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**SEVENTY-SEVENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

1. The Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO) was held from 27 May – 1 June 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland. The President of the World Health Assembly was Botswana, represented by Dr. Edwin Dikoloti.
2. Five countries served as Vice Presidents of the World Health Assembly in representation of their respective regions, with Guyana representing the Region of the Americas. Brazil served as Vice-chair of Committee A and Honduras served as Rapporteur of Committee B. The Region was also represented at the General Committee by the Bahamas, Bolivia, Cuba, Guyana, and the United States of America, as well as in the Committee of Credentials by Haiti and Uruguay.
3. In his High-Level Welcome to the World Health Assembly,<sup>1</sup> Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, spoke to the importance of global forums such as the World Health Assembly, noting the work that had been done to develop an agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and to strengthen the International Health Regulations (IHR). Dr. Tedros underscored the need to accelerate progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and address major challenges to global health such as climate change, displacement, and the increasing burden of noncommunicable diseases, among others. He further explained that to achieve its goals, WHO must be empowered and equipped, citing the launch of the WHO Investment Round as a major step toward mobilizing resources for WHO's work. In closing, the Director-General expressed his hope that consensus could be reached on the important resolutions and decisions that had been put forward for consideration.
4. During the World Health Assembly, Member States of the Region of the Americas actively participated in the discussions. WHO's work in health emergencies was a common theme in the statements given by Member States, particularly the work done by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) and the Working Group on Amendments to the IHR. There were a variety of notable awards and recognitions for countries and people of the Americas during the Assembly. The Director-General's Award for Global Health was presented to H.E. Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, for her leadership in climate action and health and her work as the Chair of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance as well as to Professor Katalin Karikó and Professor Drew Weissman of the University of Pennsylvania for their outstanding contributions to the development of mRNA vaccines for COVID-19.

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<sup>1</sup> The Director-General's High-Level Welcome at the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly is available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/speeches/item/who-director-general-s-high-level-welcome-at-the-seventy-seventh-world-health-assembly-27-may-2024>.

5. The agenda of the Assembly included general items related to technical and health issues, as well as administrative, budgetary, and institutional items.<sup>2</sup> As on previous occasions, these matters were dealt with in committees A and B, and in plenary sessions.

6. The 77th World Health Assembly adopted 20 decisions and 17 resolutions. These included the Fourteenth general programme of work for 2025–2028, a landmark resolution on climate change and health, and a package of amendments to the IHR, among others. A list of selected resolutions and decisions adopted by the 77th World Health Assembly that are of interest to the Region of the Americas, the related resolutions of the Pan American Health Organization, and some of the implications for the Region can be found in the Annex.<sup>3</sup>

### **Other Matters: Executive Board**

7. The 155th Session of the Executive Board was held on 3 and 4 June 2024. The Chair of the Executive Board was Barbados. Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, and the United States of America currently occupy the other five seats of the Board that represent the Region of the Americas.

8. The agenda of the 155th Session of the Executive Board included the Report of the Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (SCHEPPR), matters of management, governance, and finance, as well as staffing, among others.<sup>4</sup> Member States from the Region acknowledged the importance of the SCHEPPR, particularly given the recently approved amendments to the IHR and the ongoing work of the INB.

9. Regarding dates for future sessions of the Executive Board, the World Health Assembly and other bodies, the Board agreed on the following timetable:

- a) The Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response to hold its fifth meeting on 3 and 4 September 2024.
- b) The Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to hold its forty-first meeting from 29–31 January 2025.
- c) The Executive Board to hold its 156th Session from 3–11 February 2025.
- d) The Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response to hold its sixth meeting on 16 and 17 April 2025.
- e) The Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to hold its forty-second meeting from 14–16 May 2025.
- f) The Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly to be held from 19–27 May 2025.

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<sup>2</sup> The agenda of the 77th World Health Assembly, as well as other related documents discussed, are available at: [https://apps.who.int/gb/e/e\\_wha77.html](https://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha77.html).

<sup>3</sup> A more exhaustive analysis of the implications of the WHO Resolutions for the Region of the Americas will be presented to the 61st Directing Council, to be held 30 September – 4 October 2024.

<sup>4</sup> The agenda of the 153rd Session of the WHO Executive Board, as well as other related documents discussed, are available at: [https://apps.who.int/gb/e/e\\_eb155.html](https://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_eb155.html).

