

SUMMARY RECORDS

FIRST MEETING

Monday, 6 November 2006, at 09:40

Chairman: Dr F. ANTEZANA ARANÍBAR (Bolivia)

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Item 1 of the Provisional agenda (Document EB119/1)

The CHAIRMAN declared open the 119th session of the Executive Board and welcomed all participants.

2. TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF DR BARRINGTON WINT

The CHAIRMAN paid tribute to the work of Dr Barrington Wint, the Board member designated by Jamaica, who had passed away in September 2006.

The Board stood in silence for one minute.

3. OPENING OF THE SESSION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Item 1 of the Provisional agenda (Document EB119/1) (resumed)

The CHAIRMAN extended a special welcome to Mr Dalley, the new member for Jamaica, Mr Gao Qiang, new member for China, Mr Takemi, new member for Japan, Dr Khalfan, alternate to Dr Haffadh, Bahrain, and Mr Mihai, alternate to Mr Nicolaescu, Romania.

The current session of the Board had been convened in accordance with resolution EB118.R2, adopted on 30 May 2006 and entitled “Consideration of the acceleration of the procedure to elect the next Director-General of the World Health Organization”. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of that resolution, the only item on the provisional agenda was “Director-General”; it consisted of two subitems, namely “Nomination for the post” and “Draft contract”.

The agenda was adopted.¹

The CHAIRMAN, drawing attention to the provisional timetable, recalled that, in accordance with Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, item 2, “Director-General”, was to be considered in open meetings, and that special security arrangements had been put in place for access to the Board room during such meetings.

Following consultations with Member States that had proposed candidates for the post of Director-General, it had been agreed that, in the interests of harmony, candidates would not be present in the Board room while the nomination was being discussed. He reminded the Board of the

¹ See page 7.

provisions of Rule 7 of its Rules of Procedure and outlined the procedures set out in the provisional timetable for the remainder of the session.

4. DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Item 2 of the Agenda

Nomination for the post: Item 2.1 of the Agenda (document EB119/INF.DOC./1)

The meeting was held in open session.

The meeting rose at 11:30.

SECOND MEETING

Monday, 6 November 2006, at 13:00

Chairman: Dr F. ANTEZANA ARANÍBAR (Bolivia)

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Item 2 of the Agenda (continued)

Nomination for the post: Item 2.1 of the Agenda (Document EB119/INF.DOC./1) (continued)

The meeting was held in open session from 13:00 to 16:35, when it resumed in public session.

The CHAIRMAN, announcing the result of the open meeting at which the Executive Board had decided on the shortlist of five candidates for nomination for the post of Director-General, said that it was a tribute to the Organization that the post had attracted so many highly competent and distinguished individuals; the task of establishing a shortlist had been made particularly difficult by the exceptional standard of all candidates. He read out the names of the candidates on the shortlist in alphabetical order:

Dr Kazem Behbehani
Dr Margaret Chan
Dr Julio Frenk
Dr Shigeru Omi
Ms Elena Salgado Méndez.

The meeting rose at 16:45.

THIRD MEETING

Tuesday, 7 November 2006, at 09:10

Chairman: Dr F. ANTEZANA ARANÍBAR (Bolivia)

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Item 2 of the Agenda (continued)

Nomination for the post: Item 2.1 of the Agenda (Document EB119/INF.DOC./1) (continued)

The meeting was held in open session.

The meeting rose at 13:00.

FOURTH MEETING

Tuesday, 7 November 2006, at 14:15

Chairman: Dr F. ANTEZANA ARANÍBAR (Bolivia)

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Item 2 of the Agenda (continued)

Nomination for the post: Item 2.1 of the Agenda (Document EB119/INF.DOC./1) (continued)

The meeting was held in open session.

The meeting rose at 17:30.

FIFTH MEETING

Wednesday, 8 November 2006, at 09:30

Chairman: Dr F. ANTEZANA ARANÍBAR (Bolivia)

1. DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Item 2 of the Agenda (continued)

Nomination for the post: Item 2.1 of the Agenda (Document EB119/INF.DOC./1) (continued)

The meeting was held in open session from 09:30 to 11:55, when it resumed in public session.

The CHAIRMAN announced, with emotion and pride, that the Board was nominating Dr Margaret Chan for the post of Director-General of the World Health Organization. The meetings of the past three days would undoubtedly be considered by all participants as an historic occasion. It marked a new start for the Organization in its work in the twenty-first century, with all the challenges that that entailed, not only economic and political ones such as globalization and international conflicts, but also the need to send out the message that the Organization was devoted to the pursuit of peace, health and wellbeing.

Although press reports had sometimes intimated that governing bodies were motivated by considerations other than ethical ones, members of the Board were to be commended for having performed their task conscientiously and in the most honourable and ethical fashion possible.

