lesley.Ett@usda.gov&gt;;</p> <p>&lt;(b)(6)@ustr.eop.gov&gt;;</p> <p>&lt;(b)(6)@ustr.eop.gov&gt;;</p> <p>&lt;Shira.Perlmutter@USPTO.GOV&gt;;</p> <p>&lt;(b)(6)@ustr.eop.gov&gt;;</p> <p>&lt;eadelman@usaid.gov&gt;;</p> <p>Trent-Adams, Sylvia (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=650dc3276414421693345147bfafd132-Trent-Adams &lt;Sylvia.Trent-Adams@hhs.gov&gt;;</p> <p>&lt;Anne.Driscoll@trade.gov&gt;;</p> <p>&lt;BondMH@state.gov&gt;;</p> <p>Anderson, Erika (FDA/OC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=29dc62dc6aec43e5bfd7f835febe6f07-erika.ander &lt;Erika.Anderson@fda.hhs.gov&gt;;</p> <p>&lt;(b)(6)@ustr.eop.gov&gt;</p>
<b>CC:</b>	<p>Schaeffer, Alison (HHS/OS/OGA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=30155c8f69a54072b7c83fc623a43c4c-Schaeffer, A &lt;Alison.Schaeffer@hhs.gov&gt;;</p> <p>Tracy Carson /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=33c7d84fb82a48eeba8f4e0be680df60-TracyCarson &lt;CarsonTL@state.gov&gt;;</p> <p>&lt;PatonMS@state.gov&gt;;</p> <p>Lamourelle, Gabrielle (HHS/OS/OGA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group</p>

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<b>Subject:</b>	WHA Delegate nominations...
<b>Date:</b>	2020/03/12 14:27:00
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal
<b>Type:</b>	Note

Colleagues,

I hope this note finds you well. I know we are all working on COVID-19 issues but we need to prepare for the upcoming 73<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly (WHA). Even before COVID-19, the Assembly was planned to be shorter than normal, running from Sunday, May 17 through Thursday, May 21 in Geneva, Switzerland. With this week's declaration by DG Tedros that COVID-19 is a pandemic, it will be important to coordinate as decisions related to the WHA and related meetings evolve. It is possible WHA will be cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. If this occurs, OGA will inform this group immediately. In any event, this will not be a normal year for the World Health Assembly and we count on your support to ensure the U.S. delegation remains the best prepared and most professional in the world.

The HHS Secretary leads the interagency U.S. delegation to the WHA. Most of the technical work, including resolutions, action plans and strategies, takes place before the Assembly. There are certain issues that will likely require negotiations during the WHA.

This year, we expect the top issues to include (see attached for draft agenda):

- • COVID-19 and health emergencies: COVID-19 isn't formally on the agenda but we expect it to feature prominently in discussions and technical briefings, including under the agenda items on WHO's response to health emergencies.
- • Year of the Nurse and Midwife: This year marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth and is the theme for this year's Assembly.
- • Immunization: Consideration of the U.S.-led resolution on immunization and the new WHO Immunization Agenda 2030.
- • Neglected tropical diseases: Finalization of a new Roadmap for NTDs 2030 outlining future work to combat the diseases and consideration of a new NTD health day.
- • Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property: The Assembly will review an Executive Board decision that asks WHO to follow up on recommendations of the review panel.
- • Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel: WHO will submit a report to the Assembly assessing the effectiveness and relevance of the Code of Practice.
- • Concluded resolutions: The Assembly will discuss topics on which the Executive Board adopted resolutions and decisions, which we don't expect to be renegotiated, including food safety, influenza, cervical cancer, digital health, NCDs.

Should your agency want HHS to consider representation from your agency and office, please send me a justification no longer than three-sentences regarding the individual(s) recommended for inclusion on the delegation **no later than COB Friday, March 20**. Please cc [Alison.Schaeffer@hhs.gov](mailto:Alison.Schaeffer@hhs.gov) on your response. This justification is required for the delegation cable.

**The Administration will carefully scrutinize the size and composition of the delegation, and I would encourage you to be highly judicious in your selection. If you have Geneva-based representatives, we expect that person will represent your agency. Senior leaders, other than Secretary Azar, traveling to the Assembly will not be permitted a plus one. OGA staff will provide support to principals at WHA.**

I look forward to working with all of you in preparing for this year's WHA in whatever form it ultimately takes.

Thank you in advance and please let me know if you have any questions.

