

FIFTH GLOBAL MEETING OF HEADS OF WHO COUNTRY OFFICES WITH THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS



REPORT

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► LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADG	Assistant Director-General
AFRO	WHO Regional Office for Africa
AMRO	WHO Regional Office for the Americas
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CCS	Country Cooperation Strategy
CCO	Department of Country Focus
CO	Country Office
DDG	Deputy Director-General
DG	Director-General
DPM	Director, Programme Management
DRD	Deputy Regional Director
EMRO	WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
EPR	Epidemic and Pandemic Alert and Response
EURO	WHO Regional Office for Europe
GFATM	The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
GHP	Global Health Partnership
GPEI	Global Polio Eradication Initiative
GPW	General Programme of Work
GSM	Global Management System
HAC	Health Action in Crises
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HQ	Headquarters
HSS	Health Systems and Services
HWCO	Head of WHO Country Office
IHP+	International Health Partnership and Related Initiatives
IHR	International Health Regulations
MoH	Ministry of Health
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MTSP	Medium-Term Strategic Plan
NHSP	National Health Strategy and/or Plan
NGO	Nongovernmental organizations
PUN	Partnerships and UN Reform
PSC	Programme Support Costs
RCS	Resident Coordinator System
RD	Regional Director
RO	Regional Office
SEARO	WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WCO	WHO Country Office
WHA	World Health Assembly
WHO	World Health Organization
WPRO	WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific
WR	WHO Representative

► PART I KEY ACTIONS

THE 8 KEY ACTIONS

1. Enhance capacity of Heads of WHO Country Offices and Country Office staff to support national health emergency preparedness and response, through training and guidance related to:
 - a. the Health Cluster;
 - b. the International Health Regulations (2005); and
 - c. public health and humanitarian emergency management.
2. Promote and implement Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), rollout the Event Management System to all levels of the Organization, and advance the Common Operational Platform initiative for more coherent emergency management.
3. Monitor, through collaboration between Headquarters, Regional and Country Offices, the impact of the financial crisis on health, as well as the efficiency savings within the WHO Secretariat.
4. Establish a compendium of national expertise built from the country level, validated by regions and increasingly used to replace international experts as well as an inventory of WHO expertise.
5. Increase the WHO Country Teams' capacity to work with other UN agencies and development partners to advocate for and mobilize multi-sectoral contributions towards the National Health Strategy/Plan, for better health outcomes.
6. Map the Strategic Agendas of the Country Cooperation Strategies to the Medium Term Strategic Plan (MTSP), to inform the implementation of the 2010-2011 and the development of the 2012-2013, Programme Budgets.
7. Ensure that all HWCOS complete their Performance Management and Development Systems (PMDS), that reflect the need to be an effective and inclusive team member with partners in the country, in support to the National Health Strategy/Plan.
8. Strengthen networking among WHO offices in countries such as small island developing states (SIDS) and newly industrialized countries (NICs); and foster innovative ways of working such as South-South Cooperation, through support and experience-sharing.

► PART II INTRODUCTION

The fifth global meeting of the Heads of WHO Country Offices with the Director-General and Regional Directors was held at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva from 2 to 5 November 2009.

The meeting was attended by 286 participants. Participants included the Deputy Director-General, Assistant Directors-General, Deputy Regional Directors and Directors of Programme Management as well as 141 Heads of WHO Country Offices (HWCOs), and Directors and other senior staff from regional offices and Headquarters.

The overall purpose of the three-day policy dialogue between the Director-General, the Regional Directors and the HWCOs was to improve and strengthen WHO performance in countries. Three themes were selected by the Global Policy Group (GPG). These include:

- strengthening WHO's response to public health and humanitarian emergencies;
- responding to the financial and economic crisis; and
- strengthening WHO's performance at the country level.

The meeting consisted of plenary sessions, briefing sessions and group work. The agenda and programme is attached as Annex 1.

HWCOs were also given the opportunity to participate in lunchtime seminars on: support to countries in accessing and utilizing resources from the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; mental health care and injury and violence prevention; greening the health sector; new challenges for policy dialogue; accelerating progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases. Following the meeting, they were also given the opportunity to participate in a seminar on the social determinants of health.

In the concluding session, the GPG provided guidance on ways to improve WHO's performance in countries.

Consistent with the three themes selected by the GPG, the proposed objectives and expected outcomes for the meeting were as follows.

► OBJECTIVE 1:

To establish a common vision of the role and core competencies of HWCOs in the Organization's management of humanitarian crises and public health emergencies and events, in the context of the UN and Humanitarian Reforms and the revised International Health Regulations.

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