On behalf of the Executive Board, he congratulated Dr Chan on her nomination.

The ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL congratulated Dr Chan on her nomination. She possessed an excellent combination of technical skills, management experience, leadership qualities and social skills that would undoubtedly enable her to take forward the legacies of her predecessors.

He thanked the Chairman for having managed the Board meetings so efficiently and expressed appreciation to all the candidates. Candidacies of such high quality were a clear indication of the strong interest in and importance of WHO.

Each Director-General brought his or her personal touch to the Organization, while building on the achievements and direction of the past. A new chapter in WHO's history was about to be opened. The Organization was in a uniquely strong position. Never before had such support for and interest in health existed, globally and locally, financially, politically and in terms of technical knowledge.

It had been an honour and a privilege to serve for the past few months as Acting Director-General, and he thanked the Board for the appreciation expressed in resolution EB119.R4. He had made his best effort, but that would have been impossible without the support of the entire WHO staff and the trust that Dr Lee had engendered in his staff.

He had made three commitments upon taking up his task: to ensure that the election process was run in a smooth and efficient manner; to maintain the momentum of the Organization's technical work; and to continue the management reforms for which he had had specific responsibility. Much had been achieved in the past few months – the Organization had not come to a standstill but had remained robust; yet much remained to be done. He assured the Director-General nominate of his strongest possible support in order to ensure a smooth transition.

At the request of the CHAIRMAN, Dr SAHELI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Rapporteur, read out the resolution on the nomination for the post of Director-General adopted by the Board in open session:¹

- The Executive Board,
1. NOMINATES, pursuant to Article 31 of the Constitution, Dr Margaret Chan for the post of Director-General of the World Health Organization,
 2. SUBMITS this nomination to the First special session of the World Health Assembly.

Draft contract: Item 2.2 of the Agenda (Document EB119/2)

At the request of the CHAIRMAN, Dr SAHELI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Rapporteur, read out the resolution on the draft contract of the Director-General adopted by the Board in open session:²

- The Executive Board,
In accordance with the requirements of Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly,
1. SUBMITS to the First special session of the World Health Assembly the attached draft contract establishing the terms and conditions of appointment of the Director-General;
 2. RECOMMENDS to the First special session of the World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The First special session of the World Health Assembly,

I

Pursuant to Article 31 of the Constitution and Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly,

APPROVES the contract establishing the terms and conditions of appointment, salary and other emoluments for the post of Director-General;

SUSPENDS, in accordance with Rule 122 of its Rules of Procedure, Rule 108 of its Rules of Procedure, with regard to the duration of the term of office of the Director-General, for the purpose of determining the duration of the term of office of Dr Margaret Chan;

DECIDES that the term of office of Dr Margaret Chan shall begin on 4 January 2007 and shall end on 30 June 2012;

II

Pursuant to Rule 112 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly,

¹ Resolution EB119.R1.

² Resolution EB119.R2.

AUTHORIZES the President of the First special session of the World Health Assembly to sign this contract in the name of the Organization.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the draft contract referred to was that reproduced in document EB119/2. The preference of the nominee on the treatment of pension entitlements, as explained in that document, would be determined and reported to the Health Assembly at its First special session for decision when it considered adopting the contract of the Director-General.

At the request of the CHAIRMAN, Dr SAHELI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Rapporteur, read out a further resolution entitled "Commemoration of the contribution of the late Dr Jong-wook Lee" adopted by the Board in open session.¹

The Executive Board,
Desiring to acknowledge the service of Dr Jong-wook Lee to the World Health Organization,

RECOMMENDS to the First special session of the World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The special session of the World Health Assembly,
Remembering the passing of Dr Jong-wook Lee, Director-General of the World Health Organization;
Paying tribute to his personal sacrifice, dedication and professionalism and the passion with which he met every challenge;
Appreciating his efforts to combat global disease, especially his goals to secure access to antiretroviral treatment for three million people living with HIV/AIDS by 2005 and to eradicate poliomyelitis;
Acclaiming his commitment to WHO's mission to help all peoples to attain the highest possible level of health;
Recalling that the Strategic Health Information Centre at headquarters has been dedicated to, and named after, Dr Lee in recognition of his work for global disease surveillance,

COMMEMORATES the invaluable contribution of Dr Jong-wook Lee to the work of WHO.

Mr CHOI Hyuck (Republic of Korea),² speaking on behalf of the late Dr Lee's family, extended sincere appreciation to the Chairman for taking the initiative of commemorating Dr Lee's contribution. Dr Lee would undoubtedly have said that his accomplishments would not have been possible without the close cooperation and firm support of Member States. Accordingly, he thanked all Member States for their active support during Dr Lee's tenure.