Garrett Grigsby  
Director for Global Affairs  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
202-690-6174

<b>Sender:</b>	Grigsby, Garrett (HHS/OS/OGA) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7CD78B4810D44B17B8711AAEDE9A9023-GRIGSBY, GL>
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 <Valerie.Huber@hhs.gov>

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## **Provisional agenda of the Seventy-third World Health Assembly**

### **Report by the Director-General**

1. According to Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly, the Executive Board shall prepare the provisional agenda of each regular session of the Health Assembly after consideration of proposals submitted by the Director-General. Proposals from the Director-General for the provisional agenda of the Seventy-third World Health Assembly are attached at Annex 1.
2. The Health Assembly, in resolution WHA32.36 (1979), decided that the Executive Board “shall fix a preliminary daily timetable for the Health Assembly’s consideration of its agenda and the General Committee shall review and approve this timetable, subsequently revising it if and when required”.
3. A draft preliminary daily timetable for the Seventy-third World Health Assembly is attached at Annex 2.

### **ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

4. The Executive Board may wish to adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board, having considered the report of the Director-General on the provisional agenda for the Seventy-third World Health Assembly,<sup>1</sup> and recalling its earlier decision that the Seventy-third World Health Assembly should be held at the Palais des Nations and the International Conference Centre in Geneva, opening on the afternoon of Sunday, 17 May 2020, and closing no later than Thursday, 21 May 2020,<sup>2</sup> approved the provisional agenda of the Seventy-third World Health Assembly.

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB146/37.

<sup>2</sup> See decision EB145(7) (2019).

# **Draft provisional agenda<sup>1</sup>**

## **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
- 2. Report of the Executive Board on its 145th and 146th sessions**
- 3. Address by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General<sup>2</sup>**
- 4. Invited speaker(s)**
- 5. Admission of new Members and Associate Members [if any]**
- 6. Executive Board: election**
- 7. Awards**
- 8. Reports of the main committees**
- 9. Closure of the Health Assembly**

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<sup>1</sup> 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 17 May 2020.

<sup>2</sup> The main address by the Director-General will be delivered during the high-level segment, which is scheduled to take place on Sunday afternoon, 17 May 2020. The Director-General will deliver a shorter address on the morning of 18 May, which will be followed by the general discussion.

## COMMITTEE A

### 10. Opening of the Committee<sup>1</sup>

#### Pillar 1: One billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage

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

- 11.1 Primary health care
- 11.2 Follow-up to the high-level meetings of the United Nations General Assembly on health-related issues
  - Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world
  - Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases
- 11.3 Global vaccine action plan
- 11.4 Accelerating the elimination of cervical cancer as a global public health problem
- 11.5 Ending tuberculosis
- 11.6 Epilepsy
- 11.7 Integrated, people-centred eye care, including preventable blindness and impaired vision
- 11.8 Neglected tropical diseases - *Linked to World Health Days discussion*
- 11.9 Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property

### 12. WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel

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

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

- 13.1 Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme
- 13.2 WHO's work in health emergencies
- 13.3 Influenza preparedness
- 13.4 Cholera prevention and control

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<sup>1</sup> Including election of Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur.



### 13.5 Poliomyelitis

- Polio eradication
- Polio transition planning and polio post-certification

## 14. International Health Regulations (2005)

## 15. Smallpox eradication: destruction of variola virus stocks *MOVED TO PROGRESS REPORTS*

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

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

### 16.1 Decade of Healthy Ageing

### 16.2 Maternal, infant and young child nutrition

### 16.3 Accelerating efforts on food safety

## COMMITTEE B

## 17. Opening of the Committee<sup>1</sup>

## 18. Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

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

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

### Budget matters

### 19.1 Programme budget 2020–2021

### 19.2 Financing and implementation of the Programme budget 2018–2019 and outlook on financing of the Programme budget 2020–2021

### Staffing matters

### 19.3 Human resources: annual report

### 19.4 Report of the International Civil Service Commission

### 19.5 Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules

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<sup>1</sup> Including election of Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur.

**Managerial, administrative and governance matters**

19.6 Update on the Infrastructure Fund

19.7 WHO reform - *Includes World Health Days discussion*

19.8 Evaluation of the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization

19.9 Data and innovation: draft global strategy on digital health

**Financial matters**

20. **WHO programmatic and financial report for 2018–2019, including audited financial statements for 2019**

