

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON

SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC (NADI, FIJI, 20–24 OCTOBER 2025)

The WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific, at its seventy-sixth session, deliberated on four issues of global interest.

- 1) In a closed meeting, the Regional Committee agreed to nominate China to the Executive Board seat for the Western Pacific Region that will be vacated by Australia in May 2026.
- 2) The Regional Committee discussed the equitable distribution of Executive Board seats allotted to the Western Pacific Region and agreed to continue its consideration of the issue in anticipation of reaching a final decision in 2026.
- 3) The Regional Committee selected Cambodia to nominate a representative to serve a three-year term (1 January 2026 to 31 December 2028) on the Policy and Coordination Committee of the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction.
- 4) The Regional Committee confirmed that its seventy-seventh session would be held in Manila, Philippines, from 19 to 23 October 2026, and expressed appreciation for the offer by Indonesia to host the seventy-eighth session in 2027, while noting the need to confer with other Member States that had expressed interest before finalizing 2027 plans.

Regarding topics of regional significance, the Regional Committee endorsed four regional plans, developed by the Secretariat in close consultation with Member States and other stakeholders, to implement WHO global strategies, action plans and amendments to regulations. Each implementation plan included recommended actions for the Regional Director and Member States to undertake in support of those areas of work.

Regional Committee endorsements included:

- 1) *Implementation of the Global Action Plan on Climate Change and Health in the Western Pacific Region;*
- 2) *Western Pacific Regional Implementation Plan for the Global Strategy and Action Plan on Oral Health;*
- 3) *Accelerating Implementation of the WHO Global Alcohol Action Plan 2022–2030 in the Western Pacific Region; and*
- 4) *Implementing the International Health Regulations (2005) Amendments in the Western Pacific Region.*



19.12.25.

**SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC (NADI, FIJI, 20–24 OCTOBER 2025)**

**REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON
HONOURABLE DR RATU ATONIO RABICI LALABALAVU,
MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES, FIJI**

PART 1: TOPICS FOR GLOBAL DISCUSSION

Topic 1: Regional membership in the Executive Board

On issues relating to coordination of the work of the World Health Assembly, the Executive Board and the regional committees, the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific agreed, in a closed meeting, to nominate China to serve on the Executive Board for a three-year term beginning in May 2026 to replace Australia, whose term of office would expire at the end of the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly. As officers of the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly, the Regional Committee proposed Papua New Guinea for the post of Vice-President; Indonesia for the post of Vice-Chairperson of Committee B; China and Fiji for the General Committee; and Mongolia and Viet Nam for the Credentials Committee.

In addition, the Regional Committee's work on the issue of the equitable distribution of Executive Board seats allocated to the Western Pacific Region, as envisaged by the Regional Committee at its seventy-fourth session in decision WPR/RC74(3), was discussed, including a progress report prepared by an Informal Working Group. Member States were invited to submit proposals that would inform further discussions, in anticipation of a final decision on the matter in 2026.

Topic 2: Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction: Membership of the Policy and Coordination Committee

The Regional Committee adopted decision WPR/RC76(2), which selected Cambodia to nominate a representative to serve a three-year term on the Policy and Coordination Committee from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2028.

Topic 3: Time and place of the seventy-seventh and seventy-eighth sessions of the Regional Committee

The Regional Committee, in resolution WPR/RC76.R5, confirmed that the seventy-seventh session of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific would be held in Manila, Philippines, from 19 to 23 October 2026, expressed appreciation for the offer by Indonesia to host the seventy-eighth session in 2027 and noted the need to confer with other Member States that had expressed interest before finalizing 2027 plans.