Dr Lee had dedicated himself to the fight against HIV/AIDS with his "3 by 5" initiative and to the eradication of poliomyelitis. He had been committed to enhancing preparedness against the threat of avian influenza, had successfully completed the revision of the International Health Regulations and had striven to improve the health of people throughout the world. The best way of honouring that great man was by carrying his work forward.

He extended warm congratulations to Dr Chan who would, he was confident, greatly contribute to WHO's work in promoting global health and preventing disease. Dr Lee's contribution would be

¹ Resolution EB119.R3.

² Participating by virtue of Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

felt not only in his major initiatives but also in the little things that touched people's hearts, such as the tradition of planting commemorative trees at WHO headquarters. His Government looked forward to the planting of a tree in Dr Lee's honour with the new Director-General as a way of marking the past and ushering in a new era for WHO.

Dr RASA' (Yemen),¹ speaking on behalf of the Arab countries, endorsed the statement by the representative of the Republic of Korea, warmly congratulated Dr Chan on her nomination and thanked the Chairman for his able leadership during the meetings. It was to be hoped that Dr Chan would continue down the road paved by Dr Lee and carry on his work.

At the request of the CHAIRMAN, Dr SAHELI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Rapporteur, read out a resolution entitled "Expression of appreciation to the Acting Director-General" adopted by the Board in open session.²

The Executive Board,

On the occasion of the nomination of a person for the post of Director-General;

Commending the remarkable efforts made by the Acting Director-General, Dr Anders Nordström, to ensure continuation of the work and activities of WHO after the untimely death of Dr Jong-wook Lee earlier in the year, in particular in facilitating implementation of resolution EB118.R2 on acceleration of the procedure to elect the next Director-General,

EXPRESSES its appreciation to Dr Anders Nordström for his contribution and commitment to the Organization in implementing the global health agenda.

The CHAIRMAN noted that the resolution conveyed the Board's recognition of the manner in which Dr Nordström had taken on responsibility for the transitional period between the untimely death of Dr Lee and the nomination of Dr Chan. He thanked him on behalf of the Board. Extending a warm welcome to Dr Chan, he invited her to take the floor.

Dr CHAN said that she was deeply honoured by the Board's vote of confidence. The Board had had a difficult choice: she had been one person on a list that included some of the leading figures in public health. They were her colleagues, and she looked forward to working with them in a shared determination to make the world a healthier place.

It was a moment of personal honour, but also of great personal responsibility, and she did not take it lightly. It was also a moment of reflection and respect. The Board had been convened because of the untimely death of Dr Jong-wook Lee. It had also been convened, however, because of millions of untimely deaths. The "3 by 5" initiative, for which Dr Lee would be remembered, had been devised to prevent untimely deaths on the greatest possible scale.

If her nomination were confirmed by the Health Assembly, she intended to take forward the legacy of Dr Lee and his predecessors. Board members had already heard her vision for WHO, the priorities she wished to introduce, her background and her experience. She had the commitment, passion and humility to serve Member States, and the determination to achieve results for health. The power to do so was there; it was just necessary to be smart in planning and priority setting and streetwise in actions. She assured the Board that she would work tirelessly, with her eyes on the jointly agreed goals, her ears open to the voices of all, and her heart committed to the populations of all countries.

¹ Participating by virtue of Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

² Resolution EB119.R4.

Mr GAO Qiang (China), speaking on behalf of his Government, extended heartfelt congratulations to Dr Chan. Her talents, virtue and dedication to health had won her the support of Board members, to whom he expressed gratitude. She would honour her commitments and serve the cause of health for all people. The Chinese Government would strengthen its cooperation with all Member States and the Secretariat in order to promote better public health throughout the world.

The job of Director-General of WHO was not easy. Public health issues affected not only national economies but also global economic and social development. In recent years, HIV/AIDS, avian influenza and other diseases had posed increasing threats to human society. All the candidates had shown the commitment and courage to face up to those challenges, courage that should encourage all Member States to improve public health in their respective nations. He thanked the candidates, the Chairman for his successful stewardship of the Board's session, and the Secretariat for its intensive efforts.

Dr KAKAR (Afghanistan) said that, when the process of nominating a Director-General had begun, he had been concerned that political considerations might prevail. As that process drew to a close, however, he was proud, as a member of the Board, to have witnessed the flawless procedures implemented by WHO. He congratulated the Organization, especially the Acting Director-General, for managing the process so well, and the Chairman for his ethical approach. He was convinced that the best candidate had been selected, and he congratulated Dr Chan on her nomination.

Dr AL-SHAMMARI (Iraq) commended the Chairman's conduct of the proceedings and congratulated Dr Chan, whose expertise and wisdom were guarantors of good guidance of WHO. He called on her to pay particular attention to the poor nations, especially his own, which was undergoing such suffering and destruction.