21. **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**

22. **Special arrangements for settlement of arrears [if any]**

23. **Scale of assessments**

24. **Amendments to Financial Regulations and Financial Rules [if any]**

25. **Assessment of new Members and Associate Members [if any]**

**Audit and oversight matters**

26. **Report of the External Auditor**

27. **Report of the Internal Auditor**

28. **External and internal audit recommendations: progress on implementation**

29. **The WHO strategy on research for health**

30. **Appointment of representatives to the WHO Staff Pension Committee**

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

32. **Matters for information**

32.1 Progress reports

A. Global action plan on the public health response to dementia 2017–2025 (decision WHA70(17) (2017))

B. Towards universal eye health: a global action plan 2014–2019 (resolution WHA66.4 (2013))

- C. Eradication of dracunculiasis (resolution WHA64.16 (2011))
- D. Improving the prevention, diagnosis and clinical management of sepsis (resolution WHA70.7 (2017))
- E. Addressing the burden of snakebite envenoming (resolution WHA71.5 (2018))
- F. Strengthening integrated, people-centred health services (resolution WHA69.24 (2016))
- G. Reproductive health: strategy to accelerate progress towards the attainment of international development goals and targets (resolution WHA57.12 (2004))
- H. Health and the environment: road map for an enhanced global response to the adverse health effects of air pollution (decision WHA69(11) (2016))
- I. Female genital mutilation (resolution WHA61.16 (2008))
- J. Public health dimension of the world drug problem (decision WHA70(18) (2017))

**#TBD: Smallpox eradication: destruction of variola virus stocks**

## ANNEX 2

**PRELIMINARY DAILY TIMETABLE FOR THE  
SEVENTY-THIRD WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY<sup>1</sup>**

*Pre-event: Walk the Talk, Sunday 5/17 at 9am, Palais des Nations*

May 2020	Plenary	Committee A	Committee B	Other
<b>Sunday 17</b>				
14:00	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	—	—	—
14:30	High-level segment	—	—	—
Upon closure of high-level segment				General Committee
<b>Monday 18</b>				
09:00	— Presidential address 1.4 Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items to the main committees 2. Report of the Executive Board on its 145th and 146th sessions 3. Address by the Director-General — General discussion	—	—	—
		Upon commencement of the General discussion	Upon commencement of the General discussion	—
		10. Opening of the Committee	17. Opening of the Committee	

<sup>1</sup> In view of the exceptionally short duration of the Health Assembly, it is proposed that Committees A and B meet in parallel with the General discussion in plenary.

May 2020	Plenary	Committee A	Committee B	Other
<b>Monday 18</b> (continued)		<b>Pillar 1</b> 11. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board	<b>Pillar 4</b> 19. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board	
14:00	...	...	...	...
14:30	3. Address by the Director-General – General discussion (continued)	<b>Pillar 1</b> 11. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board (continued)	<b>Pillar 4</b> 19. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board (continued)	Committee on Credentials –
<b>Tuesday 19</b>				
09:00 and 14:30	– Report of Committee on Credentials 5. Admission of new Members and Associate Members [if any] 3. Address by the Director-General – General discussion (continued)	–  Upon recommencement of the General discussion <b>Pillar 1</b> 11. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board (continued) 12. WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel	–  Upon recommencement of the General discussion 18. Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan <b>Pillar 4</b> 20. WHO programmatic and financial report for 2018–2019, including audited financial statements for 2019	–



May 2020	Plenary	Committee A	Committee B	Other
<b>Wednesday 20</b>				
09:00 and 14:30		<b>Pillar 2</b> 13. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board (continued) 14. International Health Regulations (2005) 15. Smallpox eradication: destruction of variola virus stocks  <b>Pillar 3</b> 16. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board	29. The WHO strategy on research for health 30. Appointment of representatives to the WHO Staff Pension Committee 31. Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations 32. Matters for information	–
17:30	6. Executive Board: election 7. Awards	–	–	–
<b>Thursday 21</b>				
09:00 and 14:30	8 Reports of the main committees (continued) 9. Closure of the Health Assembly	– Finalization of resolutions/decisions and reports	– Finalization of resolutions/decisions and reports	–

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<b>From:</b>	Grigsby, Garrett (HHS/OS/OGA) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7CD78B4810D44B17B8711AAEDE9A9023-GRIGSBY, GL>
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<b>CC:</b>	<p>Schaeffer, Alison (HHS/OS/OGA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=30155c8f69a54072b7c83fc623a43c4c-Schaeffer, A &lt;Alison.Schaeffer@hhs.gov&gt;;</p> <p>Tracy Carson /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=33c7d84fb82a48eeba8f4e0be680df60-TracyCarson &lt;CarsonTL@state.gov&gt;;</p> <p>&lt;PatonMS@state.gov&gt;;</p> <p>Lamourelle, Gabrielle (HHS/OS/OGA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group</p>



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<b>Subject:</b>	WHA
<b>Date:</b>	2020/05/08 16:14:00
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal
<b>Type:</b>	Note

Colleagues,

I hope this note finds you well. I wanted to provide you with an update on the upcoming 73<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly (WHA). There have been a few updates since we last met in April.

