

## **Statement to the Special Session of the Executive Board of WHO on Agenda Item 3.4: Management Reform**

Thank you, Chair, for the opportunity to address the Board regarding Agenda Item 3.4 on behalf of the CMC, Churches Action for Health and the People's Health Movement and Democratising Global Health Coalition.

We support the proposals for improving organisational effectiveness, especially the strengthening of country offices.

The recommendations to increase the predictability and flexibility of funding, including longer term commitments and increases in untied donations will require a stronger commitment to WHO than many member states have hitherto shown. We urge member state representatives to communicate clearly to their governments that WHO is in a financial crisis and that for a relatively small increase in their contributions an institution which is critical for achieving the MDGs can be restored to good health.

We note the proposed mobility and rotation framework (CI 155). This may be a good idea but there is no rationale provided of why mobility is to be encouraged and what kinds of principles might govern such a system.

The proposals (CI 168-170) for a longer program budget period, for dropping the medium term strategic plan and for moving the general program of work to three budget cycles may all be a good ideas but the rationale is not provided. The paper simply says that it would make it easier for donors and 'would improve planning'. It would be important to ensure that the longer planning time frames do not reduce WHO's 'agility'.

The discussion of 'independent evaluation' (CI 190 et seq) is not clear. Perhaps priority might be given to developing an Evaluation Policy (CI 196) which might set forth more clearly the logic and processes for progressing the other ideas presented here.

The proposal on Strategic Communications (CI 199 et seq) appear to be more about public relations than effective two way communication with the various constituencies with whom WHO deals, including the public interest NGOs.

Thank you.