



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD
105th Session
Provisional agenda item 7.6

EB105/31
30 November 1999

Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board on election of the Chairman

Report by the Chairman

1. At its 103rd session, the Executive Board considered a proposal to elect its Chairman at the end of its January session instead of at the beginning of its May session, as is currently done in accordance with Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure. The purpose of this proposed change was to enable the Chairman to prepare himself or herself better to lead debate when the Board next convened.
2. Concern was expressed during the Board's discussions, however, that such a procedure, although not strictly unconstitutional, might not be in accordance with basic principles of enfranchisement (considered here in terms of the right to choose one's own Chairman). The Board therefore requested a study on the matter and submission of a report at its 104th session on possible approaches.
3. The report submitted to the Board for discussion at its 104th session proposed an amendment to Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure that would allow the Board to elect its officers from among its members each year at the end of its last regular session before the Health Assembly.¹ Following the discussion, the Board concluded that consideration of the question should be postponed to the 105th session in January 2000.² The Chairman undertook to consult with Board members and the Secretariat on the matter.
4. The Chairman wrote to members of the Board in July 1999 soliciting their views and received replies from six members. The matter was subsequently discussed at the retreat for members of the Board in October 1999, attended by 27 members and three alternates. An apparent consensus emerged among the members that the present arrangements should not be changed.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

5. The Executive Board, in light of the above information, may wish to decide not to pursue further the amendment of Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure at the present time.

¹ Document EB104/5.

² See document EB104/1999/REC/1, summary record of the second meeting.

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