



16–20 October 2023
Manila, Philippines

WPR/RC74/DJ/5 Rev. 1

20 October 2023

Contents

I.	Programme of work	2
II.	Report of meetings	3

Other information

Venue	Conference Hall, Regional Office for the Western Pacific
Document distribution	<p>Electronic copies of all working documents and related material are available on the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific website.</p> <p>In line with WHO green-meeting practices, printed documents are available only upon request at the WHO Enquiry Desk located in the foyer of the Conference Hall. Representatives are kindly requested to collect other documents, messages and invitations daily at their designated mailboxes.</p>
Video streaming	<p>The plenary sessions will be broadcast on the WHO Western Pacific Region YouTube channel and website, on the Regional Committee portal and on the WHO Events mobile app. Any member of the public can watch the proceedings on that livestream in English, French or Chinese. The broadcast will also be available at the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific website.</p>
Internet access	<p>Wireless Internet access is available throughout the Regional Office. The network name and password can be obtained from the WHO Enquiry Desk in the Conference Hall foyer.</p> <p>An Internet Cafe is located along the corridor of the lower lounge near the Conference Hall. For assistance, please contact IT support staff at the Internet Cafe.</p>
Rapporteurs meeting	The meeting was held on Thursday following the afternoon session at 17:15 in Room 409-E.
Zero tolerance of harassment and sexual misconduct	<p>WHO has a zero-tolerance policy for any form of harassment and sexual misconduct at any WHO event or on WHO premises. If a participant has a concern, please speak to a member of the Secretariat. All concerns will be handled conscientiously and confidentially. Reports or complaints can also be made to the WHO Office of Internal Oversight Services at investigation@who.int.</p>
WHO publications	<p>Publications related to the agenda of the Regional Committee are on display in the Conference Hall lounge. Specialized postcards of selected publications, with QR codes for downloading the full texts, are available at the display area. Likewise, all featured articles are available on the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific Publications webpage.</p>
Security	<p>Please ensure your WHO ID card is displayed at all times while on WHO premises.</p> <p>There is a no-smoking policy on WHO premises. Smoking is also prohibited in most public areas in Metro Manila.</p>

I. PROGRAMME OF WORK (FRIDAY, 20 October 2023)

Agenda items 09:00–12:00

14	Health workforce	WPR/RC74/8
15	Progress reports on technical programmes	WPR/RC74/9

Agenda items 14:00–17:00

17	Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction: Membership of the Policy and Coordination Committee	WPR/RC74/11
16	Coordination of the work of the World Health Assembly, the Executive Board and the Regional Committee (<i>continued</i>) 16.5 Items recommended by the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board 16.7 Other items (<i>if any</i>) 16.2 Agenda for the seventy-fifth session of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific in 2024 Time and place of the seventy-fifth and seventy-sixth sessions of the Regional Committee Closure of the session	WPR/RC74/10

Consideration of draft resolutions

Communication for Health	WPR/RC74/Conference Paper No. 2 (draft resolution)
Health innovation	WPR/RC74/Conference Paper No. 3 (draft resolution)
Health workforce	WPR/RC74/Conference Paper No. 4 (draft resolution)

Please note: The draft resolutions are posted as conference papers on the [Regional Committee SharePoint portal](#). Any amendments should be submitted in writing to wprorcm@who.int using specific language. These conference papers will be considered for adoption after the morning session.

II. REPORT OF MEETINGS (THURSDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2023)

Seventh meeting

Vice-Chairperson: Honourable Dr Tugsdelger Sovd, Acting State Secretary, Ministry of Health, Mongolia

Item 16 **Coordination of the work of the World Health Assembly, the Executive Board and the Regional Committee (*continued*)**

16.3 WHO's work in countries

The Acting Regional Director introduced the item by noting that strong progress has been made in delivering on the *For the Future* vision, while also highlighting the need for sustainable financing to address the complex health challenges faced in the Region. The WHO Representative, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore, and the Deputy Director-General of Health (Public Health), Ministry of Health, Malaysia, described how a social behavioural change communication programme had been implemented in Malaysia as part of a comprehensive and innovative approach to salt reduction. The Acting Director-General, Ministry of Health, Vanuatu, shared information on work done to improve oral health as part of the Health Promoting Schools initiative in Vanuatu, and the Minister of Health and Human Services, Palau, described his Government's efforts to create an age-friendly environment through a multisectoral approach with a view to empowering older people. The WHO Representative, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the Director-General, Department of Communicable Disease and Control, Ministry of Health, Lao People's Democratic Republic, outlined a number of innovative approaches taken to close the health equity gap in the country by enhancing local governance and community engagement. In a video recording, the Health Emergency Officer and EMT Focal Point for the Western Pacific Region shared information on work done to build capacity across the Pacific to respond to health security issues and disasters by establishing and strengthening emergency medical teams (EMTs). The Minister of Health and Medical Services, Kiribati, then shared details of efforts to develop a national EMT in Kiribati. The WHO Representative, Viet Nam, and the Director of the Institute of Health Strategy and Policy, Ministry of Health, Viet Nam, explained how the country enacted legislative reform to strengthen its health system. Lastly, the Permanent Secretary for Health and Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Fiji, described work being done to make health-care facilities in Fiji climate-resilient.

Interventions were made by the representatives of the following Member States (in order): Australia, China and the Philippines,

In responding to interventions, the acting Coordinator, Country Support Unit, and the Acting Regional Director assured Member States that the process for developing country cooperation strategies is advancing rapidly, with two new strategies signed by the respective health ministers and the Acting Regional Director this week. They agreed on the need for strong country offices with adequate staffing. A new Delegation of Authority being implemented by WHO provides country offices with the broader authority to recruit staff and undertake activities to improve efficiencies. Regional hubs are being established to provide further support to countries and ensure compliance in WHO processes. They also acknowledged interest among Member States to collaborate and learn from each other's experience.

