

Ebola: ending the current outbreak, strengthening global preparedness and ensuring WHO's capacity to prepare for and respond to future large-scale outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences

The Executive Board,

Having considered the reports on WHO's response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak;¹

Deeply concerned by the 21 831 cases and 8690 deaths reported to date and the continuing infections and deaths in affected countries, as well as the potential risk of spread to neighbouring countries and beyond;

Emphasizing the need for Member States² and other relevant actors to extend urgently all possible means of support to the affected and highly at-risk countries to end the Ebola outbreak, and stressing the importance of evidence-based responses and community engagement to prevent fear, stigma and discrimination;

Reaffirming that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being, and reiterating its determination to take further action on social determinants of health;

Recognizing that the current outbreak demonstrates once again the urgency for all countries of having strong, resilient and integrated health systems capable of fully implementing the International Health Regulations (2005), and of having the capacity for health-related emergency preparedness and progress towards universal health coverage that promotes universal, equitable access to health services and ensures affordable, good-quality service delivery;

Recalling resolution WHA64.10 on strengthening national health emergency and disaster management capacities and the resilience of health systems, which reaffirms, inter alia, that countries should ensure the protection of health, safety and welfare of their people and should ensure the resilience and self-reliance of the health system, which is critical for minimizing health hazards and vulnerabilities;

¹ Documents EBSS/3/2, EBSS/3/3, EBSS/3/INF./1–5.

² And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

Committed to an effective and coordinated response both for the current Ebola crisis and to make the corrective changes needed to prevent, detect and contain future outbreaks, and reaffirming the central and specialized role played by WHO in emergency preparedness and response, including in health emergency situations as described in Health Assembly resolutions WHA54.14, WHA58.1, WHA59.22, WHA64.10, WHA65.20 and WHA65.23;

Recalling resolution WHA65.20, which affirms WHO's role as the health cluster lead in responding to the growing demands of health in humanitarian emergencies, and recognizes the specific requirements for effective health-related emergency operations;

Recalling that the WHO's Emergency Response Framework has so far been the basis for WHO's role, responsibilities and work in all emergencies with public health consequences;

Reaffirming WHO's responsibilities under the International Health Regulations (2005);

Noting that an effective response during an outbreak requires all levels of the Organization to continually adapt and adjust resource allocation, methods of work and information practices, with a clear focus on results;

Emphasizing in this respect that the response at all levels of WHO must be guided by an all-hazards health emergency approach, emphasizing adaptability, flexibility and accountability; principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality, and independence; and predictability, timeliness, and country ownership; and building on effective collaboration within the Organization's mandate with other relevant actors;

Reaffirming the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property;

Acknowledging that there is a linkage between addressing Ebola, including the control and elimination of neglected tropical diseases, and the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property and a pooled fund of global health research and development;¹

Commending all Member States,² organizations, including nongovernmental organizations, other entities and individuals that have provided assistance in cash and in kind, including the large number of medical professionals in response to the Ebola outbreak;

Recognizing the urgent need for an improved and more effective and coordinated response capacity for the international community, and especially for WHO and Member States,² in responding to health-related emergencies;

Committing to further mobilize resources to strengthen national, regional and global preparedness and preventive tasks against the threat posed by infectious diseases to global health and strong, sustainable and balanced growth for all;

¹ See resolution WHA66.22.

² And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

Emphasizing also the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming, in situations in which military capacity and assets are used as a last resort to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, the need for the use to be undertaken with the consent of affected States and in conformity with relevant provisions of international law,¹

Current context and challenges; stopping the epidemic; and global preparedness

1. EXPRESSES its unwavering commitment to contain the Ebola outbreak and to remain engaged in promoting urgent actions to accelerate prevention, detection, control and treatment until we reach zero cases of Ebola virus disease; to contribute to building resilient health systems in the affected countries and other highly at-risk countries; and to provide support for people who have survived Ebola, and their families, and for children orphaned by the disease, including psychosocial support;

Leadership and coordination

2. RECALLS and REAFFIRMS the constitutional mandate given to WHO to act, inter alia, as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work, and to furnish, in emergencies,² necessary aid upon the request or acceptance of governments, and recognizes the need to accelerate ongoing reform of the Organization;

3. FURTHER REAFFIRMS WHO's role as the lead agency of the global health cluster, including its role to ensure the timely declaration of appropriate response levels to humanitarian emergencies with health consequences, and calls on Member States³ and relevant actors in humanitarian situations with health consequences to support WHO in fulfilling its role as lead agency of the Global Health Cluster within its mandate;

4. FURTHER REAFFIRMS that, in connection with the declaration on 8 August 2014, by the WHO Director-General that the 2014 outbreak of Ebola virus disease in some West African countries is a public health emergency of international concern, all WHO authorities with respect to the administration, deployment and other human resource matters concerning preparedness, surveillance and response rest with the Director-General, and shall be exercised in a manner consistent with the principles and objectives of WHO's Emergency Response Framework, while minimizing the negative impact on regular and routine work of WHO;

