Status of collection of assessed contributions, including Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution

Fifth report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to the Sixty-second World Health Assembly

STATUS OF COLLECTION

1.   The tenth meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee was held in Geneva on 14 May 2009 under the chairmanship of Dr M. Dahl-Regis (Bahamas).[1]

2.   The Committee considered, inter alia, the status of collection of assessed contributions including Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution and special arrangements for settlement of arrears.[2]

3.   The Committee noted that the rate of collection of assessed contributions for 2008 was 90% at 31 December 2008, the same as that for 2007. The Committee noted also that the amounts unpaid relating to prior years as at 31 December 2008 amounted to US$ 75 million, with a further US$ 48 million due under special arrangements for the settlement of arrears authorized by the Health Assembly, payable under instalment schemes.

4.   The Committee noted that as a result of recent payments received from Azerbaijan, Belarus and Iran (Islamic Republic of), those Member States were no longer concerned by Article 7 of the Constitution. Accordingly it was noted that the relevant paragraphs of the resolution proposed in document A62/30 in respect of Article 7 of the Constitution should be duly amended.

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[1] For list of participants, see document A62/43, Annex.

[2] See document A62/30.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

5.   The Committee recommended the following resolution for consideration by the Sixty-second World Health Assembly:

The Sixty-second World Health Assembly,

Having considered the fifth report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to the Sixty-second World Health Assembly on Status of collection of assessed contributions, including Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution;[1]

Noting that, at the time of opening of the Sixty-second World Health Assembly, the voting rights of Argentina, Central African Republic, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Solomon Islands, Somalia and Tajikistan were suspended, such suspension to continue until the arrears of the Member States concerned have been reduced, at the present or future Health Assemblies, to a level below the amount that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution;

Noting that Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Marshall Islands, Palau, Sudan and Zambia were in arrears at the time of the opening of the Sixty-second World Health Assembly to such an extent that it was necessary for the Health Assembly to consider, in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution, whether or not the voting privileges of those countries should be suspended at the opening of the Sixty-third World Health Assembly,

DECIDES:

(1)   that in accordance with the statement of principles set out in resolution WHA41.7 if, by the time of the opening of the Sixty-third World Health Assembly, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Marshall Islands, Palau, Sudan and Zambia are still in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution, their voting privileges shall be suspended as from the said opening;

(2)   that any suspension that takes effect as aforesaid shall continue at subsequent Health Assemblies, until the arrears of Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Marshall Islands, Palau, Sudan and Zambia have been reduced to a level below the amount that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution;

(3)   that this decision shall be without prejudice to the right of any Member to request restoration of its voting privileges in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution.

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[1] See document A62/47.