Mr TAKEMI (Japan) expressed wholehearted congratulations to Dr Chan. His country would support her initiatives to improve health for all peoples on the globe.

Ms SOUKATE (Chad)¹ acknowledged the quality of all the candidates and paid tribute to their sense of fair play. Speaking as a woman, she said that Dr Chan bore a particularly heavy responsibility. Women were among the world's most vulnerable population groups. Many had no access to drinking-water, and in her country infant and maternal mortality were on the rise in a particularly difficult conflict situation. She called on Dr Chan to pay particular attention to countries like hers: as a woman, she would perhaps see what men's eyes did not. She wished her every success in carrying out her heavy responsibilities.

Dr SUWIT WIBULPOLPRASERT (Thailand) said that, over the past three days, WHO had received great credit for its unparalleled transparency and accountability, as reflected in the fair decisions and wise leadership of the Chairman. He congratulated Dr Chan, who had received an award from his country for her success in avian influenza control in Hong Kong in 1998. Her commitment to work closely and constructively with the other candidates, who were all great public health leaders, was evidence of her broad-mindedness. It was to be hoped that, in the future, the relationship between WHO and all the global health partnerships that were currently being launched would be improved, resulting in new gains for global health.

Dr PHOOKO (Lesotho) said that, as the smooth process of nominating the new Director-General drew to a close, he wished to express appreciation for the detailed ground work done by the Acting Director-General and his staff in the Secretariat and the excellent leadership shown by the

¹ Participating by virtue of Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

Chairman. He congratulated Dr Chan for having won the heavily contested race and paid tribute to the other candidates. He wished Dr Chan and WHO a good and prosperous future.

Mr BAILÓN (Mexico) expressed his Government's sincere congratulations to Dr Chan on her nomination. Mexico would continue to work closely with the Organization under her leadership. His Government thanked the countries that had supported the candidacy of Dr Frenk, of whom it was extremely proud.

Mr DALLEY (Jamaica) recalled his delegation's call, in May 2006, to accelerate the process of electing a new Director-General.¹ He thanked the Acting Director-General and his staff for the way in which the Organization had continued operating during the months after Dr Lee's death, and expressed sincere appreciation to all the candidates. The final round of voting in particular had revealed the level of WHO's integrity.

He warmly congratulated Dr Chan on her nomination. The world looked forward to her leadership, and the Region of the Americas looked forward to her first visit.

Dr TANGI (Tonga), speaking on behalf of small Member States, congratulated the Acting Director-General and his staff on the efficient preparation and handling of the meetings. The Chairman, too, deserved thanks for his stewardship of the session. He paid tribute to all the candidates, congratulated Dr Margaret Chan on her nomination, and assured her of his country's support in fulfilling her important task.

Dr SHANGULA (Namibia) commended the Chairman's leadership, congratulated Dr Chan on her nomination and expressed appreciation to the other candidates, who had made the competition so interesting.

Mr ABDULLA (Bahrain), Dr SADRIZADEH (Islamic Republic of Iran), and Mr AL-SAIF (Kuwait) also commended the smooth running of the proceedings, congratulated Dr Chan on her nomination for the post of Director-General, expressed confidence in her competence, and wished her every success in her task.

Dr JEAN LOUIS (Madagascar) suggested that Dr Lee would have been pleased to see that WHO's honour and his own legacy had been respected through the process of nominating his successor. The Organization had shown itself to be a large, united family. He congratulated all the candidates. With Dr Chan as Director-General, the great family of WHO would surely become even more strongly united.

Ms HALTON (Australia) paid tribute to Dr Lee's work. WHO had just come through completely uncharted waters in a difficult period and its performance was a testament to the strength of the Organization and its governance. The Secretariat, under the Acting Director-General, had done an outstanding job, and the Chairman had shown great skill in bringing the Board's work to fruition in good time. The fact that there had been so many excellent candidates ready to tackle such difficult issues meant that WHO was likely to be successful in its endeavours. Yet less than 10% of Board members were women, regardless of the fact, as the representative of Chad had pointed out, that women and children were among the most seriously disadvantaged in terms of health conditions. She congratulated Dr Chan on her nomination and urged her to focus on the goal of health for all, placing emphasis on women and children, who were among the most vulnerable population groups.

¹ Document EBSS-EB118/2006/REC/1, summary record of the special session.

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR EUROPE, speaking on behalf of all the regional directors and the staff at all levels and in all geographical areas of the Organization, congratulated Dr Chan on her nomination and assured her of their unconditional support. He expressed gratitude to the Acting Director-General for his openness towards the regions.

2. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION: Item 3 of the Agenda

After the customary exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRMAN declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 13:05.
