
Compilation of submissions

Report by the Director-General

1. The Director-General has the honour to transmit to the Working Group of Member States on the Process and Methods of the Election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization a compilation of the submissions received from Member States in line with the Working Group's invitation to Member States¹ to submit their specific recommendations on subparagraphs 3(1) and 3(2) of resolution EB128.R14² to the Secretariat by the end of September 2011, and where appropriate, a copy of their existing code of conduct for electoral campaigns.³
2. The submission received within the deadline from the Government of Colombia is provided in the Annex.
3. This report has been prepared in accordance with paragraph 23 of the Interim progress report, which requests the Director-General to compile the submissions in a document and to make it available to Member States by the end of October 2011.

¹ See document A64/41, paragraph 22.

² The relevant sections of resolution EB128.R14 are as follows:

“3. DECIDES that the working group ... will examine the following matters with a view to enhancing fairness, transparency and equity among the Member States of the six regions of the World Health Organization with respect to the process of nomination and appointment of the Director-General of the World Health Organization: (1) review and analyse all the aspects of the nomination and appointment process of the Director-General; (2) identify, in light of current concerns of a significant number of Member States relating to the nomination and appointment process and methods, the rules, procedures and/or steps that could be either revised, enhanced and/or added to improve the transparency, fairness and equity of the election of the Director-General ...”.

³ The issue of best practices with regard to codes of conduct for electoral campaigns is reviewed in document EB/EDG/WG/2/3.

ANNEX

SUBMISSIONS FROM MEMBER STATES

COLOMBIA

ORIGINAL VERSION: SPANISH

Bogotá, 29 September 2011

Re: Ref.: C.L.20.2011

I refer to your letter seeking recommendations for the election of the Director-General in accordance with resolution EB128.R14 and the interim report on the progress made by the working group on the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization, paragraph 22 of which invites Member States to submit their specific recommendations on subparagraphs 3(1) and 3(2) of resolution EB128.R14 to the Secretariat by the end of September 2011 at the latest, and, where appropriate, a copy of their existing code of conduct for electoral campaigns.

The report of the working group refers in general terms to aspects regulating the phases of the procedure for proposing and nominating candidates.

Regarding the candidature presentation phase, although the working group studied the proposal that each region should present two candidates and also addressed the various concerns expressed by States, it would be interesting to know what conclusion was arrived at on this point.

Colombia endorses the proposal made by the working group that a vacancy announcement for the post of Director-General could be published in a range of media as a means of increasing dissemination and thus ensuring that greater numbers of well-qualified candidates can apply.

Regarding the electoral campaign, we believe that it is vitally important to adopt a code of conduct in order to ensure equitable and transparent conditions among the candidates; as the working group advocates, such a code will strengthen the impartiality of the process. Among other things, the code should have the following characteristics:

1. Sources of information

Detailed, full, equitable and impartial conditions of access to communications from States, under which the candidate could not accept any rewards that might unduly influence the exercise of his or her professional duties.

2. Financing

- Clearly established sources of funding.
- The placing of a cap on total campaign costs.

- The possible setting of restrictions on offering rewards, gifts or promises of such.
- The establishment of a system of accountability involving publication before the conclusion of the campaign of any contributions received and documentary evidence of expenditures.
- The appointment of an external auditor to deliver a report on the electoral process – an important element.
- The possible setting of campaign time limits.

Yours faithfully,

GLORIA BEATRIZ GAVIRIA RAMOS
Chief, Office of Cooperation and International Relations

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
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