



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

NOTE FOR THE PRESS

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**Note for the Media WHA/1
13 May 2005**

WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY TO TAKE IMPORTANT DECISIONS AFFECTING PUBLIC HEALTH 16 - 25 MAY

Geneva – The Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly (WHA) is set to consider several critical health issues next week. The WHA, comprised of the World Health Organization's (WHO) 192 Member States, is the supreme decision-making body for WHO and its main function is to determine the policies of the Organization. This year's meeting takes place from 16-25 May.

The Assembly will review the proposed programme budget for 2006-2007, and consider more than a dozen draft resolutions on issues including cancer prevention and control, health action in crises, tuberculosis, malaria, pandemic influenza preparedness and response, global immunization and social health insurance. The Assembly will also receive updates on progress in polio eradication, scaling up of HIV/AIDS treatment and care, and promotion of healthy lifestyles. This year's invited speakers are the President of the Republic of Maldives His Excellency Maumoon Abdul Gayoom and the Co-Founder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Bill Gates.

Below is a list of agenda items and other events which may be of particular interest to journalists. Accompanying documents and background information can be found at the WHA documentation web site: <http://www.who.int/gb/e/index.html> in six languages. Items which contain draft resolutions to be reviewed during committee meetings for formal adoption by the Assembly at plenary sessions are underlined. Note that Member States can submit new resolutions for WHA consideration.

Depending on the lengths of discussions, times and dates for agenda items will likely shift, so journalists should regularly consult the World Health Assembly Journal which is posted daily. You can also contact WHO staff for updates - a full list of media staff and their contact details is attached at the end of this note.

Monday, 16 May

09:00 (Room 23): News Conference - Bill Gates

10:00: Opening of the Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly

13:00-13:15 (Assembly Hall): Photo opportunity - Dr LEE Jong-wook and members of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra

15:00: Plenary Speakers:

- Dr LEE Jong-wook, WHO Director-General
- His Excellency Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives
- Bill Gates, Co-Founder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Tuesday, 17 May

09:00: Committee A: Revision of the International Health Regulations

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12:30-13:30 (Press Room III): Media briefing - Launch of the Health Metrics Network

13:00-14:30 (Room 12): Technical briefing - Mexico summit: Ministerial Summit on Health Research

15:00: Committee A: Achievement of health-related Millennium Development Goals; health action in relation to crises (EB115.R11)

Wednesday, 18 May

AM: Committee A: Sustainable financing for tuberculosis prevention and control (EB114.R1)

13:00-14:30 (Room 12): Technical briefing - Strengthening pandemic influenza preparedness and response

Thursday, 19 May

AM: Committee A: Proposed programme budget 2006-2007

Committee B: Health conditions of, and assistance to, the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine

13:00-14:30 (Room 12): Technical briefing - Maternal and child health

Friday, 20 May

AM: Committee A: Malaria (EB115.R14)

13:00-14:30 (Room 12): Technical briefing - Scaling up HIV/AIDS prevention in the context of antiretroviral treatment

14:00-15:00 (Press Room III): Media briefing - Global Immunization Vision and Strategy

15:00: Committee A: Smallpox; polio eradication

Saturday, 21 May

09:00: Committee A: Draft global immunization strategy (note media materials at <http://www.who.int/vaccines/GIVS/>); strengthening pandemic influenza preparedness and response (EB115.R16)

Monday, 23 May

AM: Committee A: Antimicrobial resistance (EB115.R6); infant and young child nutrition (EB115.R12)

13:00-14:30 (Room 12): Technical briefing - Health Metrics Network (HMN)

15:00: Committee A: Social health insurance (EB115.R13); eHealth (EB115.R20)

Tuesday, 24 May

09:00: Committee A: Mexico Summit: Ministerial Summit on Health Research

Committee B: Cancer prevention and control (EB114.R2); disability, including prevention, management and rehabilitation (EB114.R3)

13:00-14:30 (Room 12): Technical briefing - Irrational use of medicines damages health and wastes resources: What can we do about it?

15:00: Committee B: Public health problems caused by harmful use of alcohol (EB115.R5); International Plan of Action on Ageing, report on implementation (EB115.R7)

Wednesday, 25 May

AM: Reports of the committees, and closure of the Assembly

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE MEDIA

From 16-25 May, several WHO media and communications staff will be located both in the Palais des Nations and at WHO Headquarters. To dial the UN office telephone numbers from inside the Palais des Nations, please omit the 022 91 before dialling the five-digit extension.

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