
Specific modalities for a candidates' forum

1. The second session of the Working Group of Member States on the Process and Methods of the Election of the Director-General was held in Geneva from 21 to 24 November. During the session, the Working Group engaged in a discussion on a proposed candidates' forum, which is summarized in the box below.

Excerpt of document EB130/29 Corr.1 (paragraphs 7–9)

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7. *The Working Group agreed that a candidates' forum could provide an opportunity for all candidates to make themselves and their vision known to Member States, on an equal footing. The Working Group supported the establishment of such a forum, recognizing that further work is needed and agreed that it should be open to all Member States.¹ The candidates' forum was not considered as a decision-making body.*

8. *The candidates' forum would be convened by the Secretariat at the request of the Executive Board and chaired by the Chairman of the Board, using the Bureau structure, as a self-standing event preceding the Board.*

9. *Other issues concerning a candidates' forum elicited a number of views and the Working Group considered that they would benefit from further discussions, such as the following:*

(i) *With regard to the timing of the candidates' forum, the main options discussed by the Working Group included holding the candidates' forum sufficiently before the nomination process by the Board, in order to give Member States time for reflection and consultations; or holding the forum immediately before or at the margins of the Executive Board to reduce costs and increase participation by all countries.*

(ii) *While there was agreement that each candidate could make a presentation and would respond to questions from Member States, several views were offered concerning the specific modalities for the question and answer part of the forum. Some options raised by members of the Working Group included the submission of fixed questions known in advance by the candidates; free questions during the interview, or a combination of approaches, and the role of regional groups.*

¹ Including, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

(iii) *With respect to the duration of the candidates' forum, the potentially high number of candidates, a realistic time for each interview, as well as the cost and time involved for candidates and Member States should be taken into account.*

(iv) *The possibility of webcasting the candidates' forum was also discussed.*

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2. In its report the Working Group requested that the Secretariat propose specific modalities for a candidates' forum.¹ The present report provides options for modalities with respect to the following: timing; duration; format; process for questions and answers; participation; documentation; and outcome. The report also provides a preliminary cost estimate where possible.

TIMING

3. There are at least two possible options for the timing of a forum:

(1) several weeks in advance of the nomination process by the Executive Board, soon after the candidates' names are communicated to Member States;

(2) immediately before or at the margins of the Executive Board.

4. The Officers of the Executive Board could also decide on the timing of such a forum in each election cycle, as the suitability of the various options for timing may vary with the circumstances surrounding each election.²

DURATION

5. The duration of a forum would be influenced by the number of candidates participating. Each candidate would be allotted a certain amount of time (e.g. one hour). The total duration would largely depend on the total number of candidates participating in such a forum and the amount of time that was allotted to each.

FORMAT

6. There are several sets of options relating to the format of a possible candidates' forum, including the following.

6.1 Organization of the session

(1) Candidates would present themselves and respond to questions, one at a time with no other candidates present.

¹ See document EB130/29 Corr.1, paragraph 25.

² For example, the Officers of the Executive Board may take into account the number of candidates for the post of the Director-General or possible changes to the calendar of governing body meetings, in connection with the WHO reform process.

- (2) Candidates would present themselves and respond to questions, one at a time and the other candidates could be present.
- (3) Candidates would provide their presentations one at a time, which would be followed by a single question and answer session including all candidates.
- (4) Candidates would participate in a panel discussion in which each of them would provide a brief opening statement, respond to questions and then be given an opportunity to make closing remarks.

6.2 Allocation of time

- (1) A certain amount of time would be allotted to each candidate (e.g. 60 or 45 minutes), which would be divided between the presentation (e.g. 30 or 15 minutes) and questions and answers (e.g. 30 minutes).
- (2) Each candidate would decide how to divide their time (e.g. 60 or 45 minutes) between the presentation and questions and answers.¹
- (3) Each candidate would provide a 15 minute presentation, which would be followed by a question and answer session with all candidates (the duration of which would be determined by the number of candidates). The session would conclude with an opportunity for brief closing remarks by each candidate.

6.3 Order of candidates

- (1) The names of the candidates would be drawn by lot.²
- (2) The name of the first candidate would be drawn by lot and then candidates would follow in alphabetical order.³
- (3) The candidates would appear in the alphabetical order of their family name.

PROCESS FOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

7. There are at least four options for the process of providing questions and answers.
 - (1) Member States would formulate questions in advance and submit them through their respective regional groups, with each regional group providing the same number of questions

¹ The WIPO Candidates' Forum allotted 25 minutes to each candidate to make a presentation and respond to questions and answers and each candidate managed his or her time allotment between the presentation and questions and answers (see document EB/EDG/WG/2/5, Annex 2).

² The Rules of the Candidates' Forum in PAHO indicate that "The order of presentations to be made by the candidates shall be determined by lot and the candidates will be called one at a time" (see document EB/EDG/WG/2/5, Annex 1).

³ This approach was employed at the WIPO Candidates' Forum (see document EB/EDG/WG/2/5, Annex 2).

(based on an agreed number) and with the questions being drawn at random and posed by the Chairman.

(2) During such a forum, regional groups would have the opportunity to ask questions, in rotation. The questions would be asked on behalf of the regional group by their respective regional coordinator or (an) other individual(s) as agreed by each of the regional groups.

(3) Member States would be able to ask questions freely during the question and answer session.

(4) The Officers of the Executive Board would formulate a set of questions to be asked of all candidates and they would be provided to the candidates in advance of the forum.

PARTICIPATION

8. There are several options relating to participation in a candidates' forum, including the following.

(1) The session would be open to Member States only.

(2) The session would be open to Member States, Associate Members, intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations in official relations with the Organization, as well as to other observers.

(3) The session would be open to all of those mentioned in subparagraph 8(2) above, as well as to members of the public and the media.

Virtual participation

(4) The session would be webcast.

(5) Video and/or audio recordings of the session would be made available on the WHO web site following the closure of the forum.

(6) No recordings of the session would be made available.

DOCUMENTATION

9. The curricula vitae of candidates would have already been provided to Member States in line with Rule 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.¹ Presentations by the candidates would be made available electronically in the language versions provided to the Secretariat.

¹ ... "The Chairman of the Board shall open the proposals received sufficiently in advance of the session so as to ensure that all proposals, curricula vitae and supporting information are translated into all official languages, duplicated and dispatched to all Member States one month before the date fixed for the opening of the session."

OUTCOME

10. There are at least two options for an outcome.
- (1) There would be no report of such a forum.
 - (2) The Secretariat would prepare a factual report for the information of the Executive Board.

COST

11. The cost of such a forum would depend on the modalities selected. In this regard, the estimates below provide an indication of some of the costs associated with the various options.

Preliminary cost estimates (US\$)	
Conference services/logistics (Executive Board Room) ¹	10 000 (per day)
Interpretation in all official languages	12 000 (1 day)
	23 000 (2 days)
Participation of candidates (including travel and per diem)	5 000 (per candidate)
Participation of the Chairman of the Executive Board at a forum several weeks in advance of the Executive Board session (including travel and per diem)	10 000 ²
Participation of the Chairman of the Executive Board at a forum held immediately before the Executive Board session (per diem only)	1 157 (1 day)
	1 735 (2 days)

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¹ Assumes that a forum would take place during the week and not on a holiday. If a forum was held during the weekend, costs would be higher.

² The estimate of US\$ 10 000 represents an average. The actual cost would depend upon the country of origin.