

# 10.5 Cancer prevention and control in the context of an integrated approach

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## In focus

[Meeting in September 2016, the Officers of the Board agreed to include an item on cancer on the provisional agenda for EB140, with the proviso that it be entitled “Cancer prevention and control in the context of an integrated approach”.]

At the request of a Member State, the Secretariat has developed a report ([EB140/31](#)) outlining the disease burden and trends in relation to cancer; national cancer strategies undertaken as part of national multisectoral efforts to address noncommunicable diseases that are proving to be effective; and WHO’s activities, and other international efforts, to meet the global challenge posed by cancer. The Board is invited to note the report and to consider the draft resolution contained therein.

## Background

The preambulatory paragraphs of the draft resolution list the numerous previous resolutions and declarations on cancer and NCDs (including cancer). The main new initiative carried forward in the draft resolution is the proposed world report on cancer.

## PHM comment

In view of the burden of disease attributable to cancer and the inequities in terms of exposures, incidence, treatment access and outcomes, it is useful to reiterate the principles expressed in the draft resolution. However, the paper steers clear of some important issues which might be less attractive to potential donors.

There is no substantive discussion of the reference in the title of the paper to ‘integrated care’. There are no references to the institutional challenges of fostering networks of excellence in cancer prevention, diagnosis and care which are integrated within generic health systems including strong bidirectional referral pathways between primary health care services and more specialist services. There are no references to the challenges of monitoring standards of practice in relation to cancer prevention, diagnosis and care in such

integrated health systems and in particular no reference to the regulatory challenges of quality assurance in relation to cancer care in private practice.

There is no reference in the draft resolution, to WHO having a role in addressing the international prices of various tools (vaccines, drugs, biologicals, equipment) for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer as provided for in relation to member states in OP(1)(8). OP(1)(8) mentions 'patent barriers, quality assurance mechanisms, more effective supply systems and measures to reduce prices' in relation to member state actions. The Secretariat should also be mandated to supporting such actions through technical assistance, the development of tools, support for collaborative procurement, and international policy research, publication and advocacy.

## Notes of discussion at EB140