



TWENTY-NINTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Provisional agenda item 3.13



INDEXED

AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES 24 AND 25 OF THE CONSTITUTION

Increase in the membership of the Executive Board

In accordance with resolution WHA28.22<sup>1</sup> and pursuant to Article 73 of the Constitution, the Director-General has drawn up draft proposals for the amendment of Articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution so as to permit a further marginal increase of the membership of the Executive Board and a further improvement of the regional distribution of seats.

These proposals and the comments of Members thereon are contained in documents EB57/37 and Add.1, 2, 3 and 4, annexed to this document.

In resolution EB57.R40,<sup>2</sup> the Executive Board, having reviewed these proposals and replies, decided to transmit to the Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly the record of its discussions on this subject. The record of these discussions is to be found in the Official Records.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org., No. 226, pp. 9 and 10.

<sup>2</sup> Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org., No. 231.

<sup>3</sup> Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org., No. 232.



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ

A29/34  
ANNEX  
EB57/37  
3 November 1975

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Fifty-seventh Session

Provisional agenda item 32

AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES 24 AND 25 OF THE CONSTITUTION

In accordance with resolution WHA28.22 the Director-General has submitted to Members proposals for a further marginal increase in the membership of the Executive Board. These proposals and the comments received from Members are transmitted to the Executive Board for consideration.

In accordance with resolution WHA28.22, adopted by the Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly on 28 May 1975, the Director-General has drawn up draft proposals for the amendment of Articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution so as to permit a further marginal increase of the membership of the Executive Board and further improvement of the regional distribution of the seats. These draft proposals were circulated to Members on 23 June 1975, the letter explaining the different options that the Director-General was putting forward for consideration (see Annex).<sup>1</sup>

In view of Article 73 of the Constitution, which requires that texts of proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be communicated by the Director-General to Members at least six months in advance of their consideration by the Health Assembly, the Director-General requested Members wishing to formulate alternative proposals to transmit them to him not later than 15 October 1975, to enable them to be communicated to Members in accordance with Article 73.

As on 15 October 1975 the Governments of Argentina, Costa Rica, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Sierra Leone, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Yugoslavia have commented on the Director-General's draft proposals, their comments being reproduced below.

These proposals and comments are transmitted to the Executive Board with a view to permitting the Board to consider whether it would itself wish to comment on them or to make specific proposals for consideration by the World Health Assembly.

ARGENTINA

"I take pleasure in replying to your letter C.L.21.1975 concerning the draft amendments to Articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution to permit a marginal increase in the number of seats on the Executive Board, to be submitted for consideration to the Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly.

The Secretariat of State for Public Health considers it appropriate to support the amendment to Article 24 of the Constitution of the Organization increasing the membership of the Executive Board from 30 to 31, and to support the first option, alternative (a), for the amendment of Article 25."

<sup>1</sup> Annexed only for members of the Board.

COSTA RICA

"I thank you for your letter C.L.21.1975, dated 23 June 1975, containing the draft amendments to Articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization, as agreed at the Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly.

"I hereby inform you that this Ministry is in agreement with the above-mentioned amendments."

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

"I wish to refer to resolution WHA28.22 and to your circular letter C.L.21.1975 of 23 June 1975.

I hold the opinion that the number of seats in the Executive Board should be augmented by three more seats so that a further seat each might be assigned to those Regions which did not benefit by this year's new seats. In particular I should like to emphasize that the European Region in view of its substantial cooperation and participation in the most varied fields should be entitled to one additional seat.

Furthermore, of your proposals for an amendment of Article 25 I should like giving preference to the second option, alternative C."

GREECE

"In reply to your letter of 23 June 1975 I should like to bring the following points to your notice:

After examining the draft amendments annexed to your above-mentioned letter, I believe that to obtain a better representation of the Member States of the regional organizations of the World Health Organization it is necessary to increase the Executive Board by three Members, from 30 to 33, and that Article 24 of the Constitution should be worded accordingly.

As regards Article 25 of the Constitution, I should like to make the following counter-proposal:

The selection, from among the 13 Members who will be elected at the first session of the World Health Assembly held after the coming into force of the above-mentioned amendment, of one Member to serve for one year and another to serve for two years should be made not by lot but by a decision of the Health Assembly. In this way it will be possible to elect at least one Member from each regional organization in each year.

We take this opportunity to inform you that we should very much like Greece to participate in the Executive Board of the World Health Organization, in view of the fact that Greece has never participated although since 1952 it has fulfilled all its commitments as a Member of WHO."

