

# World Health Organization

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# Introduction

- ▶ World Health Organization or WHO is an international agency of United Nations to deal with world's public health issues.
- ▶ WHO began when its Constitution came into force on 7 April 1948 (a date we now celebrate every year as World Health Day). It comprises now more than 7000 people from more than 150 countries working in 150 country offices, in 6 regional offices and at its headquarters in Geneva.
- ▶ Who works closely with decision-makers: Ministries of Health, government agencies, other government departments at the national level.

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- ▶ WHO also works with influencers like health partnerships, foundations, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, civil society, media, professional associations, and WHO collaborating centres.
- ▶ The World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of WHO. It is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board. The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget. The Health Assembly is held annually in Geneva, Switzerland.

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- ▶ The Executive Board is composed of 34 technically qualified members elected for three-year terms. The annual Board meeting is held in January when the members agree upon the agenda for the World Health Assembly and the resolutions to be considered by the Health Assembly.
- ▶ A second shorter meeting takes place in May, as a follow-up to the Health Assembly. The main functions of the Board are to implement the decisions and policies of the Health Assembly, and advise and generally to facilitate its work.

# Constitution and Objectives

- ▶ Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.
- ▶ The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.
- ▶ The health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security and is dependent on the fullest co-operation of individuals and States.
- ▶ The achievement of any State in the promotion and protection of health is of value to all.
- ▶ Governments have a responsibility for the health of their peoples which can be fulfilled only by the provision of adequate health and social measures.

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- ▶ Unequal development in different countries in the promotion of health and control of diseases, especially communicable disease, is a common danger.
- ▶ Healthy development of the child is of basic importance; the ability to live harmoniously in a changing total environment is essential to such development.
- ▶ The extension to all peoples of the benefits of medical, psychological and related knowledge is essential to the fullest attainment of health.
- ▶ Informed opinion and active co-operation on the part of the public are of the utmost importance in the improvement of the health of the people.

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- ▶ The Regional Office of South-East Asia is located at New Delhi.
- ▶ Who warns for Pandemics like- Corona and issues essential protocols and guidelines.
- ▶ It declares health emergency alarms and travel advice etc..
- ▶ It provides technical assistance to all member nations.
- ▶ It issues Weekly Epidemiological Record.
- ▶ It seriously works on United Nations Millennium Development Goals.
- ▶ WHO works to reduce morbidity and mortality and improve health during key stages of life, including pregnancy, childbirth, the neonatal period, childhood and adolescence, and improve sexual and reproductive health and promote active and healthy aging for all individuals.

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- ▶ The WHO has played a leading role in several public health achievements, most notably the eradication of smallpox, the near-eradication of polio, and the development of an Ebola vaccine. Its current priorities include communicable diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, Ebola, malaria and tuberculosis; non-communicable diseases such as heart disease and cancer; healthy diet, nutrition, and food security; occupational health; and substance abuse.
- ▶ The most notorious Pandemic of 21<sup>st</sup> century known as Corona ( COVID-19) was effectively monitored by WHO in 2019-20.