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**Organisation mondiale de la Santé**

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**Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions  
to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the  
Constitution: Status as at 1 January 1998**

**Report by the Director-General**

In accordance with resolutions of the Health Assembly, the Director-General submits the following report on Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions in an amount which equals or exceeds the amounts due for the preceding two full years. As may be noted from Annex 2, the number of Members involved is 37. The voting privileges of 22 of these Members are at present suspended in accordance with past Health Assembly resolutions. The voting privileges of five other Members will be suspended as from the opening of the Fifty-first World Health Assembly in accordance with resolutions WHA50.8 and WHA50.22, if by that time these Members were still to be in arrears to the said extent. The remaining 10 Members will be subject to the procedure specified in resolution WHA41.7. As in the past, the Board may wish to request the Director-General to continue his contacts with the Members concerned and to submit his findings to the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee of the Executive Board which will meet immediately prior to the opening of the Fifty-first World Health Assembly.

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Article 7 of the Constitution reads as follows:

*If a Member fails to meet its financial obligations to the Organization or in other exceptional circumstances, the Health Assembly may, on such conditions as it thinks proper, suspend the voting privileges and services to which a Member is entitled. The Health Assembly shall have the authority to restore such voting privileges and services.*

2. In May 1955 the Eighth World Health Assembly, in resolution WHA8.13, resolved that:

*if a Member is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization in an amount which equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years at the time of the opening of the World Health Assembly in any future year, the Assembly shall consider, in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution, whether or not the right of vote of such a Member shall be suspended.*

3. Pursuant to resolution WHA16.20 of the Sixteenth World Health Assembly (May 1963), the Executive Board, at its sessions when the agenda of the Health Assembly is prepared, is required:

*to make specific recommendations, with the reasons therefor, to the Health Assembly with regard to any Members in arrears in the payment of contributions to the Organization to an extent which would invoke the provisions of Article 7 of the Constitution.*

4. In May 1988 the Forty-first World Health Assembly, by resolution WHA41.7, adopted the following statement of principles to be applied in future:

1. *Towards the end of the year preceding each Health Assembly, the Director-General will invite Members that will, unless corrective action is taken, be in arrears to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution pursuant to resolution WHA8.13, to submit to the Executive Board a statement of their intentions as to the payment of arrears so that the Health Assembly, when it considers whether or not the right of vote of those Members is to be suspended, can make its decision on the basis of the statements of the Members and the recommendations of the Executive Board.*

2. *Unless there are exceptional circumstances justifying a different measure, the Health Assembly will adopt a decision, by a two-thirds majority pursuant to Rule 72 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly, under which the voting rights of a Member in arrears to the extent referred to in paragraph 1 above will be suspended as from the opening day of the following Health Assembly if at that time the Member is still in arrears to the extent referred to. If the Member is no longer in arrears to the said extent, the decision will lapse and the suspension will not take effect. Any suspension will be without prejudice to the right to request restoration pursuant to Article 7 of the Constitution.*

## **MEMBERS THAT HAVE LOST THEIR VOTING PRIVILEGES AS FROM PREVIOUS HEALTH ASSEMBLIES**

5. In accordance with previous Health Assembly resolutions, the voting privileges of 23 Members (Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Chad, Comoros, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Mauritania, Niger, Republic of Moldova, Somalia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Venezuela and Yugoslavia) have been suspended, and the suspension is to continue at the Fifty-first and subsequent Health Assemblies until the arrears have been reduced to a level below the amount which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution. One Member, Venezuela, has made sufficient payments since the Fiftieth World Health Assembly to have its voting privileges restored. The status of the remaining 22 Members remains unchanged.

6. In October 1997 the Director-General informed those Members of the minimum amounts that it would be necessary for them to pay prior to the next Health Assembly in order to permit restoration of their voting privileges. Further communications were sent to them by the Director-General in November and December 1997.