GUATEMALA

"With reference to your letter C.L.21.1975 dated 23 June 1975, I hereby inform you that Guatemala agrees to the first option, alternative (b), 'increase of two members', for the amendment of Article 25 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization."

IRAN

"With reference your letter C.L.21.1975 of 23 June 1975, have no objection in principle with further increase in membership Executive Board stop Presume details including eventual additional members will be discussed forthcoming Assembly."

MEXICO

"I have the honour to refer to your letter C.L.21.1975 dated 23 June 1975 concerning the draft amendments to Articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization.

I wish to inform you that for Article 25 my Government favours the second option, alternative (c). My Government wishes to stress that an equitable geographical representation must be maintained in the Board, and this implies an increase of one seat for each region. In conformity with the foregoing, Article 24 would automatically be changed."

NIGERIA

"I refer to your circular letter No. C.L.21.1975 of June 23rd, 1975.

2. Nigeria has no specific proposals to make but we have the following comments:

We do not believe that the proposed increase in the membership of the Executive Board will necessarily enhance its performance. The proposed increase of the Executive Board membership from each Region to at least 3 cannot guarantee that one new member will be designated to the Executive Board from each Region every year, unless certain provisions are made to the rules of procedure.

If the Executive Board membership of South East Asia Region is to be increased from 2 to 3, then we shall insist that the membership of all the other Regions on the Board must be adjusted in order that the geographical representation shall remain in accordance with the mathematical distribution of the numbers of states within each Region."

POLAND

I have the honour to refer to your letter C.L.21.1975 dated 23 June 1975 concerning draft amendments to the Constitution aimed at permitting an increase in the membership of the Executive Board.

In our opinion it would be appropriate to keep the present membership of the Executive Board, recently increased from 24 to 30, for at least two or three years. It is essential to wait for this period, during which there will be an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of the work of the Executive Board in its increased composition, before taking any decisions on a further increase in its membership.

SIERRA LEONE

"I have the honour to refer to your letter reference C.L.21.1975 dated 23rd June, 1975 and to say that Sierra Leone supports the increase of one and the draft amendment proposed to Articles 24 and 25(a) of Annex I attached to your letter."

SPAIN

"In reply to your letter of 23 June 1975, and in accordance with instructions received from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, of the various possibilities for the amendment of Articles 24 and 25 of the WHO Constitution in implementation of the decision contained in resolution WHA28.22 adopted last year by the World Health Assembly, my Government favours increasing the Executive Board to 33 Members. Thus 13 Members will be appointed annually, and the term of office of two of them, to be determined by lot, will be limited to one and two years respectively, so that each regional group will elect at least one member in each year.

With regard to the distribution of the three new seats thus created, one would of course go to South-East Asia. The other two should be allocated by the Health Assembly after a careful study of the present representation on the Board of each of the regional organizations."

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

"Your letter of 23 June relating to resolution WHA28.22 of the Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly has been given very careful consideration by this Department.

2. We are of the opinion that most aspects of the problem of the size of the Executive Board, and of the need for a further marginal increase in the number of Members elected to designate persons to serve on the Board, have been set out with great fairness and clarity in your letter. However, we do feel that the fundamental issue of 'equitable geographical distribution' referred to in Article 24 of the Constitution of the World Health Organisation, has not perhaps been given the prominence in your letter that it deserves and received in the debate on the matter during the 29th Assembly.

3. The point was made with some eloquence by several delegates, and we think accepted by the Assembly as a whole in passing the resolution, that the criteria to be employed in determining a balanced representation on the Board must include not only the number of Members in a region, important though this undoubtedly is, but also such factors as the size of populations, the magnitude and range of health problems, the availability of expertise and other resources and the proper balance between donor and recipient countries. Two of the six WHO regions which had laboured long to see the increase in the membership of the Executive Board from 24 to 30 were undoubtedly dismayed to find that this long-awaited increase in the total adversely affected their proportionate representation, due simply to the fact that there were not enough seats to go round.

4. The second point we would make about the content of your letter is that, although constitutionally there could be no objection to an Executive Board having a total membership not divisible by three, there would seem to us to be presentational objections to this course, and we would regard an increase by less than a multiple of three as undesirable in principle.

5. Finally, we would agree with you that, for reasons fully set out in your letter, there can be no justification for any interference with the traditional determination by lot.

