



Outcomes of EB158 & Looking ahead to the *May* governing body meetings

Member State Information Session

March 2026

Promote **health** | Keep the world **safe** | Serve the **vulnerable**

Agenda

- 1. Outcomes of EB158**
- 2. Update on intergovernmental processes planned during the intersessional period**
- 3. Update on arrangements for PBAC44, WHA79 and EB159**
- 4. Official Side Events**
- 5. DG election process**
- 6. AOB**

PBAC 43



- Considered 20 items and sub-items and provided recommendations to the Executive Board on matters that would appear on the EB158 agenda, including governance reform, reform of the global health architecture and the UN80 Initiative, proposed amendments to the process for the selection of the External Auditor, Evaluation, human resource matters, and engagement with non-State actors.
- Continued with innovations piloted recently, including the projection on screen of the speakers' list and summaries of PBAC recommendations.



- Considered 53 items and sub-items and adopted 8 resolutions and 25 decisions, approximately 18 of which contain proposals for the consideration of the Health Assembly in May.
- Intersessional meetings anticipated including on governance reform, WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel, Draft global action plan on antimicrobial resistance, Reform of the global health architecture and the UN80 initiative

Information sessions/Informal consultations

Governance

Informal calendar of intergovernmental meetings (provisional)

◀ ▶ **March 2026** High contrast: OFF

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3 ¹	4 ¹	5 ²	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 ²	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 ⁴	24 ⁴	25 ⁴	26 ⁴	27 ⁴	28 ³	29
30	31					

03 March 2026

Tuesday

Day Week

12:30

Member State Information session on preparations for the upcoming constitutional meetings

🕒 12:30–14:00

📍 Hybrid

Global Health Architecture and UN80 Initiative

EB 158(20) | Key Discussions and Decision from Executive Board



Executive Board
158th session

Agenda item 29.1

6 February 2026

EB158(20)

Reform of the global health architecture and the UN80 Initiative

The Executive Board, having considered the report by the Director-General,¹ and having also considered the report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board;² recognizing the central role of Member States in the reform process, and mindful of the ongoing work of the United Nations General Assembly's Informal Ad hoc Working Group on the Mandate Implementation Review and the call for substantive proposals on structural changes and programme realignments from specialized agencies,

Decided to request the Director-General, in a transparent and inclusive manner and in close consultation with, and under the direction of, Member States:

- (1) to design a proposal on a joint, inclusive, transparent, time-bound, resource effective and efficient process, hosted by WHO, which is led by Member States, that brings together and complements current global health architecture and UN80 discussions to facilitate convergence and consensus-building, in order to support the transformation of the current global health architecture, enhance coordination and leverage the comparative advantages of diverse actors, while being responsive to country needs and realities;
- (2) to convene relevant global health actors, including other global health entities, regional organizations, development banks, philanthropic foundations, civil society and academic institutions, in line with the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors, as applicable, in the design of the proposal, taking into account ongoing global health reform initiatives;
- (3) to submit a proposal on the joint process for the consideration of the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly, through the forty-fourth meeting of the Programme, Budget and

1) To design a proposal on a joint process to support transformation of the global health architecture (GHA)

- to enhance coordination, leverage comparative advantages in response to country needs/realities
- joint, inclusive, transparent, time-bound, resource effective & efficient
- hosted by WHO, which is led by Member States
- bring together and complement current discussions on GHA and UN80

2) To convene relevant global health actors in the design of the proposal

- incl. global health entities, regional organizations, development banks, philanthropic foundations, civil society and academic institutions, in line with FENSA

3) To submit the proposal to WHA79 through PBAC44

“...in a transparent and inclusive manner
and in close consultation with, and under the direction of, Member States....”

