

Consideration of the acceleration of the procedure to elect the next Director-General of the World Health Organization

Note by the Secretariat

1. In response to the request made by the Executive Board at its first meeting on 29 May 2006 during its consideration of the above-mentioned item, the Secretariat has prepared the following timetable in respect of the option proposed by some members to conduct the process for nomination and appointment of the next Director-General in November 2006.
2. In addition, the Secretariat has prepared a possible draft resolution by which the Board would take the actions required to implement such a timetable.
3. The timetable would be as follows:

Timetable 1A plus: Reduce the period foreseen in Rule 52 of the Rules Procedure of the Executive Board.

The deadline for the submission of proposals for the post of Director-General would be reduced from four months to two and a half months, and the time period between the date of dispatch of proposals, curricula vitae and supporting information and the convening of the Executive Board would be increased by approximately two weeks to one and a half months:

the Acting Director-General informs Member States that they may propose persons for nomination to the post of Director-General	1 June 2006
• final date for receipt of proposals	22 August 2006
• dispatch of materials on the proposals to Member States	22 September 2006
• special session of the Executive Board	6-8 November 2006
• special session of the Health Assembly	9 November 2006

This option would imply:

- suspension of Rule 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board to allow for a shortened process
- convening of a special session of the Executive Board
- convening of a special session of the Health Assembly
- suspension of Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly

4. The cost of this timetable would be the same as that outlined in paragraph 12 of document EB/118/20 for timetables 1A and 1B, namely, US \$1.2 million. This amount could be reduced if Member States which are eligible for reimbursement of travel costs choose, where possible, to be represented by officers of their respective permanent missions and do not travel from their capitals to Geneva.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

5. The Board is invited to consider the following draft resolution referred to in paragraph 2 above.

The Executive Board,

Noting decision EBSS(2), taken by the Board at its special session held on 23 May 2006, by which the Board requested the Secretariat “to submit to the Board at its 118th session options for its consideration concerning the acceleration of the procedure to elect the next Director-General of the World Health Organization”;

Having considered the reports by the Secretariat in response to the Board’s request,¹

1. DECIDES, in accordance with Rule 53 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, to suspend Rule 52 with regard to the deadlines set out in paragraphs 1 to 3 of the latter Rule, in order to accelerate the process of nomination of the next Director-General;
2. DECIDES that, for the purpose of nominating the next Director-General, the following deadlines will apply in lieu of those provided for under Rule 52:
 - (a) notification of Acting Director-General to Member States that they may propose persons for nomination to the post of Director-General: 1 June 2006;
 - (b) final date for receipt by WHO of proposals for nomination: 22 August 2006;
 - (c) date of dispatch of proposals, curricula vitae and supporting information: 22 September 2006;
3. DECIDES, in accordance with Rule 5 of its Rules of Procedure, to convene a session of the Board, which will be held from 6 to 8 November 2006 at the headquarters of the World Health Organization;
4. FURTHER DECIDES that the only item on the provisional agenda of the session of the Board referred to in the preceding paragraph will be entitled “Director-General” and will comprise two subitems entitled respectively “nomination for the post” and “draft contract”;

¹ Documents EB118/20 and EB118/20 Add.1.

5. REQUESTS the Acting Director-General, in accordance with Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly, to convene a special session of the Health Assembly on 9 November 2006 in Geneva, and to include on the provisional agenda of the special session only one item entitled "Director-General", comprising two subitems entitled respectively "appointment" and "approval of contract";

6. RECOMMENDS that the Health Assembly at its special session should suspend Rule 108 of its Rules of Procedure with regard to the term of office of the next Director-General and set his or her term of office so that it terminates shortly after closure of a Health Assembly.

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