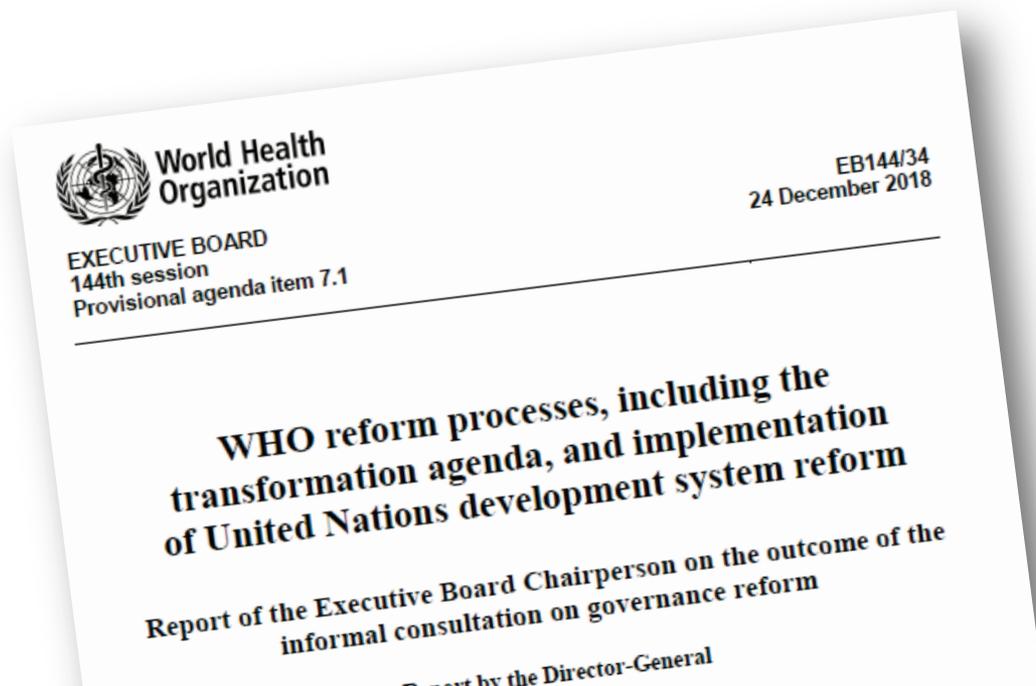


Civil Society Meeting ahead of WHO EB 144
Geneva, Ecumenical Centre, 23 January 2019
Afternoon session: WHO Governance



Reform of WHO Governing Bodies

- Referring to: Agenda item 7.1, Document EB144/34
- Initial input by: Thomas Schwarz, Medicus Mundi International Network
- Guest until 14.20 hrs: Dr Gaudenz Silberschmidt, WHO Director Partnerships and Non-State Actors



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Reform of WHO Governing Bodies

Item E - Participation of non-State actors in governing body meetings

“The informal consultation recommends that EB144 consider the following measures to stimulate the participation of non-State actors in official relations in governing bodies meetings.

- **(b) Incentives could be created for non-State actors in official relations to speak as clusters or constituencies.** A limited number of speaking slots for non-State actors per session of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board could be considered.
- **(c) The Chairperson should exercise his or her discretion to ensure an effective discussion,** including with respect to the time allotted for statements. Non-State actors will have timely notice of allocation of time for their interventions.
- **(d) To consider continuing discussions on organizing an informal meeting with non-State actors in official relations.** A concept note reflecting informal consultation’s discussions will be circulated before EB144 to facilitate further discussions. “ (Document EB 144/34, page 10,)

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Reform of WHO Governing Bodies

Informal meeting/forum with non-State actors in official relations – main elements and perspectives

- “Overall, Member States welcomed the proposal of an informal meeting/forum bringing together Member States and non-State actors (nongovernmental organizations, international business associations and philanthropic foundations) in official relations.
- Views converged on the appraisal that the main objective of such an informal meeting/forum would be to allow for more interactions and more meaningful dialogue with non-State actors in official relations.
- The informal meeting/forum should be seen as an additional opportunity for interaction and would not replace current participation in WHO governing bodies, informal consultations and other forms of interaction.”

Concept note as appendix to Document EB 144/34

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Reform of WHO Governing Bodies

“Nothing about us without us”

“During the informal consultation debates, several Member States have stressed that they are keen to hear the views and proposals of non-State actors themselves (in accordance with the principle of ‘Nothing about us without us’).

Conversations with non-State actors in this respect should be transparent, inclusive and efficient.”

Concept note as appendix to
Document EB 144/34



World Health
Organization

EXECUTIVE BOARD
144th session
Provisional agenda item 7.1

EB144/34
24 December 2018

WHO reform processes, including the transformation agenda, and implementation of United Nations development system reform

**Report of the Executive Board Chairperson on the outcome of the
informal consultation on governance reform**

Report by the Director-General

1. The Director-General has the honour to transmit to the Executive Board at its 144th session the summary and proposed way forward submitted by the Chairperson of the Executive Board concerning the informal consultations on governance reform held on 13 and 14 September and 23 and 24 October 2018 (see Annex). Further to paragraph 9(d) of the Annex, a concept note reflecting the informal consultation's discussion on the participation of non-State actors in governing body meetings is contained in the appendix.

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Reform of WHO Governing Bodies

Questions for the conversation:

- **What's the story?** What is is really about?
- **How would the proposals influence NSA participation** in governing body and related political, regulatory and normative processes? Who would benefit, who would lose?
- **Feasibility check:** Are the NGOs in official relations participating in EB 144 able to integrate their assessments of the proposals in one statement of 2 Minutes?
- **Process related:** Will the “nothing for us without us” principle only be applied (and how?) for the debate on the meeting/forum proposal or for the whole set of 4 proposals?
- **Beyond proposals: Civil society demands** regarding inclusiveness and transparency?