WHO Internal Steering Committee/Working Group on the Global Health Architecture (GHA) and UN80 | ToR

Purpose - to design a process supporting global health architecture (GHA) discussions and reforms



Scope

- **Process Design** – to support discussions on the transformation of the GHA
- **Stakeholder Engagement Strategy** – identification of stakeholders and plan for their participation in post-WHA79 joint process
- **Consultation Plan** - timelines and mechanisms for inclusive consultations during the design phase (before WHA79) and for the joint process (after WHA79)
- **Linkage with UN80**

Final deliverable:
proposal document for WHA79



Roles & Responsibilities

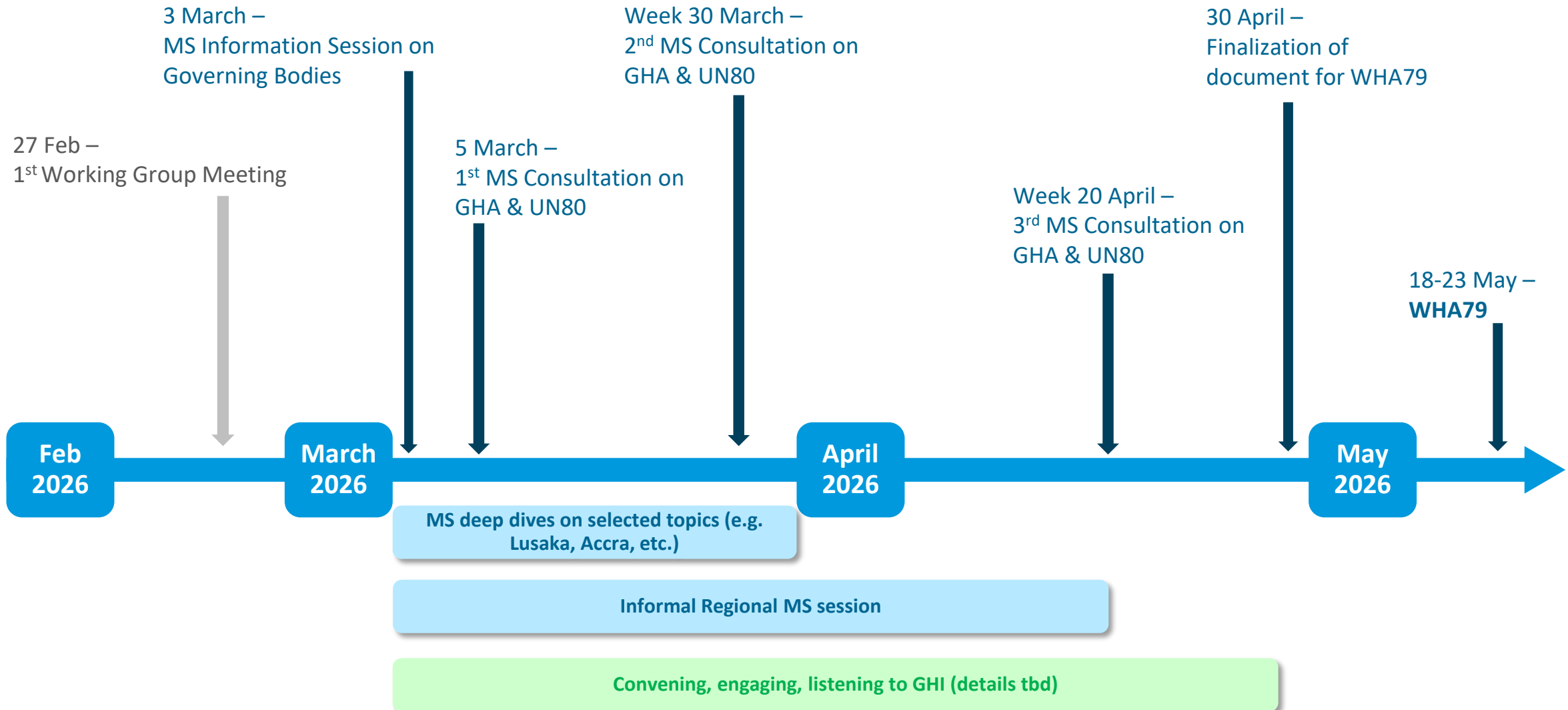
- **Chair (CdC)** – leads & facilitates activities
- **Members (RDs AFRO & WPRO, ADGs PPC & WHE, ARG Co-chairs)** – contribute expertise and engage their networks internally and externally
- **Secretariat (GPMB and GBS)** - meeting support, technical and analytical support, including sharing relevant developments within the UN80 Initiative and other pertinent information (GPMB), primary focal point for MS, External partners & pen holder for document for WHA79 (GBS)
- **Ad hoc Contributors (as needed)**