The WHA will convene by webconference on Monday, May 18, for a virtual session focused on a few items critical for business continuity (see the attached agenda).

Member States will have the opportunity to make a statement responding to the address of the Director-General focused on COVID-19. We also expect the WHA to agree on taking up some consensus items using a written procedure after May 18, including resolutions/decisions from the February 2020 Executive Board meeting.

Items requiring more discussion would be taken up through a resumed session of WHA73 later in 2020 (date and form to be determined later).

HHS Secretary Azar, leads the U.S. delegation to the WHA, and will deliver the U.S. statement. The bulk of the WHA will be taken up by national statements on COVID-19. The broader delegation's participation will be in listening mode given the technical and logistical challenges of this virtual meeting format. As is normal

practice, the WHO will broadcast the proceedings online, allowing the majority of the delegation and external stakeholders to follow the proceedings in real time.

We will follow up with more information on those items to be taken up using the written procedure as soon as we receive it from the WHO Secretariat.

The formal listed U.S. delegation for the virtual session WHA73 will be very limited given the virtual format, but we encourage all interested parties from the U.S. government to watch proceedings via webcast. Rest assured that we will continue to engage the expertise of your offices as we prepare for the substantive work of the WHA.

Thank you for your continued collaboration. Please let me know if you have any questions.



HHS Logo

**Garrett Grigsby**  
**Director for Global Affairs**  
**Office of the Secretary**  
**U.S. Department of Health & Human Services**  
**202-690-6174**

<b>Sender:</b>	Grigsby, Garrett (HHS/OS/OGA) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7CD78B4810D44B17B8711AAEDE9A9023-GRIGSBY, GL>
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 Pamela D Pryor <PryorPD@state.gov>;  
 <CookNJ@state.gov>;  
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 <ikoek@usaid.gov>;  
 <wsteiger@usaid.gov>;  
 Tortora, Lori - FAS, Washington, DC <Lori.Tortora@usda.gov>;  
 Ett, Lesley - FAS, Washington, DC <Lesley.Ett@usda.gov>;  
 (b)(6)@ustr.eop.gov>;  
 (b)(6)@ustr.eop.gov>;  
 <Shira.Permutter@USPTO.GOV>;  
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 <Valerie.Huber@hhs.gov>

**Sent Date:** 2020/05/08 16:14:44

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## **Provisional agenda (abridged)<sup>1</sup>**

### **PLENARY**

**1. Opening of the Health Assembly<sup>2</sup>**

1.2 Election of the President

1.3 Election of the five Vice-Presidents<sup>3</sup>

1.4 Adoption of the agenda

Documents A73/1 and A73/1 Add.1

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

Document A73/3

**4. Invited speaker(s)**

**6. Executive Board: election**

**9. Closure of the Health Assembly<sup>4</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> In the context of the restrictions imposed in response to the pandemic of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), and through a written silence procedure, the Executive Board has approved the arrangements for a virtual World Health Assembly to be held, using video conferencing technology. This *de minimis* session will only consider an abridged version of the Provisional agenda.

<sup>2</sup> During the opening of the Health Assembly, Member States will be invited to also consider the adoption of special procedures, the verification of credentials and the adoption of a written silence procedure. Please see the timetable for more details.

<sup>3</sup> The Committees of the Health Assembly will not convene.

<sup>4</sup> Under this item, Member States will be invited to consider suspending the Health Assembly until it can meet in a resumed session later in 2020.

## **Provisional agenda (abridged)<sup>1</sup>**

**1. Election of Chair, Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur**

**2. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda<sup>2</sup>**

Documents EB147/1, EB147/1 Add.1 and EB147/1 (annotated)

**5. Managerial, administrative and financial matters**

**5.5 Committees of the Executive Board: filling of vacancies**

Documents EB147/8 and EB147/8 Add.1

**8. Future sessions of the Executive Board and the Health Assembly**

Document EB147/10

**9. Closure of the session<sup>3</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> In the context of the restrictions imposed in response to the pandemic of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), and through a written silence procedure, the Executive Board has approved the arrangements for a virtual session of the Executive Board to be held, using video conferencing technology. This *de minimis* session will only consider an abridged version of the Provisional agenda.

<sup>2</sup> During the opening of the session of the Executive Board, Member States will be invited to also consider the adoption of special procedures and of a written silence procedure. Please see the timetable for more details.

<sup>3</sup> Under this item, Member States will be invited to consider suspending the session of the Executive Board until it can meet in a resumed session later in 2020.