PART 2: TOPICS OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Topic 1: Climate change and health system safety and resilience

The Regional Committee, in resolution WPR/RC76.R1, endorsed the plan on *Implementation of the Global Action Plan on Climate Change and Health in the Western Pacific Region* in response to the escalating climate and health crisis faced by the Region and its unique challenges in building climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems. Member States were urged: to use the regional implementation plan as a guide to accelerate climate adaptation and mitigation in the health sector and place health at the centre of climate policies and actions; to participate in the WHO-led Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health and foster collaboration across sectors and stakeholders; to invest in climate-resilient health systems, including water, sanitation and hygiene in

health-care facilities, workforce capacity, surveillance and early warning systems, and urban and community resilience; and to leverage financing mechanisms and share experiences and lessons learnt to accelerate progress towards climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems. The Regional Director was requested: to provide technical support for Member States in implementing the regional plan; to facilitate regional collaboration, evidence and knowledge-sharing, and dissemination of experiences and innovations; and to report periodically on progress made in addressing climate-related health risks, including the acceleration of climate adaptation and mitigation in the health sector, in the Western Pacific Region.

Topic 2: Implementing the International Health Regulations (2005) amendments

Following the start of amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) entering into force in September 2025, and in recognition of the need to implement the amendments in a coherent manner in order to promote equity and solidarity, enhance national capacities and reinforce regional resilience and readiness for public health emergencies, the Regional Committee, in resolution WPR/RC76.R2, endorsed the regional plan on *Implementing the International Health Regulations (2005) Amendments in the Western Pacific Region*. Member States were urged: to prioritize multisectoral collaboration in the implementation of the amended IHR; to ensure adequate resources to strengthen health security capacities, according to local contexts; and to participate in consultations and act on priorities to strengthen the operational readiness of the Region for public health emergencies. The Regional Director was requested: to convene consultations under existing mechanisms to assess health security systems and capacities; to support measures to strengthen regional operational readiness and resilience for public health emergencies; and to report periodically on progress in strengthening operational readiness in the Western Pacific Region.

Topic 3: Oral Health

In light of the major health and economic burdens imposed by oral diseases, particularly on vulnerable populations, the Regional Committee, in resolution WPR/RC76.R3, endorsed the *Western Pacific Regional Implementation Plan for the Global Strategy and Action Plan on Oral Health*. Member States were urged: to use the Regional Implementation Plan as a guide to strengthen national health systems and integrate essential oral health services within primary health care, as appropriate to national context and capacity; to ensure adequate and sustainable resources to build workforce capacity and expand equitable access to essential oral health services as part of universal health coverage; and to foster high-level commitment and intersectoral collaboration among government agencies and stakeholders to accelerate implementation of the Regional Implementation Plan. The Regional Director was requested: to provide technical support to Member States in implementing the Regional Implementation Plan, including guidance on workforce models, essential oral health services and investment cases on oral health; to facilitate collaboration and knowledge exchange among Member States and partners to facilitate the implementation of acceleration projects, innovations and lessons learnt; and to report periodically on progress in implementing the regional plan.

Topic 4: Alcohol control

As progress on alcohol control had been slow and uneven across Member States, and stronger regulation, sustained investment and multisectoral collaboration were urgently needed to accelerate implementation of effective policies, the Regional Committee, in resolution WPR/RC76.R4, endorsed the plan on *Accelerating Implementation of the WHO Global Alcohol Action Plan 2022–2030 in the Western Pacific Region*. Member States were urged: to strengthen national alcohol policies, legislation and regulatory frameworks, aligned with the *Global alcohol action plan 2022–2030* and WHO SAFER interventions; to prioritize the introduction and enforcement of alcohol taxation and pricing measures, restrictions on availability, and bans or comprehensive restrictions on marketing, in tandem with strengthened drink-driving countermeasures, expanded access to prevention and treatment services, and awareness-raising on alcohol harms and the benefits of effective control policies; to protect public health policies from alcohol industry interference through whole-of-government action,

in line with principles of transparency and accountability; and to dedicate adequate resources and strengthen multisectoral collaboration to ensure sustained implementation and monitoring of alcohol control measures. The Regional Director was requested: to provide technical support to Member States in developing and enforcing evidence-based alcohol policies and laws that are adapted to local contexts; to facilitate cross-country collaboration, capacity-building and the exchange of evidence, experiences and good practices in alcohol control; and to report periodically on progress in the implementation of alcohol control policies in the Western Pacific Region.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Rabici', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

HONOURABLE RATU ATONIO RABICI LALABALAVU
MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES
REPUBLIC OF FIJI