7. Payments received since adoption of the suspension resolution at the Fiftieth World Health Assembly on 12 May 1997 have been applied as follows:

<b>Member State</b>	<b>Amount US\$</b>	<b>Date received</b>	<b>Credited to:</b>
Dominican Republic	22 686	3 September 1997	1986 special arrangements (balance)
Dominican Republic	73 705	3 September 1997	1987 contribution (balance)
Dominican Republic	183	3 September 1997	1987 special arrangements (part)
Kazakstan	170 465	16 May 1997	1993 contribution (part)
Kazakstan	166 000	1 July 1997	1993 contribution (part)
Kazakstan	221 046	23 October 1997	1993 contribution (part)
Latvia	34 100	20 October 1997	1992 contribution (part)
Republic of Moldova	30 000	30 December 1997	1993 contribution (part)
Tajikistan	5 000	29 May 1997	1993 contribution (part)
Tajikistan	10 000	4 August 1997	1993 contribution (part)

These payments, however, were not sufficient to reduce the arrears of the Members concerned to a level below the amount which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution.

8. Since the closure of the Fiftieth World Health Assembly, the following correspondence indicating payment intentions has been received :

With regard to the outstanding contributions due by Iraq, in a letter dated 26 November 1997, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, pointed out the difficulties encountered by Iraq on account of the economic sanctions imposed on it. The letter further stated that Iraq would like to obtain the approval of WHO to pay its contribution from the Iraqi frozen assets in foreign banks, or to postpone payment until the sanctions are lifted.

#### **MEMBERS THAT MAY LOSE THEIR VOTING PRIVILEGES AS FROM THE FIFTY-FIRST WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

9. Pursuant to the adoption by the Fiftieth World Health Assembly of resolution WHA50.8, with the required two-thirds majority, the voting privileges of four Members (Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Congo and Djibouti) will be suspended as from the opening of the Fifty-first World Health Assembly on 11 May 1998 if at that time these Members are still in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution.

10. In October 1997 the Director-General communicated the text of resolution WHA50.8 to these Members, urging them to pay their arrears in the near future, but in any event, prior to the opening of the Fifty-first World Health Assembly. Further communications were sent to them by the Director-General in November and December 1997.

11. Payments received since adoption of the suspension resolution at the Fiftieth World Health Assembly on 12 May 1997 have been applied as follows:

<b>Member State</b>	<b>Amount US\$</b>	<b>Date received</b>	<b>Credited to:</b>
Central African Republic	17 560	14 May 1997	1994 contribution (part)

12. No communication has been received from any of these four Members indicating their intentions as to future payment of contributions.

13. In addition, the Fiftieth World Health Assembly, on an exceptional basis, restored the vote of two Members, namely, Bosnia and Herzegovina (resolution WHA50.22) and Cuba (resolution WHA50.30). The

Assembly decided that if the Member States in question do not meet the payments as set out in the resolutions, their voting rights would automatically be suspended as from the Fifty-first World Health Assembly. Bosnia and Herzegovina has made no payment since the adoption of resolution WHA50.22 and its voting rights will automatically be suspended. Cuba has made the payments as specified in full for the year 1997 and will therefore not be subject to Article 7 at the Fifty-first World Health Assembly.

## **OTHER MEMBERS CONCERNED**

14. The following 10 other Members are in arrears in the payment of their contributions in amounts which equal or exceed the amounts due from them for the preceding two full years: Belarus, Burundi, Ecuador, Gabon, Gambia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Mali, Peru and Yemen. The status of the arrears of contributions of these 10 Members is as shown in Annex 1.

15. Pursuant to resolution WHA41.7, unless there are exceptional circumstances justifying a different measure, the Fifty-first World Health Assembly will adopt a decision under which the voting rights of these Members will be suspended as from the opening day of the Fifty-second World Health Assembly in May 1999, if at that time the Members concerned are still in arrears to the extent referred to in paragraph 14 above.

16. In October 1997 the Director-General informed these Members of the minimum amounts that it would be necessary for them to pay prior to the 101st session of the Executive Board to avoid consideration by that body of a possible suspension of voting privileges. Further communications were sent by the Director-General in November and December 1997.