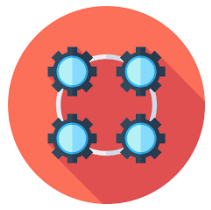


Governance & Working Methodology

- **Oversight** - under authority of DG & in line with MS guidance
- **Working modalities** - in a transparent, inclusive, collaborative and consensus-driven manner, which will be action-oriented
- **Consultative Approach** – highly participatory approach with Member State Engagement
Internal WHO Consultation
Global Health Partners Involvement
- **Alignment and Coherence** – considering (a) WHO's internal reform (Prioritization & Realignment); (b) relevant outcomes of UN80 workstreams; and (c) external GHA reform discussions

Timeline for external consultations until WHA79





Governance Reform- next steps

EB Bureau-led reform

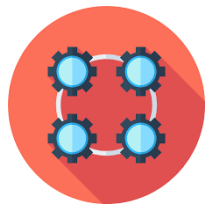
- Pilot reforms as agreed with the Bureau continuing to lead a process on the design of the pilot “centring on updates to the timeline, checklist and template process for proposing draft resolutions and draft decisions to align with the provisions outlined in the Appendix in paragraphs 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 (a)–(c), and 14 (f) for application ahead of and during the Eightieth and Eighty-first World Health Assemblies; and on clear parameters for implementing the pilot, including an implementation timeline, reporting and assessment intervals, and metrics for assessing the measures piloted . . .” (**Decision EB158(21)**)

Sustainable model for Member State-led governance reform

- “to request Member States with interest and capacity to meet by 15 April 2026, at which meeting a subset of participants, such as an advocacy group, would present themselves to lead the wider membership, with a view to updating a rolling informal workplan for Member States under the model, updating an analysis of progress in implementing the recommendations of the Agile Member States Task Group, all within the scope of championing work to implement the remaining Task Group recommendations. . . “ and to report to EB160 on progress (**Decision EB158(22)**)

Secretariat’s role includes to:

- Support EB Bureau led reform and the sustainable model; review of existing governing body reporting mandates and prepare options for follow-up reporting of adopted resolutions and decisions and report to WHA81 thru EB162; conduct a pilot on a consolidated presentation of cost estimates on the financial and administrative implications of proposed resolutions and decisions; extending the current timeline, checklist and template to EB159



IGWG

Intergovernmental Working Group on the WHO Pandemic Agreement

Briefing by the
IGWG Bureau in
advance of
IGWG6

16 March (tbc)

IGWG5
9-14 Feb

IGWG6
23-28 Mar

WHA79
18-23 May

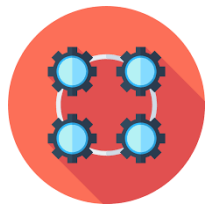
IGWG7
July tbc

FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

PBAC44
13-15 May

Also to be confirmed

- IGWG8 September 2026
- IGWG & IHR States Parties Implementation Committee September 2026



SCHEPPR

Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response

Timeline 2026

SCHEPPR8
14-15 April 2026

MARCH	APRIL	MAY
-------	-------	-----

Proposed agenda items include:

- Update on the current public health emergency of international concern on Poliomyelitis
- Update on strengthening health emergency prevention, preparedness, response and resilience
- Update on the response to major ongoing health emergencies

