

Election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization

The Executive Board,

Guided by the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations, inter alia Article 101, paragraph 3;

Having regard to the Constitution of the World Health Organization including Article 31;

Reaffirming the continued relevance of the criteria that should be met by the candidate for the post of Director-General, as adopted by the Executive Board in its resolution EB97.R10;

Recognizing the importance of further strengthening transparency, fairness and equity among Member States of the six regions of the World Health Organization in the process and method of nomination and appointment of the Director-General of the Organization;

Acknowledging that successful candidate for the post of the Director-General can come from any region but that candidates appointed for this post have so far only come from three out of the six regions of the Organization;

Recognizing that due regard should be paid to the importance of recruiting future Directors-General on as wide a geographical basis as possible from Member States of the six regions of the World Health Organization;

Having considered the report by the Secretariat contained in document EB128/27 and taking into account document EB122/17,

1. DECIDES to establish a time-bound and results-oriented working group on the process and methods of the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization, open to all Member States;¹
2. REQUESTS the Director-General to convene the working group on the process and methods of the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization as soon as possible and to facilitate its work;

¹ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

3. DECIDES that the working group on the process and methods of the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization 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) to review and analyse all the aspects of the nomination and appointment process of the Director-General;

(2) to 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 with a view, inter alia, to ensuring that the recruitment of this Official be in harmony with the provisions of Article 101, paragraph 3 of the Charter of the United Nations;

(3) to make specific recommendations on the above;

4. FURTHER DECIDES that the working group on the process and methods of the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization, in undertaking its work, will take into account all relevant WHO and United Nations documentation and resolutions;

5. FURTHER DECIDES that the working group on the process and methods of the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization shall submit an interim progress report to the Sixty-fourth World Health Assembly and a final report, including its recommendations in relation to issues set out in paragraph 3 above, to the Executive Board at its 130th session for final recommendations by the latter to the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly.

Twelfth meeting, 24 January 2011
EB128/SR/12

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