17. Payment received since adoption of the suspension resolution at the Fiftieth World Health Assembly on 12 May 1997 has been applied as follows:

<b>Member State</b>	<b>Amount US\$</b>	<b>Date received</b>	<b>Credited to:</b>
Belarus	1 909 440	10 July 1997	1995 contribution (balance)
Gabon	73 369	13 May 1997	1994 contribution (balance)
Gabon	11 230	13 May 1997	1995 contribution (part)
Lithuania	166 800	16 May 1997	1994 contribution (balance)
Lithuania	73 270	16 May 1997	1995 contribution (part)
Lithuania	200 000	19 December 1997	1995 contribution (part)
Mali	25 641	16 May 1997	1995 contribution (part)
Yemen	14 022	30 June 1997	1994 contribution (balance)
Yemen	47 048	30 June 1997	1995 contribution (part)

18. No communications have been received from any of these 10 Members indicating their intentions as to future payment of contributions.

## **PROPOSED FUTURE ACTION**

19. The Director-General will continue efforts to collect the unpaid arrears of contributions from the Members concerned. No action is required of the Board in respect of those Members whose voting privileges remain suspended under previous Health Assembly resolutions, or of those Members which may lose their voting privileges as from 11 May 1998 under resolutions WHA50.8 and WHA50.22. Regarding the 10 remaining Members referred to in paragraph 14 above, the Director-General proposes to report further to the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee of the Executive Board which will meet immediately prior to the opening of the Fifty-first World Health Assembly so that that body can formulate recommendations to the Health Assembly based on the provisions of resolution WHA41.7 and the status of the arrears at that time.

**ANNEX 1**  
**MEMBERS IN ARREARS IN THE PAYMENT OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO AN EXTENT**  
**WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY INVOKING ARTICLE 7 OF THE CONSTITUTION**  
**Status as at 1 January 1998 (expressed in US dollars)**

Members	Amounts payable during								Total
	1986 to 1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	
<b>Members that have lost their voting privileges as from previous World Health Assemblies</b>									
Antigua and Barbuda		17 459	37 290	36 695	41 070	41 070	41 570	41 570	256 724
Armenia			178 400	513 710	533 910	533 910	216 390	216 390	2 192 710
Azerbaijan			93 940	880 650	862 470	862 470	468 740	468 740	3 637 010
Chad									
current year			8 194	36 695	41 070	41 070	41 570	41 570	210 169
rescheduled arrears			11 177	11 177	11 177				33 531
Comoros	137 273	31 055	37 290	36 695	41 070	41 070	41 570	41 570	407 593
Dominican Republic									
current year	266 460	93 170	111 865	73 385	82 140	82 140	41 570	41 570	792 300
rescheduled arrears	76 865								76 865
Equatorial Guinea	68 389	31 055	37 290	36 695	41 070	41 070	41 570	41 570	338 709
Georgia			285 110	843 950	862 470	862 470	468 740	468 740	3 791 480
Guinea-Bissau			33 114	36 695	41 070	41 070	41 570	41 570	235 089
Iraq	882 182	372 675	447 465	477 015	533 910	533 910	577 040	577 040	4 401 237
Kazakhstan				231 061	1 396 375	1 396 375	803 610	803 610	4 631 031
Kyrgyzstan			71 140	220 160	246 420	246 420	128 670	128 670	1 041 480
Latvia			8 650	513 710	533 910	533 910	334 875	334 875	2 259 930
Liberia	85 817	31 055	37 290	36 695	41 070	41 070	41 570	41 570	356 137
Mauritania					2 685	41 070	41 565	41 565	126 885
Niger				36 236	41 070	41 070	41 570	41 570	201 516
Republic of Moldova				547 909	616 050	616 050	340 070	340 070	2 460 149
Somalia	58 703	31 055	37 290	36 695	41 070	41 070	41 570	41 570	329 023
Tajikistan				156 324	205 350	205 350	82 525	82 525	732 074
Turkmenistan			21 410	220 160	246 420	246 420	128 670	128 670	991 750
Ukraine									
current year			1 519 535	4 256 450	7 556 865	7 556 865	4 553 490	4 553 490	29 996 695
rescheduled arrears								342 853	342 853
Yugoslavia		1 090 110	1 339 660	478 022	574 980	574 980	417 395	417 395	4 892 542
<b>Members that may lose their voting privileges as from the Fifty-first World Health Assembly (resolution WHA50.8)</b>									
Afghanistan					40 255	40 765	41 555	41 555	164 130
Central African Republic					15 806	41 070	41 570	41 570	140 016
Congo					61 030	191 070	216 570	216 570	685 240
Djibouti					9 887	40 765	41 570	41 570	133 792
<b>Member whose debt was rescheduled that may lose its voting privileges as from the Fifty-first World Health Assembly</b>									
Bosnia and Herzegovina (resolution WHA50.22)									
current year								46 355	46 355
rescheduled arrears								107 200	107 200
<b>Other Members concerned (resolution WHA41.7)</b>									
Belarus									
current year							1 158 595	1 158 595	2 317 190
rescheduled arrears								90 837	90 837
Burundi						22 155	41 570	41 570	105 295
Ecuador						111 828	82 525	82 525	276 878
Gabon						69 890	41 570	41 570	153 030
Gambia						27 525	41 570	41 570	110 665
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya						113 768	829 575	829 575	1 772 918
Lithuania						342 780	340 070	340 070	1 022 920
Mali						643	41 555	41 555	83 753
Peru						185 057	247 360	247 360	679 777
Yemen						14 022	51 570	51 570	117 162
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 575 689</b>	<b>1 697 634</b>	<b>4 316 110</b>	<b>9 716 784</b>	<b>14 720 670</b>	<b>15 822 238</b>	<b>12 153 135</b>	<b>12 740 380</b>	<b>72 742 640</b>

