

Evaluation of the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization

Report by the Secretariat

CONTEXT

1. The Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly decided, in resolution WHA65.15 (2012), that an evaluation, open to all Member States,¹ will be conducted by the Executive Board² within one year from the appointment of the next Director-General of the World Health Organization, to assess the efficacy of the revised process and methods for the election of the Director-General, in order to discuss any need for further enhancing fairness, transparency and equity among the Member States of the six regions of WHO.
2. The purpose of the present report is to propose modalities for this evaluation for consideration by the Executive Board at its 141st session.

ORGANIZATION OF THE EVALUATION

Objective

3. The objective of the evaluation is to assess the efficacy of the revised process and methods for the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization

Approach

4. The Executive Board will be the commissioner and owner of this evaluation. The evaluation could take place during the 142nd session of the Executive Board in January 2018 in an open meeting.
5. To ensure appropriate oversight of the process of development of the supporting material and conduct of the evaluation, it is proposed to create an evaluation management group, comprising the Officers of the 141st session of the Executive Board. It is also proposed that the WHO Evaluation Office support the evaluation management group in preparing for this evaluation.

¹ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

² This agenda item shall be in an open meeting as provided in Rule 7(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board. Rule 7(b) provides that attendance at open meetings shall be limited to members of the Board, their alternates and advisers, Member States not represented on the Board and Associate Members, and the Secretariat.

6. The informed opinion of Member States as primary stakeholders is crucially important. This could be sought by means of an online survey managed through a secure password-protected WHO electronic platform.

7. The Executive Board may also decide to request independent feedback on the election process from the Chairman of the 140th session of the Executive Board, the Secretariat and the six candidates nominated by Member States. This additional feedback will be sought in the form of specific questionnaires and through key informant interviews. The questionnaires and interview guides will also be developed in consultation with the evaluation management group.

Timeline

8. The online survey could be conducted during the second half of 2017, and its results presented to the Executive Board at its 142nd session, in January 2018, as supporting material for its discussion in an open meeting. Additional feedback from the Chairman of the 140th session of the Executive Board, the Secretariat and the six candidates will also be collected during the second half of 2017, and will be provided as complementary inputs to the discussion.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

9. The Board is invited to consider for adoption the following draft decision prepared by the Secretariat:

The Executive Board, having considered the report on the evaluation of the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization,¹ decided to establish an evaluation management group composed of the Officers of the 141st session of the Executive Board to take forward the work, with support from the WHO Evaluation Office

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¹ Document EB141/6.