6. To sum up, we have no hesitation in supporting the third option (the one in square brackets) in your proposed revision of Article 24 of the Constitution, and alternative (c) of your second option for a revised Article 25. But we would express the hope that, in formally communicating these or other proposed amendments to Members, you would be good enough to take account of the comments made in this letter."

YUGOSLAVIA

"With reference to your letter of June 23, 1975 regarding the increase in the membership of the Executive Board, please be informed that the Yugoslav Commission after considering resolution WHA28.22 adopted by the Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly and the letter with the draft amendments to articles 24 and 25 of the WHO Constitution has taken the position that the membership of the Executive Board should be increased from 30 to 33 members, as to provide the distribution 11:11:11."



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ

EB57/37 Add.1

3 November 1975

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Fifty-seventh Session

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AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES 24 AND 25 OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Director-General has the honour to transmit herewith the comments in a communication of 15 October 1975 received from the Government of Egypt in reply to the draft proposals contained in C.L.21.1975 of 23 June 1975.

"I wish to refer to your letter No. C.L.21.1975 of 23 June 1975 on the subject of increase of the membership of the WHO Executive Board.

We have taken due note of the three proposals contained in your letter namely, to increase the membership of the Executive Board by one member from the South-East Asian Region, to increase the membership by two members and by three members.

In the course of the discussion of this matter in the last World Health Assembly, we recall that a further proposal was made to increase the membership of the Executive Board by six members so that each geographical area may obtain an additional seat.

As a result of the mathematical operation carried out, we found out that the equitable geographical distribution of the seats of the Executive Board is maintained at present on the basis of the 30-seat formation, while this distribution would not be maintained at all if the seats number is increased to 31, 32, 33 or 36. Should the number of seats, however, be increased to 42 and the seats be distributed in the manner shown in the attached table the equitable geographical distribution would then be ensured on the assumption that the number of WHO Member States would remain fixed at 140.

The World Health Assembly may therefore choose:

either to maintain the equitable geographical distribution adhered to since its inception and hence increase the number of seats to 42;

or not to maintain the equitable geographical distribution on the basis that the departure therefrom would be within very narrow limits, and hence increase the membership of the Board by one member from the South-East Asia Region."

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SEATS OF THE WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN THE VARIOUS GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS

Serial No.	Geographical region	Number of countries at present	Number of Executive Board seats					
			30	31	32	33	36	42
1	African Region	34	7	7	8	8	9	10
2	Pan-American Region	28	6	6	6	7	7	8
3	Eastern Mediterranean Region	23	5	5	5	5	6	7
4	European Region	32	7	7	7	7	8	10
5	South-East Asia Region	10	2	3	3	3	3	3
6	Western Pacific Region	13	3	3	3	3	3	4
	Total	140	30	31	32	33	36	42



EXECUTIVE BOARD

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AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES 24 AND 25 OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Director-General has the honour to transmit herewith the comments received from the Governments of Belgium, Bolivia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, German Democratic Republic, India, Malaysia, and the United Republic of Cameroon, in reply to the draft proposals contained in C.L.21.1975 of 23 June 1975.

BELGIUM

"I have the honour to refer to your letter of 23 June 1975, ref. C.L.21.1975, concerning resolution WHA28.22 which requests the Director-General to propose for the consideration of the Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly draft amendments to the Constitution in order to permit a further marginal increase in the membership of the Executive Board.

Belgium's position is that the membership of the Board should be increased from 30 to 33.

Although the resolution refers to a marginal increase in membership, we consider this number justified in view of the total number of members of WHO.

A membership of 33 does not seem to us excessive in comparison with that of the executive bodies of other international organizations of the United Nations family.

I should like to stress from the outset that Belgium will endeavour to obtain an additional seat for the European Region in view of the financial and intellectual contribution of that Region."

BOLIVIA

"I take pleasure in informing you that the Government of Bolivia supports the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the World Health Organization permitting a marginal increase in the membership of the Executive Board of that Organization so that each Region can designate at least one new member to the Board each year, in accordance with the suggestion contained in your letter C.L.21.1975."

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

"I have the honour to refer to your letter (C.L.21.1975) which proposed the amendment of the Articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution of WHO.

We propose that the Members entitled to designate a person to serve on the Executive Board should be composed of 31 States and that they should be elected alternately so that it provide a balanced distribution of the Board by Regional Organization."

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

"With reference to your letter dated 23 June 1975 I have the honour to submit to you the position of the GDR on a possible increase in the number of members of the Executive Council in accordance with resolution WHA28.22.