ANNEX 2  
ANALYSIS OF STATUS OF MEMBERS SUBJECT TO ARTICLE 7 AS AT 1 JANUARY 1998

Ranked by debt			Sorted by number of times on Article 7 list on 1 January of last 10 years			Sorted by United Nations country classification			Sorted by WHO region		
Members	Rank	Amount	Members	No. of times	Amount	Members	Country status	Amount	Members	Region	Amount
Ukraine	1	30 339 548	Burundi	10	105 295	Afghanistan	LDC	164 130	Burundi	AF	105 295
Yugoslavia	2	4 892 542	Comoros	10	407 593	Burundi	LDC	105 295	Central African Republic	AF	140 016
Kazakhstan	3	4 631 031	Dominican Republic	10	889 165	Central African Republic	LDC	140 016	Chad	AF	243 700
Iraq	4	4 401 237	Equatorial Guinea	10	338 709	Chad	LDC	243 700	Comoros	AF	407 593
Georgia	5	3 791 480	Guinea-Bissau	10	235 089	Comoros	LDC	407 593	Congo	AF	685 240
Azerbaijan	6	3 637 010	Liberia	10	356 137	Djibouti	LDC	133 792	Equatorial Guinea	AF	338 709
Republic of Moldova	7	2 460 149	Peru	10	679 777	Equatorial Guinea	LDC	338 709	Gabon	AF	153 030
Belarus	8	2 408 027	Antigua and Barbuda	9	256 724	Gambia	LDC	110 665	Gambia	AF	110 665
Latvia	9	2 259 930	Congo	9	685 240	Guinea-Bissau	LDC	235 089	Guinea-Bissau	AF	235 089
Armenia	10	2 192 710	Chad	8	243 700	Liberia	LDC	356 137	Liberia	AF	356 137
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	11	1 772 918	Iraq	8	4 401 237	Mali	LDC	83 753	Mali	AF	83 753
Kyrgyzstan	12	1 041 480	Mauritania	8	126 885	Mauritania	LDC	126 885	Mauritania	AF	126 885
Lithuania	13	1 022 920	Niger	8	201 516	Niger	LDC	201 516	Niger	AF	201 516
Turkmenistan	14	991 750	Somalia	8	329 023	Somalia	LDC	329 023	Antigua and Barbuda	AM	256 724
Dominican Republic	15	869 165	Gabon	6	153 030	Yemen	LDC	117 162	Dominican Republic	AM	869 165
Tajikistan	16	732 074	Latvia	5	2 259 930	Armenia	ET	2 192 710	Ecuador	AM	276 878
Congo	17	685 240	Ukraine	5	30 339 548	Azerbaijan	ET	3 637 010	Peru	AM	679 777
Peru	18	679 777	Yemen	5	117 162	Belarus	ET	2 408 027	Armenia	EU	2 192 710
Comoros	19	407 593	Yugoslavia	5	4 892 542	Georgia	ET	3 791 480	Azerbaijan	EU	3 637 010
Liberia	20	356 137	Armenia	4	2 192 710	Kazakhstan	ET	4 631 031	Belarus	EU	2 408 027
Equatorial Guinea	21	338 709	Azerbaijan	4	3 637 010	Kyrgyzstan	ET	1 041 480	Bosnia and Herzegovina	EU	153 555