5. INVITES the Director-General to consider assigning, immediately following the Special Session, for the duration of the outbreak of Ebola virus disease, a Special Representative with the appropriate grade and authority to be responsible for all aspects of coordination at all three levels of the Organization and response for the current outbreak;

6. REAFFIRMS the authority of the Director-General to reallocate existing resources, as appropriate and needed, subject to existing authorities, procedures and agreements, without compromising the Organization's programme priorities, as needed to enable an efficient and accelerated response to end the current epidemic of Ebola virus disease;

¹ See United Nations General Assembly resolutions 60/124 and 69/135.

² See also resolutions WHA34.26, WHA46.6, WHA48.2, WHA58.1, WHA59.22, WHA64.10 and WHA65.20.

³ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

7. AFFIRMS the essential role of the WHO country representatives in any outbreak and response situation and expects all levels of the Organization to cooperate with and support the Director-General in her duty to take all necessary measures so that each country office, in particular for affected and highly at-risk countries and areas, has the right skill set and expertise to match the public health challenges they face;

8 FURTHER AFFIRMS the critical role of the WHO regional offices in any outbreak and response situation, under the authority of the Director-General, and requests the Director-General and Regional Directors to take all measures for the highest level of coordination and collaboration among all levels of the Organization to jointly meet the public health challenges they face, including measures to strengthen the routine and immediate sharing of information on outbreaks of infectious diseases or emergencies with health consequences;

9. REQUESTS the Director-General to further improve communication, coordination, and information sharing between WHO and the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, to enable Member States¹ and other partners to engage more effectively in the response, and requests a report outlining the specific role of WHO within the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response by March 2015;

10. CALLS ON the Director-General to improve the transparency and reliability of health-related needs-assessment processes;²

Health systems

11. CALLS ON Member States¹ to further strengthen coordination on personnel, logistics, supplies, equipment and related infrastructure, with a view to accelerating the effective response to Ebola virus disease and converting it to longer-term health system strengthening, particularly in the most affected countries, building on the results of the WHO meeting held in Geneva on 10 and 11 December 2014 on “Building resilient health systems in Ebola-affected countries” and the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005), and in this context requests the Director-General to give technical advice to the most affected countries for developing their country plans, to be discussed in an upcoming conference;

12. ENCOURAGES Member States¹ to consider promoting health system strengthening and core capacities required under the International Health Regulations (2005) for inclusion in the implementation of the health goal of the post-2015 development agenda;

13. CALLS ON Member States¹ to strengthen capacities to recruit, develop, train, and retain the health workforce in developing countries, particularly in the most affected and highly at-risk countries;

14. FURTHER CALLS ON Member States¹ to strengthen support for health care workers to enable local and regional surge capacity, as the most important basis for emergency and outbreak response, which includes ensuring the availability of adequate isolation, care and treatment facilities and essential supplies, and strengthening national and regional capacities for surveillance, including providing support for developing countries to build capacity;

¹ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

² See United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/124.

15. URGES Member States¹ to establish, promote and foster regional and subregional collaboration, as well as interregional cooperation within WHO, including sharing of experience and expertise for capacity development to strengthen the role of the local health systems and workforce in the response to emergencies and other crises;²
16. REAFFIRMS that integrated health care, based on access to health and universal health coverage, is the best approach for strengthening health systems, and calls on Member States¹ to accelerate implementation efforts;³
17. TAKES NOTE of the current challenges facing the operational response to the outbreak of Ebola virus disease, as described in document EB136/26, endorses the steps outlined to meet these challenges, as described in document EBSS3/INF./5, and requests the Director-General to ensure that the required human and other resources are deployed to this end as a matter of priority and urgency;

Medical assistance

18. RECOGNIZES the importance of providing for, as much as possible, the safety and protection of health care workers, taking into account the resolution on global health and foreign policy adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 5, 2014;⁴
19. CALLS ON health service providers to ensure that health workers are provided with adequate training and protective gear necessary to minimize their risk of infection from disease;
20. CALLS ON Member States¹ affected by outbreaks and health emergencies to provide adequate security to protect all health workers from violence;
21. REAFFIRMS the value of foreign medical teams to the outbreak response, and requests the Director-General to ensure WHO is able, building on the newly established Foreign Medical Teams unit at WHO, to coordinate offers of and requests for the deployment of equipped and experienced foreign medical teams to fill urgent needs and to systematize the formation, training, and support for these foreign medical teams in a timely manner;
22. FURTHER REAFFIRMS the value of ensuring the effective deployment of all possible health services, reserve medical teams and the vital consumables to control diseases, by a process of consultation, coordination and integration based on the request or acceptance of the host countries, recognizing that foreign medical teams are intended to support temporarily the national health system, with a view to its sustainable strengthening;
23. REQUESTS the Director-General, in consultation with Member States,¹ to further develop mechanisms for the use of existing emergency stand-by capacities, including, where appropriate, regional humanitarian capacities, through formal agreements, and to report on the issue to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly;⁵

¹ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

² See resolution WHA64.10.

