



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

FIFTY-SIXTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
Provisional agenda item 18.3

A56/41
10 March 2003

Increased representation of developing countries on Expert Advisory Panels and in Expert Committees

Report by the Secretariat

1. Resolution WHA55.24 amended the regulations for expert advisory panels and expert committees.¹
2. Resolution WHA55.24 also requested the Director-General to take certain measures to improve representation of developing countries on expert advisory panels and in expert committees, and to report to the Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly on implementation. The following paragraphs describe steps taken in this regard.
3. Information on all appointments of experts to advisory panels, including a breakdown of the panels by subject area, region and country, and sex has been sent to Regional Directors for distribution to all Member States. This information will henceforth be transmitted on a regular basis. It is also submitted annually to the Executive Board.
4. Regional Directors have been requested to assist the Director-General in nominating experts from developing countries in a more representative and comprehensive manner by considering the following means:
 - contacting scientific organizations, academies of medicine and science, health and medical research councils, and professional societies in Member States in their region;
 - identifying experts serving in regional advisory committees (such as the regional Advisory Committees on Health Research) and those who are attached to WHO collaborating centres;
 - approaching WHO representatives who may also be aware of suitable experts in their duty stations and in a position to provide suggestions for such experts in various areas;

¹ Regulations for Expert Advisory Panels and Committees, *Basic documents*, 44th ed. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2003.

- consulting regional databases, where available, of researchers. In the Region of the Americas, for example, a database of researchers compiled in cooperation with national research councils from 10 Member States, and linked to regional bibliographic databases, has been created and is used to identify experts in developing countries objectively. Similar databases in other WHO regions could be developed.

5. Follow up will include informing all Regional Directors of Member States in their region that currently have no representation on expert advisory panels, and requesting them to identify and nominate experts from these countries. The database of expert advisory panels at headquarters is continuously updated and improved.

ACTION BY THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

6. The Health Assembly is invited to note this report.

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