

Rule 36

Each main committee shall elect two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

Rule 68

If two or more proposals are moved, the Health Assembly shall, unless it decides otherwise, vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been circulated to all delegations, unless the result of a vote on a proposal makes unnecessary any other voting on the proposal or proposals still outstanding.

Rule 92

Verbatim records of all plenary meetings and summary records of the meetings of the General Committee and of committees and subcommittees shall be made by the Secretariat. Unless otherwise expressly decided by the committee concerned, no record shall be made of the proceedings of the Committee on Credentials other than the report presented by the Committee to the Health Assembly.

4. DECIDES that the Health Assembly shall continue to follow its current practice concerning equitable geographical representation in the nomination of candidates for elected positions in the Health Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, with a view to such nominations being received by the Director-General no later than the opening of each session of the Health Assembly.

5. FURTHER DECIDES that the foregoing changes to its Rules of Procedure shall take effect from the closure of its Sixty-first session.

(Eighth plenary meeting, 24 May 2008 –
Committee B, second report)

WHA61.12 Multilingualism: implementation of action plan

The Sixty-first World Health Assembly,

Convinced of the relevance of the recommendations made in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit¹ entitled Multilingualism and access to information: case study on the World Health Organization, which was submitted to the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board at its first meeting;

Recalling the provisions relating to multilingualism contained in the Medium-term strategic plan 2008–2013 (resolution WHA60.11);

Also recalling the resolutions and rules relating to language use in WHO, and in particular resolution WHA50.32 on respect for equality among the official languages, resolution WHA51.30 concerning the availability of governing body documents on the Internet and resolution EB105.R6 on the use of languages in WHO;

¹ Document JIU/REP/2003/4.

Considering that the universality of the organizations of the United Nations system is based on, among other things, language diversity and equality among the official and working languages chosen by the Member States;

Welcoming in this regard the resolution on multilingualism (61/266) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in May 2007;

Commending the report by the Secretariat entitled “Multilingualism: plan of action”¹ submitted to the Executive Board at its 121st session in May 2007,

1. REQUESTS the Director-General to implement, as rapidly as possible, the plan of action contained in the Secretariat’s report,¹ and in particular the following points:

(1) preparation, before the 124th session of the Executive Board, of a timetable for implementation of the plan of action and a table showing the financial implications globally fitting within the framework of the Medium-term strategic plan 2008–2013;

(2) preparation of a strategy to set translation priorities, associating Member States by means of a mechanism of informal consultations to be defined;

2. ALSO REQUESTS the Director-General to ensure:

(1) equal respect for linguistic diversity at WHO headquarters, regional offices and country offices;

(2) establishment of a database to make it possible to determine in which official languages of the Organization members of WHO staff belonging to the professional category are fluent;

(3) that health-care background is taken into account when recruiting WHO language-services staff;

(4) encouragement of and promotion of access to, high-quality language training for all the Organization’s staff;

3. FURTHER REQUESTS the Director-General to report to the Sixty-second World Health Assembly on the implementation of this resolution, and to report biennially thereon.

(Eighth plenary meeting, 24 May 2008 –
Committee B, second report)

WHA61.13 International Agency for Research on Cancer: amendments to Statute²

The Sixty-first World Health Assembly,

Considering the amendments to Article VI of the Statute of the International Agency for Research on Cancer adopted by the Governing Council at its Fiftieth Session;³

¹ Documents EB121/6 and EB121/6 Corr.1.

² See Annex 2.

³ Document A61/33.