Somalia	22	329 023	Bosnia and Herzegovina	4	153 555	Latvia	ET	2 259 930	Georgia	EU	3 791 480
Ecuador	23	276 878	Djibouti	4	133 792	Lithuania	ET	2 460 149	Kazakhstan	EU	4 631 031
Antigua and Barbuda	24	256 724	Ecuador	4	276 878	Republic of Moldova	ET	2 460 149	Kyrgyzstan	EU	1 041 480
Chad	25	243 700	Georgia	4	3 791 480	Tajikistan	ET	732 074	Latvia	EU	2 259 930
Niger	26	235 089	Kazakhstan	4	4 631 031	Turkmenistan	ET	991 750	Lithuania	EU	1 022 920
Afghanistan	27	201 516	Republic of Moldova	4	1 041 480	Ukraine	ET	30 339 548	Republic of Moldova	EU	2 460 149
Bosnia and Herzegovina	28	164 130	Tajikistan	4	732 074	Antigua and Barbuda	DC	256 724	Tajikistan	EU	732 074
Gabon	29	153 555	Turkmenistan	4	991 750	Bosnia and Herzegovina	DC	153 555	Turkmenistan	EU	991 750
Central African Republic	30	140 016	Turkmenistan	4	991 750	Congo	DC	685 240	Ukraine	EU	30 339 548
Djibouti	31	133 792	Central African Republic	3	140 016	Dominican Republic	DC	869 165	Yugoslavia	EU	4 892 542
Mauritania	32	133 792	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	3	1 772 918	Ecuador	DC	276 878	Yugoslavia	EM	164 130
Yemen	33	126 885	Lithuania	3	1 022 920	Gabon	DC	869 165	Afghanistan	EM	153 555
Gambia	34	117 162	Afghanistan	2	164 130	Iraq	DC	4 401 237	Djibouti	EM	133 792
Burundi	35	105 295	Gambia	2	110 665	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	DC	1 772 918	Iraq	EM	4 401 237
Mali	36	83 753	Belarus	1	2 408 027	Peru	DC	679 777	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	EM	1 772 918
Total	37	72 742 640	Mali	1	83 753	Yugoslavia	DC	4 892 542	Somalia	EM	329 023
			Total	37	72 742 640	Total	37	72 742 640	Yemen	EM	117 162
			Frequency	No.	Amount	Country status	No.	Amount	WHO region	No.	Amount
			6 or more times	15	9 389 120	DC-Developing countries	10	14 141 066	AF-Africa	13	3 187 628
			1 to 5 times	22	63 353 520	ET-Economies in transition	12	55 508 109	AM-The Americas	4	2 082 544
			Total	37	72 742 640	LDC-Least developed countries	15	3 093 465	EU-Europe	14	60 554 206
						Total	37	72 742 640	EM-Eastern Mediterranean	6	6 918 262
									Total	37	72 742 640
Summary of analysis											