Additional points to note:

- C.L. to be sent to Member States soon
- Registration through CVENT
- Proposed agenda and annotated agenda to be posted online shortly
- Related documents to be shared in early April
- Format: Hybrid
- Time: 13:00 – 15:30 on 14 and 15 April

Dates and location: 13 to 15 May 2026 at WHO Headquarters

Chair: Dr Aspect J.V. Maunganidze (Zimbabwe)

Vice-Chair: Dr Ali Haji Adam Abubakar (Somalia)

Agenda: will contain PBAC specific items, as well as items that will also appear on the agendas of WHA79 and EB159, such that the PBAC will be able to provide recommendations on these matters.

Invitation: to be circulated 8 weeks prior to the convening of the sessions

Dates and location: 18 to 23 May 2026 at the Palais des Nations and WHO Headquarters

Officers of the Assembly:

- President from the Region of the Americas, and five Vice-Presidents from the other regions
- Chair of Committee A- from the European Region
- Chair of Committee B- from the African Region

Those 8 Officers, plus 17 Member States make up the General Committee

Invitations: to be circulated not less than 60 days prior to the opening

Speakers list for General Debate

- A link to inscribe will be sent to Member States at the beginning of May
- Member States are encouraged to have a single person per each delegation inscribing once on the list.
- Live list of speakers will be available on the WHO App and on the screen outside the meeting room
- Secretariat cannot change the position of a Member State on the list, except as bilaterally agreed between two delegations.

Official Side Events during WHA79 (1/3)

- Side-events will take place at the WHO Headquarters on 18-22 May 2026.
- Based on room availability, **an approximate 40+ slots** are anticipated to be available for Member States (MS) and entities in Official Relations with WHO at lunchtime and in the evening.
- Considering the financing constraints facing WHO, side-events can only be held based on a **full cost recovery mechanism**.
- The process reflects the feedback from MS and the lessons learnt from last year.

Official Side Events during WHA79 (2/3)

Timeline and process:

- A **call for applications** was sent on 10 February 2026 to MS and other entities, including guidelines and criteria for selection.
- The **timeline** for reception of applications was 2 March 2026.
- A **complete list of selected events** will be released on the GBS website in the second half of March.
- **Confirmation** of the slot by paying for the room and associated technical support one week after the allocation of the slot.

Cost recovery mechanism:

- Capacity of rooms ranges between 80 and 350 participants.
- Interpretation needs shall be indicated through the application form, and will be confirmed after the initial selection, based on payment of fees, by 31 March at the latest.
- Catering will be arranged separately once the event is confirmed.
- Additional fee-based services are available, including zoom connection and webstreaming.

Official Side Events during WHA79 (3/3)

Criteria for selection:

- Regional diversity and balance: Member States (MS) from at least 3 regions, or MS from 2 regions in collaboration with UN entity and/or relevant Intergovernmental Organization, or 2 non-State actors (NSAs) with at least one MS, or 3 NSAs.
- Multi-stakeholder, gender-balanced, integrated, multi-country and intergenerational approaches will be given priority over vertical and single-country approaches;
- Contributions to one or more themes of the GPW14, relation to WHA78 agenda item (as per existing draft provisional agenda) or focus on unmet or critical need;
- Events may be held in any of the six official WHO languages;
- One event per topic.
- It is recommended to present one event per lead organizers (MS or NSAs), whilst the same institution(s) may co-sponsor other events.
- No first come, first served.

All details are in the Guidelines: please carefully review them before applying! Any questions may be asked to HQgoverningbodies@who.int

Dates and location: 25-26 May 2026 at WHO Headquarters

Officers: Chair to be provided by the South-East Asia Region; Vice-Chairs to be provided by the Regions of Africa, Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Region of the Americas; Rapporteur to be provided by the Western Pacific Region.