To begin with, the GDR considers that a constant increase in effectiveness of the Executive Council's activities is an important precondition for the fulfilment of the resolutions of the World Health Assembly. To reach this goal the GDR considers it necessary to give priority to such requirements as concentration on the key tasks indicated by the World Health Assembly, constant improvements in the organization of the Executive Council's activities and an equitable geographic distribution of seats in this important body of the World Health Organization. The GDR holds that the effectiveness of the Council's activities is not directly related to the number or to increasing the number of its members. Moreover, an enlargement of the Council would involve an increase in expenditures which in view of the financial difficulties of WHO would be a burden on its budget.

For these reasons the GDR would welcome it if the present number of members of the Executive Council were maintained, all the more so since only this year an increase from 24 to 30 Council members has become effective."

#### INDIA

"With reference to your letter No. C.L.21.1975, dated the 23rd June, 1975, on the subject mentioned above, I am directed to say that the Government of India, having considered the resolution WHA28.22 adopted by the 28th World Health Assembly, recommend the Articles 24 and 25 of the WHO Constitution be amended to provide for an increase in the membership of the Executive Board from thirty to thirty-one."

#### MALAYSIA

"I am directed to refer to your letter C.L.21.1975 dated 23rd June 1975 and this Ministry would like to make the following comments:

- (i) This Ministry agrees that the request contained in resolution WHA28.22 implies three conditions as stated by Director-General.
- (ii) This Ministry agrees that the amendment to Article 25 to facilitate the election of at least one Member for each regional organisation each year as under condition three will not necessarily result in the harmonization of the distribution of Members for each regional grouping.
- (iii) As such, this Ministry favours the second option as suggested by the Director-General."

#### UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

"In reply to your letter referred to herein, in which you ask for our views on the draft amendments to the Constitution permitting an increase in the membership of the Executive Board in accordance with resolution WHA28.22 adopted by the Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly, I have the honour to inform you that we see no objection to a further marginal increase in the Executive Board. Our Government's position on this matter will be confirmed during the work of the Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly."



EXECUTIVE BOARD

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AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES 24 AND 25 OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Director-General has the honour to transmit herewith the comments received from the Governments of Paraguay, Rwanda, Sudan, Togo and Zaire, in reply to the draft proposals contained in C.L.21.1975 of 23 June 1975.

PARAGUAY

"In answer to your letter ref. C.L.21.1975, I have pleasure in stating that we have no objection to the alternative texts prepared for Article 25 of the WHO Constitution, on the Executive Board, and to be submitted for consideration to the Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly, which will be convening on 3 May 1976."

RWANDA

"Further to your letter No. C.L.21.1975 concerning the distribution of seats on the Executive Board by geographical region, I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Rwanda supports the proposal which would give the South-East Asia Region one more member on the WHO Executive Board."

SUDAN

"I have pleasure to refer to your C.L.51.1975 dated 3 November 1975 on the subject of suggestions for a further amendment to Articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution.

"We think that it is too early to think of a new amendment. It is wise to work for some time with the last amendment which was agreed upon during the Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly. If there is insistence, then we think that comments made by Nigeria hold good."

TOGO

"This is in reply to your letter No. C.L.21.1975 of 23 June 1975 concerning the proposed amendments to Articles 24 and 25 of the WHO Constitution.

"I have the honour to inform you that Togo has no counter-proposals to make concerning these amendments. Our delegation to the Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly will be given instructions to vote for one of the three alternatives of the first option for Article 25."

ZAIRE

"I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of document EB57/37 of 3 November and to inform you that Zaire has decided in favour of an increase of 3 units (Article 25: second option, Alternative C).

"Zaire thus aligns itself with all the other Member countries that have opted for the same alternative."



EXECUTIVE BOARD

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AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES 24 AND 25 OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Director-General has the honour to transmit herewith the comments received from the Governments of Sri Lanka and Uganda in reply to the draft proposals contained in C.L.21.1975 of 23 June 1975.

SRI LANKA

"The Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka presents his compliments to the Director-General of the World Health Organisation and in response to his letter No: C.L.21.1975 of 23.06.1975 has the honour to inform that the Government of Sri Lanka prefers the system contained in Article 25 (second option) Alternative (a) Increase of one member."

UGANDA

"I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letters No. C.L.21.1975 dated 23 June, 1975 and No. C.L.51.1975 dated 3rd November, 1975.

Uganda has no specific proposals to make on the proposed Draft Amendments to Articles 24 and 25 of the WHO Constitution. We support the 3rd option, that is of increasing the number to 33 persons in your proposed revision of Article 24 of the Constitution. We also support alternative (c) of your 2nd option for a revised Article 25."

ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ

ORGANIZACION MUNDIAL DE LA SALUD

Telegr.: UNISANTÉ, Genève

1211 GENÈVE 27 - SUISSE

Télex. 27821

Tél. 34 60 61

Ref.: C.L.21.1975

Geneva, 23 June 1975

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to resolution WHA28.22 adopted by the Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly and which in its operative paragraph requests the Director-General to propose for the consideration of the Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly draft amendments to the Constitution in order to permit a further marginal increase, so that each region could designate at least one new member to the Executive Board each year, and to transmit such draft amendments to Members at least six months in advance of their consideration in accordance with the provisions of Article 73 of the Constitution.

The Executive Board, at its fifty-sixth session, fixed Monday 3 May 1976 as the opening day of the Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly. In accordance with Article 73 of the Constitution, the texts of proposed amendments to give effect to resolution WHA28.22 will have to be communicated to Members not later than Monday 3 November 1975. To permit Members to take cognizance of draft amendments drawn up under this resolution and should they so desire, to communicate alternative ... texts, I am circulating the draft amendments annexed to this letter (Annex I) at an early date. Members desirous of communicating alternative proposals should transmit these to me so as to be received by me not later than 15 October 1975, so as to make it possible to have these translated and circulated in accordance with the constitutional provisions referred to.

The request contained in resolution WHA28.22 expresses or implies three conditions, as follows:

... ENCLS: (2)

C.L.21.1975

23 June 1975

- (1) The increase in the membership of the Executive Board should be marginal,
- (2) Of the Members elected to designate persons to serve on the Executive Board, not less than three should be elected from each WHO region,
- (3) The terms of office of the membership of the Board should be such that within any geographical or regional grouping, at least one Member shall be elected each year.

No particular difficulty attaches to conditions (1) and (2), but there are difficulties arising from condition (3) as will be explained later, due to the fact that the present rotation of terms of office was determined by lot and therefore does not necessarily provide for an even rotation of the terms of office within a given geographical group.

As may be ascertained from the chart contained in Annex II, the minimal increase in the membership of the Executive Board to fulfil condition (2) above would be by the election of one additional Member, since the only regional organization from which less than three Members have been elected is the South-East Asia Region, from which two Members have been elected under the existing geographical distribution of the membership of the Board. However, in the course of the discussions preceding the adoption of resolution WHA28.22 in the Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly the possibility of an increase by the election of two or three additional Members was referred to. For this reason, the proposed draft amendments to Articles 24 and 25 contain options for an increase of by one, two, or three Members, for consideration by the Assembly. In this regard, it should be noted that an increase in the membership of the Executive Board by one or two Members will result, in any given three-year period, in the annual election of a varying number of Members in each of the three years. With an increase of one, the distribution of terms of office over a three-year period would be 10:10:11 and with an increase of two the distribution would be 10:11:11. This would not however present any constitutional difficulties and could be accommodated within the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly. With an increase of three Members the distribution would evidently be 11:11:11.

In the text of the draft amendments to Article 24, the necessity of having at least three Members elected from each regional organization is made a legal requirement as a consequence of condition (2). The implementation of this requirement by the Health Assembly will require some adjustments in the existing procedural arrangements, since it will not be possible to rely on the existing procedure of a vote on a single list, since this cannot guarantee that any particular candidate will be elected. Such adjustments could be incorporated in the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly at such time as the amendments to the Constitution entered into force, but it must be understood that this will inevitably require a departure from the present system, whereby the distribution of seats on the Board is determined by practice and not by any obligatory distribution patterns.

The introduction of condition (3), referred to above in order to provide for the replacement of at least one Member from all regional organizations in each year does however give rise to difficulties. As will be seen from the table in Annex II, while in the case of the South-East Asia Region, the term of office of

C.L.21.1975

23 June 1975

any additional Member elected in any given year could be initially fixed so as to satisfy this condition, it would not be possible to rearrange the terms of office of one of the three Members already elected from the Western Pacific Region unless the elections following the entry into force of the amendments were to take place in a year in which one or more Members from this region were due to be replaced and the procedure of selection of terms of office by lot waived in favour of an alternative procedure.

