



Process for the Election of the Director-General

21 January 2025

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Legal Framework

- Article 31 of the WHO Constitution
- Rules of Procedure of the Board (R. 62) and Health Assembly (R. 108-112)
- Relevant resolutions and decisions of the Board and Health Assembly
- Code of Conduct for the Election of the Director-General of WHO

Period up to the nomination by the Board

- **At least 9 months before the EB :** Invitation to submit proposals
 - Standard form for CV (max 3500 words)
 - Deadline: no later than 4 months before the EB
- **Immediately after deadline:** Opening of proposals by the EB Chair
- **After last Regional Committee / at least 10 weeks before the EB:**
 - Circulation of proposals to all Member States in the 6 official languages
 - Web-posting of the proposals and of documentation about the process

Period up to the nomination by the Board

- **Web Forum**
 - Electronic password-protected platform open to candidates and Member States for written interaction
- **First Candidates' Forum**
 - Live platform open to candidates and Member States and broadcast
 - Interviews of candidates: presentation and Q&As

Nomination by the Board

- **Private meeting**
 - Initial screening of candidates against the criteria set out in resolution WHA65.15
 - Short list of up to 5 candidates by secret ballot vote
 - Interviews of candidates: presentations and Q&As, max. 60 minutes each
 - Nomination of up to 3 candidates by secret ballot vote
 - Approval of the draft contract
- **Public meeting**
 - Announcement of the results

Period between the nomination and the appointment

- **Second candidates' forum**
 - Live platform open to nominees and Member States, and broadcast
 - Interactive panel discussion

Appointment at the Health Assembly

- **Public meeting:** Candidates' statements of up to 15 minutes each
- **Private meeting**
 - Appointment by secret ballot vote
 - Adoption of the resolutions on appointment and approval of the contract
- **Public meeting**
 - Announcement of the result
 - Signature of the contract and taking of the oath

Code of Conduct on the Election of the Director-General

- Political understanding “to increase the fairness, credibility, openness and transparency of the process”, applicable throughout the electoral campaign period
- Key provisions:
 - Promoting communication and cooperation, good faith and respect
 - Disclosing campaign activities, incl. funding
 - Avoiding any improper influence over the election process
 - Travel by candidates, incl. not combining official travel with campaigning activities
 - Obligations of internal candidates, incl. to observe the highest standard of ethical conduct and strive to avoid any appearance of impropriety.

Timeline for the next Director-General process

2026

- April / May Call for proposals issued by the DG
- Sept./Oct. Deadline for the receipt of proposals, circulation and web-posting of proposals
- Sept. / Oct. Web Forum
- Oct.-Dec. First candidates' forum (if more than 1 candidate)

2027

- Jan. (EB158) Nomination of up to three candidates
- Feb./March Second candidates' forum (if more than 1 candidate)
- May (WHA80) Appointment of the Director-General
- Mid-August Term of office starts



Thank you

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