Item 13 Communication for Health

The Acting Regional Director introduced the agenda item on Communication for Health (C4H), noting the importance of strategic, evidence-informed and people-centred communication to build knowledge, shift attitudes and support behaviour change for better health outcomes. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, WHO has been working in consultation with Member States to develop, test and strengthen the C4H approach. The draft *Regional Action Framework on Communication for Health: A vision for using communication to improve public health in the Western Pacific Region* outlines evidence-informed, evaluation-driven and outcome-focused principles and practices that should help close the gap between knowledge and practice in terms of health protection.

A video on C4H was presented.

Interventions were made by the representatives of the following Member States (in order): Vanuatu, Fiji, Mongolia, Cook Islands, Samoa, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Australia, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, the Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Cambodia, Viet Nam, the United States of America, China, Hong Kong SAR (China) and the United States of America (territories).

Eighth meeting

Vice-Chairperson: Honourable Dr Tugsdelger Sovd, Acting State Secretary, Ministry of Health, Mongolia

Item 16 Coordination of the work of the World Health Assembly, the Executive Board and the Regional Committee (*continued*)

16.7 Other items (*if any*)

Two Member States proposed a decision calling on the Secretariat to suggest options for clarifying the process of selecting Executive Board members from the Western Pacific Region. Another Member State expressed reservations.

Interventions were made by the representatives of the following Member States (in order): the Republic of Korea, China, Brunei Darussalam, Australia, Singapore and Mongolia.

The Acting Regional Director thanked Member States for their efforts to work towards a solution, noting that the Secretariat and Member States have worked diligently in recent weeks to resolve the matter; however, it has not yet been possible to achieve a consensus. She strongly encouraged the Regional Committee to give the Secretariat a mandate to proceed with that work, adding that the matter will be addressed at the next session of the Regional Committee.

Item 13 Communication for Health

In continuation, interventions were made by the representatives of the following Member States (in order): Japan, Papua New Guinea, Palau, the Republic of Korea and Kiribati.

The Regional Communications Manager thanked Member States for their support of the *Regional Action Framework on Communication for Health: A vision for using communication to improve public health in the Western Pacific Region*, and their recognition of the importance of strategic communication in improving health and well-being. In responding to Member State requests for technical support, she noted WHO's ongoing work to develop practical tools, guidance and resources to support operationalization of the C4H approach; help countries identify their needs; take steps to fill any gaps; and define targets and indicators to measure and evaluate results. She also noted that WHO would continue to enhance its technical capacity in C4H

both at regional and country levels, including by applying behavioural insights, gathering and utilizing evidence, and measuring and evaluating communication outcomes. In addition, WHO will continue to strengthen collaboration with partners, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the WHO Collaborating Centre for Evaluation of Communication at the University of Technology Sydney, and other partners/experts across the Region. She expressed appreciation for Member State offers to share experiences in implementing C4H, which will contribute to cross-country learning, experience-sharing and building a strong community of practice.

Item 12

Health Innovation

The Director, Data, Strategy and Innovation, introduced the agenda item, noting that health innovation has increased since the onset of COVID-19. Fresh ideas, renewed determination and greater multi-stakeholder collaboration are needed to address persistent challenges and emerging threats while ensuring inclusivity. A misalignment of values in many innovations has led to economic concerns taking precedence over the well-being of populations, and a lack of comprehensive evaluation and evidence generation has hindered informed policy-making. Governments must therefore take a leading role in health innovation by prioritizing well-being and equity, and by fostering public-private partnerships. He invited the Regional Committee to consider the draft *Regional Health Innovation Strategy for the Western Pacific*, which promotes regional collaboration and provides a strategic framework for the public sector to actively engage in health innovation.

A video on health innovation was presented.

Interventions were made by the representatives of the following Member States (in order): Vanuatu, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Japan, Mongolia, Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Samoa, Malaysia, China, the Philippines, Hong Kong SAR (China), the Republic of Korea, Cook Islands, Palau, the United States of America (territories) and Australia.

The Director, Data, Strategy and Innovation, thanked Member States for their interventions and their support for the draft *Regional Health Innovation Strategy for the Western Pacific*. In response to Member State interventions on efforts to integrate health innovation into the health sector and national digital health strategies, he emphasized the importance of prioritizing development of innovation-enabling policies, legislation and governance. WHO would support countries in setting short- and long-term priorities for health innovation; in developing innovation leadership and capabilities, including by identifying strategic priorities for health innovation, assessing and selecting health innovations for implementation; and in conducting operational and implementation research to evaluate health innovation and disseminate evidence-based guidance to bridge the research-practice gap.

The Director, Digital Health and Innovation, WHO headquarters, responded to Member State concerns regarding the need to support local innovation to address local problems, promote regional knowledge-sharing in innovation and foster a multisectoral approach and collaboration between the public and private sectors and communities, in particular to overcome constraints in resources and intelligence and ensure health innovation can improve health equity. He reassured Member States that WHO would shape a regional health innovation ecosystem that takes a human-centred approach and empowers local entrepreneurs to develop and scale innovations.

Consideration of draft resolution:

The Chairperson invited the Regional Committee to consider the draft resolution on Health security (WPR/RC74/Conf. Paper No.1). The Rapporteur for the English language read aloud the draft resolution. The draft resolution was adopted (WPR/RC74.R3)