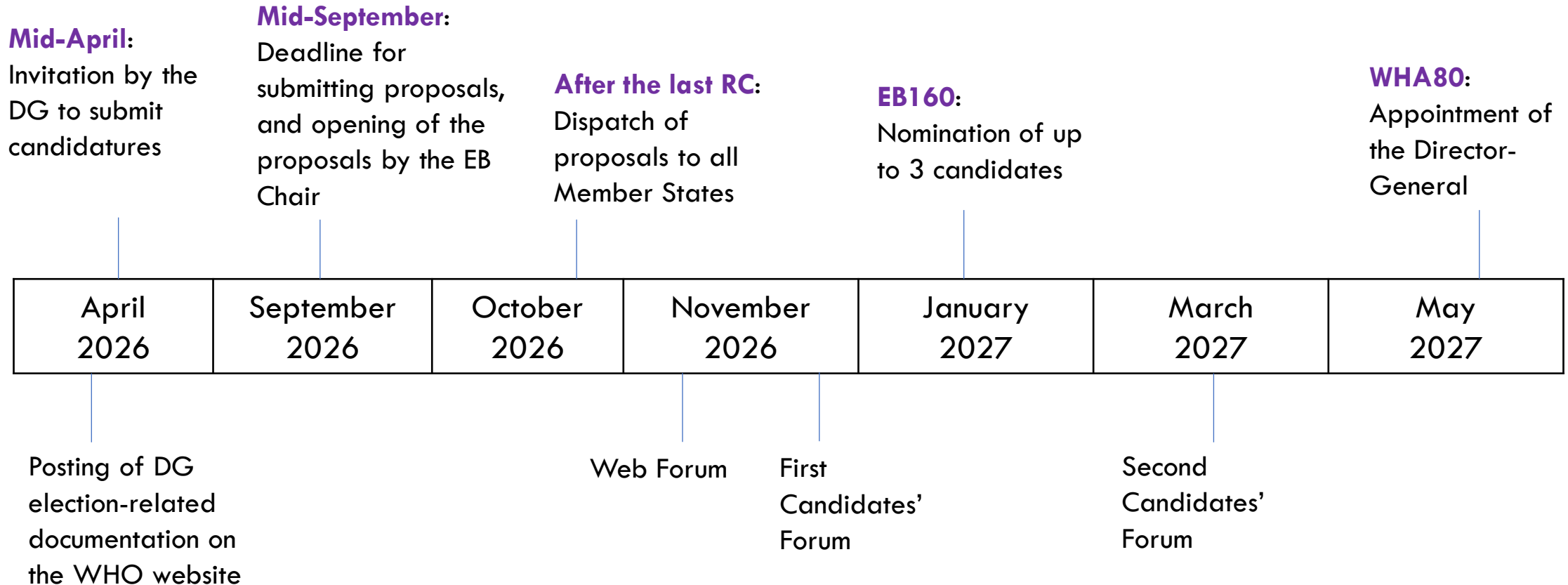
Agenda: CL.7.2025 which contains the draft provisional EB159 agenda will be circulated to Member States on 6 March. Member States have until 20 March to provide any proposals on the agenda. Such proposals should be sent to governanceunit@who.int and include an explanatory memorandum in accordance with Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure.

In the event Member States wish to propose draft resolutions or decisions for the consideration of EB159, it is proposed that any concept notes and zero draft EB159 proposals reach the Secretariat by 27 March

DG Election Process: Legal Basis

- Article 31 of the WHO Constitution
- Rule 62 of the EB Rules of Procedure (as amended in 2020)
- Rules 71 and 108 to 114 of the WHA Rules of Procedure
- Several WHA resolutions and decisions regarding inter alia:
 - Criteria, principles and main elements (res. WHA65.15)
 - Code of Conduct for the Election of the Director-General (res. WHA66.18 and dec. WHA73(27))
 - Candidates' forums (Annex 2 to dec. WHA73(27))
 - Candidates' statements at the WHA and travel support for the candidates' forums (dec. WHA74(21))

