
Report on cost estimates of the candidates’ forums in the Pan American Health Organization and in the World Intellectual Property Organization

1. The Working Group of Member States on the Process and Methods of the Election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization met in Geneva from 27 to 29 April 2011. At its first session, that Working Group requested the Director-General to provide, inter alia, cost estimates of the candidates’ forums in the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).¹ The present report provides outline information on these candidates’ forums, particularly in relation to the costs of holding the forums.

Candidates’ Forums in PAHO

2. Resolution CD47.R4 (47th Directing Council, 58th Session of the Regional Committee) established in 2006 the Rules Governing the Election Process for the Position of Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. Article III of the Rules sets out information on the Candidates’ Forum (see Annex 1).

3. As stated in the Rules, the Candidates’ Forum is held on the margins of the session of the Executive Committee preceding the session of the Pan American Sanitary Conference. In practice, the Forum may be held before the opening or following the closure of the session of the Executive Committee.

4. One PAHO Candidates’ Forum has taken place, in June 2007. The current Director of PAHO was the only candidate to participate. The Forum lasted approximately two hours and no extra costs were incurred relating to it.

5. In principle, if a Candidates’ Forum included the participation of several nominated candidates and was longer in duration, there could be cost implications, such as those associated with the

¹ See document A64/41, subparagraph 21(d).

participation of the members of the Executive Committee¹ or other standard meeting costs.² According to PAHO staff, measures could be taken to offset such costs.³

Candidates' Forum in WIPO

6. In WIPO, there has been one Candidates' Forum, held in April 2008, prior to the election of the present Director-General. It was organized at the discretion of the Chair of the Coordination Committee, which nominates a candidate for appointment by the General Assembly.⁴

7. The Forum was an informal, stand-alone meeting. Interpretation was provided in English, French and Spanish. Documentation consisted of promotional materials prepared and provided by the candidates. The Forum did not involve videoconferencing or webconferencing (see Annex 2).

8. Total costs for the WIPO Candidates' Forum were close to 30 000 Swiss francs, of which 25 000 Swiss francs was for interpretation and 5000 Swiss francs was for logistics.

¹ PAHO covers the costs for members of the Executive Committee to participate in the session of the Executive Committee. If PAHO also covered the costs of members of the Executive Committee to participate in the Candidates' Forum, there could be a slight extension in the duration of the members' stay in Washington, D.C. and, as a result, higher per diem total cost.

² Examples of standard meeting costs include facilities, interpretation and logistics.

³ The agenda of the Executive Committee, for example, could be shortened to accommodate the Candidates' Forum within the usual time allotted for the session of the Executive Committee.

⁴ Article 8(3)(v) of the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization states that the Coordination Committee shall "when the term of office of the Director General is about to expire, or when there is a vacancy in the post of the Director General, nominate a candidate for appointment to such position by the General Assembly; if the General Assembly does not appoint its nominee, the Coordination Committee shall nominate another candidate; this procedure shall be repeated until the latest nominee is appointed by the General Assembly."

ANNEX 1

The Rules for the Candidates' Forum in PAHO are set out in Article III of resolution CD47.R4, as follows:

“3.1 The President of the Executive Committee shall invite nominated candidates to make a presentation to all Member States, Participating States, and Associate Members wishing to attend a Candidates' Forum to be held on the margins of the Executive Committee session preceding the session of the Conference.

3.2 Information regarding the time, date, and logistics of the Candidates' Forum shall be sent by the President of the Executive Committee to the nominated candidates and to all Member States, Participating States, and Associate Members immediately after the closure of the presentation of candidatures as specified in Article 2.3 above.

3.3 Nominated candidates shall be responsible for all expenses related to their participation in the Candidates' Forum.

3.4 Members States, Participating States, and Associate Members shall be responsible for all expenses related to their participation in the Candidates' Forum.

3.5 Wherever possible, modern technology will be utilized to facilitate the widest possible participation of all of the Organization's membership, including video conferencing. Verbatim transcripts of the presentations and discussions at the Candidates' Forum will also be made available.

3.6 The order of the presentations to be made by the candidates shall be determined by lot, and candidates will be called one at a time. Candidates shall be allowed no more than 30 minutes to make an oral presentation and one hour for questions and answers from Member States, Participating States, and Associate Members in attendance. The oral presentation shall include the candidate's platform outlining their vision, proposed policy priorities, and financial and programmatic direction for the Organization. The time limit should be strictly adhered to.”

ANNEX 2

The following is an excerpt from an official press release entitled “Candidates for Post of WIPO Director General Present their Platforms”:¹

“The fifteen candidates for the post of Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) met with representatives of member states on April 14, 2008, each outlining his or her respective platform and responding to pre-submitted questions from the different regional groups. The Chairperson of the Coordination Committee – following informal consultations last month with representatives of the 83 member body that will nominate a candidate in May for appointment to this position by the WIPO General Assembly in September 2008 – decided on arrangements for the one day informal meeting to give an opportunity for candidates to present themselves and respond to questions.

The Chairperson of the Coordination Committee, Mrs. Hilde Skorpen, sent an invitation letter to member states on March 18, 2008, convening the meeting ‘on a purely informal and voluntary basis.’ All fifteen candidates responded positively to the invitation. It was agreed that 25 minutes would be allotted for each candidate to make presentations and respond to questions from the member states. Each candidate would manage his or her time allotment between presentation and questions and answers. The Chairperson said that ‘the meeting will be with one candidate at a time, and without any of the other candidates present.’

The meeting began at 09:00 and ended at 18:45. The first candidate was chosen randomly and alphabetical order followed. The questions were formulated by member states – three from each regional group – and submitted to candidates in advance. The questions posed to each candidate were selected by the Chairperson at random during the meeting. In addition, most candidates provided a written presentation (not exceeding three pages) in advance of the meeting.

The order by which the candidates appeared was: Mr. Francis Gurry (Australia), Mr. Masood Khan (Pakistan), Mr. Enrique A. Manalo (Philippines), Mr. Mauro Masi (Italy), Mr. James Otieno Odek (Kenya), Mr. Philippe Petit (France), Mr. Bojan Pretnar (Slovenia), Mr. Boris Simonov (Russian Federation), Mr. Yoshiyuki Takagi (Japan), Mr. José Delmer Urbizo (Honduras), Mrs. Alicia Adamczak (Poland), Mr. Toufiq Ali (Bangladesh), Mr. Jorge Amigo (Mexico), Mr. Gjorgji Filipov (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), and Mr. José Graça Aranha (Brazil).

The process of electing a Director General is governed by the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization and ‘The Procedures for the Nomination and Appointment of Directors General of WIPO,’ adopted by the General Assembly of WIPO in September 1998. The Coordination Committee is scheduled to meet on May 13 and 14, 2008 (discussions are ongoing among members of the Coordination Committee on whether to allow an extra day, May 15, as well) to nominate a candidate for appointment to this position by the WIPO General Assembly, which is scheduled from September 22 to 30, 2008.”

¹ Press Room, WIPO, 14 April 2008, PR/2008/548,
http://www.wipo.int/pressroom/en/articles/2008/article_0020.html.