³ See resolutions WHA67.24 and WHA63.16.

⁴ Resolution 69/132.

⁵ See United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/124, paragraph 13.

Information

24. CALLS ON Member States,¹ consistent with the International Health Regulations (2005), to strengthen disease surveillance capacity and data and information flows between local and national levels and with WHO at country, regional and global levels in order to enable a full and effective response to the current epidemic of Ebola virus disease, and to ensure early reporting and detection for any future outbreak;

25. REQUESTS the Director-General to take all necessary steps to strengthen surveillance, effective and timely dissemination of data and information, and health information capability, required to control the epidemic, and to apply lessons learnt to future WHO work in this regard;

26. FURTHER REQUESTS the Director-General to develop, integrate, and support common tools and coordination mechanisms, such as web portals, as appropriate, to track activities across all aspects of WHO's work to end the current outbreak of Ebola virus disease, and identify gaps and formulate concrete needs in order to prevent and respond more effectively to future outbreaks;

27. FURTHER REQUESTS the Director-General to ensure, in the context of the present emergency, that relevant information, especially concerning details of assistance pledged and delivered to the response effort is shared actively, and in a timely and transparent manner, with Member States¹ and other partners, with a view to facilitating effective resource use and response, and requests relevant Member States¹ to assist the Director-General by providing all such information to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs through their financial tracking service in a timely and transparent manner;

Preparedness

28. RECOGNIZES the urgency, in the context of the current outbreak, of addressing the immediate needs in preparedness and response capacity, in particular in highly at-risk states, as identified by WHO, and calls on all Member States¹ and the international community to enhance this effort, giving appropriate priority to the disease surveillance, preparedness, and emergency work of WHO;

29. FURTHER RECOGNIZES the importance of addressing longer-term systemic gaps in capacity to prevent, detect, protect against, control, and provide a public health response to, the international spread of disease and calls on Member States¹ to fulfil their commitment to full implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) and, in particular, to accelerate action by and support for West and Central African States and other at-risk States, and furthermore commends in this regard North–South, South–South, triangular and bilateral cooperation and exchange of best practices;

30. URGES Member States,¹ supported by WHO, to work across sectors and stakeholders, including education, transport and regulatory systems, to ensure that preparedness and long-term sustainable capacity to prevent, detect, protect against, control, and provide a public health response to, the international spread of disease is embedded in communities and can facilitate community mobilization in case of an emergency with health consequences;

31. RECOGNIZES that global preparedness needs continuous commitment to research and development, reliance on a multisectoral approach, strengthening of health systems, economic development in developing countries and improved health status;

¹ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

32. FURTHER RECOGNIZES the importance of timely sharing of information on diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic products registered at the national or regional level, among Member States,¹ under the auspices of WHO, and the routine evaluation of the effectiveness of such products for the purpose of their timely use in response to an epidemic and requests the Director-General to provide, to the Executive Board at its 138th session, options for strengthening such information sharing, and for enhancing WHO's capacity to facilitate access to these products, including the establishment of a global database, starting with haemorrhagic fevers;

Therapeutic drugs and vaccines

33. RECOGNIZES the good progress made to date, under the leadership of the WHO in the process of developing Ebola vaccines and requests the Director-General to ensure the sustainability of the working groups on therapeutic drugs and vaccine clinical trial designs while they are needed, to ensure continued progress in the development of quality, safe, effective and affordable vaccines and treatments, while emphasizing the importance of completing WHO's work on emergency regulatory mechanisms and procedures ensuring patient safety, committing results of this work to the most affected countries in West Africa as a first priority, with an accompanying distribution and financing plan, to be communicated to Member States¹ as soon as it is ready;

34. REQUESTS the Director-General to evaluate the current status of the epidemic and to disseminate information as to the most critical research studies to complete; and requests the Director-General in consultation with technical experts and Member States¹ regulatory agencies to develop guidance on the value and limitations of the data obtained from the clinical trials, giving particular attention to ethics, quality, efficacy and safety;

Ensuring WHO's capacity to prepare for and respond to future large-scale and sustained outbreaks and emergencies

35. AFFIRMS that a primary goal in reforming WHO's capacity to respond to future large-scale and sustained outbreaks and emergencies is to enable the Organization to support and/or build Member States¹ capacity to prevent, detect, prepare for and respond to such outbreaks and emergencies;

WHO's structure and human resources

36. REAFFIRMS that all relevant WHO authorities with respect to administration, deployment and other human resource matters concerning preparedness, surveillance and response rest with the

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_27576