DG Election Process: Timeline



Precise dates will depend on the date set for the opening of EB160

DG Election Process: April 2026

- Circular Letter to be sent to all Member States, including:
 - Deadline for submitting candidatures;
 - Standard form for CV
 - Reminder regarding the pledge to observe the Code of Conduct
 - Posting of information about candidates
- Posting of DG election-related information on the WHO's website



DG Election Process: EB159

- EB159: Agenda item on the process for the election of the Director-General
- Matters for consideration by the Board: **Proposed dates of the First and Second Candidates' Forums**
- Matters for information of the Board:
 - Travel support to candidates attending the interviews at EB160 in January 2027
 - Expected arrangements for placing any internal candidates on annual leave

DG Election Process: Code of Conduct for the Election of the DG

- WHA-adopted Code to promote “an open, fair, equitable and transparent process for the election of the Director-General”; not legally binding but “Member States and candidates are expected to honour its contents”
- Sets out principles that guide the whole election process and electoral campaign activities, such as fairness, equity, transparency and good faith
- Contains provisions on, inter alia:
 - Disclosure of campaign activities as well as grants or aid funding to other Member States;
 - Behaviour expected of Member States and candidates, including during the nomination and appointment phases
 - Official travel and campaign activities
 - Internal candidates

DG Election Process: August - October 2026

- **From late August:** regional committees - provision for prospective candidates to attend on request by nominating governments. Campaigning permitted in the margins only
- **Mid-September:** deadline for the **submission of proposals** to be sent under confidential sealed cover to the EB Chair, including:
 - Proposal
 - Pledge to observe the Code of Conduct
 - Candidate's CV (standardized form; max 3500 words; hard and electronic format)
- **Late September:** EB Chair opens the proposals
- **Late October** (after the closure of the last Regional Committee):
 - Dispatch of all proposals, CVs and supporting information received by the deadline to all Member States;
 - Posting of proposals on the WHO's website
- Invitation to candidates to undergo a **medical examination**

DG Election Process: Web Forum (November 2026)

- Only if more than one candidate
- Password-protected forum for questions and answers
- Open to all Member States and candidates
- Expected duration: to be determined
- Supported by the Secretariat

DG Election Process: First Candidates' Forum (November 2026)

- Only if more than one candidate
- To be held no later than two months before the opening of EB160
- Non-decision-making platform for candidates to present themselves on an equal basis
- Structured around interviews of candidates
- Open to Member States and Associate Members, chaired by the EB Chair and broadcast
- Maximum 3 days (exact duration to be decided by the EB Officers)

DG Election Process: Nomination(s) by EB160

- Consideration of proposals at private meetings, except for the interviews
- Initial screening of proposals (by consensus)
- Short-listing of up to five candidates
- Interviews of candidates: presentation and Q&As from EB Members (max 60 minutes each)
- Nomination
 - Up to three candidates from among the short-listed ones
 - By secret ballot

DG Election Process: Second Candidates' Forum (March 2027)

- Only if more than one candidate
- To be held no later than two months before the opening of WHA80, i.e. **late March 2027**
- Non-decision-making platform for candidates to present themselves on an equal basis
- Structured around an interactive panel discussion
- Open to *Member States* and *Associate Members*, chaired by the EB Chair and broadcast
- Duration to be decided by the EB Officers

DG Election Process: Appointment by WHA80 (May 2027)

- Consideration of nominations at a private meeting, except for candidates' statements
- Statements by candidates before the vote for the appointment
- Appointment by secret ballot
- Contract of appointment to be approved by the WHA, and signed jointly by the DG and WHA President
 - Term of office: 5 years; eligible for reappointment once
 - Taking of office: mid-August 2027



Send any further questions to:

Governance/programmatic matters: governanceunit@who.int

Protocol/registration matters: hqgoverningbodies@who.int