An attempt has been made in the text of the proposed amendments to Article 25 of the Constitution to meet this condition; nevertheless, the Director-General expresses reservations as to the desirability of including in the Constitution provisions which, due to force of circumstances, it may not be possible to fulfil. It will be observed that in any event there will be an uneven rotation of Members elected, due as mentioned above to the selections of terms of office by lot which have taken place in the past. It should be further observed that such uneven rotation has no effect on the geographical distribution as such of Members elected, so that this would not appear to be an essential element in dealing with the principal problem evoked at the Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly, namely the desirability of establishing a minimum assignment of seats on the Executive Board to each region.

For this reason, the amendments proposed for Article 25 are expressed under two options. The first option contains provisions which attempt to provide for an even rotation of seats within regional groupings, while the second option provides for selection by lot only in the cases where this would be necessary.

Any comments or alternative proposals that you may wish to make will be communicated to the Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly, recalling that the texts of draft amendments to the Constitution should be received by me by 15 October 1975, as indicated above.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

H. Mahler, M.D.  
Director-General

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES 24 AND 25  
OF THE WHO CONSTITUTION<sup>1</sup>

Article 24

The Board shall consist of thirty-one (thirty-two) [~~thirty-three~~] persons designated by as many Members. The Health Assembly, taking into account an equitable geographical distribution, shall elect the Members entitled to designate a person to serve on the Board, provided that of such Members, not less than three shall be elected from each of the regional organizations established pursuant to Article 44. Each of these Members should appoint to the Board a person technically qualified in the field of health, who may be accompanied by alternates and advisers.

Article 25 (first option)

Alternative (a) - Increase of one Member

These Members shall be elected for three years and may be re-elected, provided that of the eleven members elected at the first session of the Health Assembly held after the coming into force of the amendment to this Constitution increasing the membership of the Board from thirty to thirty-one the term of office of the additional Member elected shall, insofar as may be necessary, be of such lesser duration as shall facilitate the election of at least one Member from each regional organization in each year.

Alternative (b) - Increase of two Members

These Members shall be elected for three years and may be re-elected, provided that of the twelve Members elected at the first session of the Health Assembly held after the coming into force of the amendment to this Constitution increasing the membership of the Board from thirty to thirty-two, the term of one Member shall be for two years, as determined either by lot or by the Health Assembly in order to facilitate the election of at least one Member from each regional organization in each year.

Alternative (c) - Increase of three Members

These Members shall be elected for three years and may be re-elected, provided that of the thirteen Members elected at the first session of the Health Assembly held after the coming into force of the amendment to this Constitution increasing the membership of the Board from thirty to thirty-three the term of one Member shall be for one year and the term of one Member shall be for two years as determined wholly or partially by lot, in order to facilitate the election of at least one Member from each regional organization in each year.

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<sup>1</sup> For convenience in presentation, these texts have been prepared in the form of amended Articles of the Constitution.

Article 25 (second option)

Alternative (a) - Increase of one Member

These Members shall be elected for three years and may be re-elected.

Alternative (b) - Increase of two Members

These Members shall be elected for three years and may be re-elected, provided that of the twelve Members elected at the first session of the Health Assembly held after the coming into force of the amendment to this Constitution increasing the membership of the Board from thirty to thirty-two, the term of one Member shall be for two years, as determined by lot.

Alternative (c) - Increase of three Members

These Members shall be elected for three years and may be re-elected, provided that of the thirteen Members elected at the first session of the Health Assembly held after the coming into force of the amendment to this Constitution increasing the membership of the Board from thirty to thirty-three, the term of one Member shall be for one year and the term of one Member shall be for two years, as determined by lot.

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERSHIP ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD  
AND DURATION OF TERMS OF OFFICE<sup>1</sup>

Region	Member	Duration of term of office	Year of expiry of term of office
AFRO	Malawi	1	1976
	Mauritius)	2	1977
	Togo )		
	Mauritania )	3	1978
	Rwanda )		
	Swaziland )		
United Republic of Tanzania)			
AMRO	Guyana )	1	1976
	United States of America)		
	Argentina)	2	1977
	Guatemala)		
Venezuela)			
Canada	3	1978	
EMRO	Democratic Yemen)	1	1976
	Iran )		
	Jordan)	2	1977
	Sudan )		
Somalia	3	1978	
EURO	Germany, Federal)	1	1976
	Republic of )		
	Poland )		
	Switzerland )	2	1977
	France )		
	Union of Soviet Socialist)	3	1978
Republics )			
Finland )			
Yugoslavia)			
SEARO	Sri Lanka	2	1977
	Bangladesh	3	1978
WPRO	China)	1	1976
	Japan)		
	Australia	3	1978

<sup>1</sup> As at 1 June 1975.