**Action by the Executive Committee**

10. The Executive Committee is invited to take note of this report and provide any comments it deems pertinent.

Annex

Annex<sup>5</sup>

**Selected Resolutions and Decisions Adopted by the 77th World Health Assembly, Documents of Reference,  
and Implications for the Region of the Americas**

Resolution/ Decision	Reference Documents	Related PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
<a href="#">WHA77.1</a> Fourteenth general programme of work, 2025–2028	Draft fourteenth general programme of work, 2025–2028 Document <a href="#">A77/16</a>	<a href="#">CD60/INF/12</a> (2023) Fourteenth General Programme of work of the World Health Organization, 2025–2028	<p>In addition to serving as the strategy that will guide the Investment Rounds to begin in late 2024, the Fourteenth general programme of work, 2025–2028 (GPW 14) will constitute an important input for the results framework that will be developed for the PAHO Strategic Plan 2026–2031. The strategic vision articulated in the GPW 14 is consistent with strategic considerations in the PAHO Program Budget 2024–2025 and PAHO Director’s five strategic pillars.</p> <p>The difference between the PAHO and WHO strategic planning cycles should be observed (2026–2031 and 2025–2028, respectively). GPW 14 overlaps for one year (2025) with the current PAHO Strategic Plan and spans three PAHO program budget periods (2025, all of 2026–2027, and 2028). Experience with the implementation of GPW 13 during 2019–2023 (extended to 2025) has shown the importance of having clear alignment between the results frameworks of the two organizations to facilitate planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting.</p> <p>The GPW 14 contains an initial list of 86 outcome indicators compared to 46 in the GPW 13. The absence of indicator baselines or targets will pose difficulties for monitoring and reporting. Member States will continue to be consulted on the finalization of the indicators, baselines, and targets as part of the WHO Programme budget 2026–2027 development.</p>

<sup>5</sup> At the time of development of this report, some of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly were not available. The complete reference will be presented to the 61st Directing Council, to be held 30 September – 4 October 2024.

Resolution/ Decision	Reference Documents	Related PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
			<p>The development of PAHO’s new Strategic Plan 2026–2031 will be initiated at the 174th Session of the Executive Committee in June 2024, with the presentation of the proposed process to develop the Strategic Plan, including its roadmap. This new Strategic Plan will respond to the global health priorities set out in the GPW 14.</p>
<p>WHA77.14 Climate change and health</p>	<p>Climate change, pollution and health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health Document <a href="#">A77/4</a></li> <li>• Climate change and health Document <a href="#">A77/4</a></li> </ul>		<p>This resolution recognizes the threat that climate change poses to human health and underscores the urgent need for measures to confront the health risks posed by climate change.</p> <p>The Pan American Sanitary Bureau has been working with countries at regional, subregional and national levels to build climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems. Globally, 13 countries from the Region of the Americas have committed to WHO’s Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health,<sup>6</sup> and outreach continues to increase this number.</p> <p>PAHO is also developing a policy for strengthening health sector action on climate change with equity, to be presented to its Governing Bodies in 2024. This regional policy is centred around five lines of action related to adaptation, mitigation, social and community participation, surveillance and information, and financing.</p>
<p>WHA77.17 Strengthening preparedness for and response to public health emergencies through targeted amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005)</p>	<p>Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) Document <a href="#">A77/9</a></p>	<p><a href="#">CE174/INF/3</a> (2024) Implementation of the International Health Regulations</p>	<p>Resolution WHA77.17 contains a package of amendments to the International Health Regulations to strengthen global preparedness, surveillance and response to public health emergencies, including pandemics. These amendments include <i>a</i>) the introduction of a definition of a “pandemic emergency” to trigger more effective international collaboration in response to events that are at risk of becoming, or have become, a pandemic; <i>b</i>) a commitment to solidarity and equity on strengthening access to medical products and financing; <i>c</i>) the establishment of the States Parties Committee to facilitate the effective implementation of the amended Regulations; and <i>d</i>) the creation of National IHR Authorities to improve coordination of implementation of the Regulations within and among countries.</p>

<sup>6</sup> More information available at: <https://www.atachcommunity.com/about-atach/>.

Resolution/ Decision	Reference Documents	Related PAHO Resolutions and Documents	Implications for the Region
WHA77(20) Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response	Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response Document <a href="#">A77/10</a>		Through Decision WHA77(20), Member States agreed to extend the mandate of the INB to finish its work negotiating the proposed WHO Pandemic Agreement as soon as possible. The INB is requested to submit the outcome of these negotiations for consideration by the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly in 2025 or earlier, if possible, at a special session of the World Health Assembly to be held in 2024.