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## **Evaluation of the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization**

The Executive Board, having considered the report of the Chairperson of the informal consultations on the evaluation of the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization,<sup>1</sup> decided:

- (1) to recommend to the Seventy-third World Health Assembly that it decide:
  - (a) to continue conducting the appointment of the Director-General by means of a paper-based secret ballot vote as currently provided for in its Rules of Procedure;
  - (b) that in future the beginning of the Director-General's contract be set for mid-August of the year of appointment, and that the contract of the incumbent Director-General be amended accordingly;
- (2) with respect to the shortlist of candidates to be established in accordance with Rule 62 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, that the interviews of candidates shortlisted for the post of Director-General should be limited to 60 minutes, divided between: (i) an oral presentation of no more than 20 minutes on the candidate's vision for the future priorities of the Organization, with an analysis of current problems facing it and suggestions as to how those should be addressed; and (ii) a question-and-answer session of no more than 40 minutes;
- (3) to amend the second paragraph of Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board to read: "With the exception of meetings at which candidates for the post of Director-General are interviewed, meetings of the Board related to the nomination of the Director-General as provided for in Rule 62, and for the appointment of the Regional Directors, shall be as provided for in subparagraph (b) above, except that only one representative of each Member State not represented on the Board and of each Associate Member may attend without the right to participate, and that no official record shall be made";
- (4) to request the Director-General:
  - (a) to facilitate informal consultations with Member States concerning the length of the campaign period, to be held prior to the thirty-second meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee in order for the Committee to formulate recommendations to the Seventy-third World Health Assembly and the 147th session of the Executive Board, respectively, in respect of:

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB146/39.

- (i) the proposed amendments to Annexes 1 and 2 to resolution WHA66.18 (2013) on the code of conduct for the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization and the candidates' forum, respectively, as set out in Annexes 1 and 2 to this decision;
  - (ii) whether, in light of consideration of subparagraph 4a (i) above, to amend Rule 62 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, as set out in Annex 3 to this decision, in order to provide opportunities for all candidates for the post of Director-General to present themselves to Member States on the margins of the sessions of the WHO regional committees prior to the year in which the election takes place;
  - (b) to explore, in advance of the 147th session of the Executive Board, whether there are codes of conduct applicable to the election of the executive heads of other intergovernmental organizations within the United Nations system and, if so, whether such codes are legally binding and whether they include compliance mechanisms;
  - (c) to research and evaluate, in advance of the 147th session of the Executive Board, options for counting votes by means of an optical scanner;
  - (d) to further investigate commercially available off-the-shelf cloud solutions, meeting the need for an enhanced and more interactive web forum;
- (5) to continue to conduct the nomination of the Director-General by means of a paper-based secret ballot vote as currently provided for in the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board;
- (6) to retain the current practice of asking delegates to switch off their electronic devices and leave them switched off for the duration of the vote;
- (7) to take appropriate steps to ensure that the organization of the election of the Director-General is conducted at arm's length from any internal candidates by establishing, within the Secretariat, a unit with operational independence.

## ANNEX 1

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE ELECTION  
OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

Proposed amendments to the code of conduct for the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization, as contained in World Health Assembly resolution WHA66.18, Annex 1, are set out below, with proposed deletions indicated in strikethrough and proposed additions in bold text.

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**B. Requirements for the different steps of the election process**

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**II. Electoral campaign**

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3. All Member States and candidates should ~~consider promptly disclosing~~ their campaign activities (for example, hosting of meetings, workshops and visits), **together with the amount and source of all funding for campaign activities**, and communicate them to the Secretariat. Information so disclosed will be posted on a dedicated page of the WHO website.

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7. Member States proposing persons for the post of Director-General should ~~consider promptly disclosing~~ grants or aid funding to other Member States **during the campaign period and** the previous two years in order to ensure full transparency and mutual confidence among Member States.

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10. Candidates, whether internal or external, should not combine their official travel with campaigning activities. Electoral promotion or propaganda under the guise of technical meetings or similar events should be avoided. **It is understood, however, that candidates for the post of Director-General on official travel may participate in the web forum, the candidates' forums and events on the margins of regional committee sessions.**

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11. After the Director-General has dispatched all proposals, curricula vitae and supporting information to Member States in accordance with Rule 62 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Secretariat will open on the WHO website a password-protected forum for questions and answers, open to all Member States and candidates. ~~, who request to participate in such a forum Such a forum will not be held in case only one candidate has been proposed.~~ The Secretariat will also post on the WHO website information on all candidates ~~who so request~~ including their curricula vitae and other particulars of their qualifications and experience as received from Member States, **within the deadline provided in the second paragraph of Rule 62 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive**

**Board of the World Health Organization**, as well as their contact information. The website will also provide links to individual websites of candidates **if any and** upon request. Each candidate is responsible for setting up and financing his or her own website.

ANNEX 2<sup>1</sup>**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CANDIDATES' FORUM<sup>2</sup>**

Proposed amendments to the candidates' forum, as contained in World Health Assembly resolution WHA66.18, Annex 2, are set out below, with proposed deletions indicated in strikethrough and proposed additions in bold text.

**CANDIDATES' FORUMS AND OTHER EVENTS WITH CANDIDATES****A. CANDIDATES' FORUMS**

## Convening and conduct of the forums

1. **Two** The candidates' forums will be convened by the Secretariat at the request of the Executive Board as a self-standing events: **one preceding the session of the Board; at which candidates will be nominated for the post of Director-General and one prior to the session of the Health Assembly at which the appointment will take place. Both candidates' forums** ~~and~~ will be chaired by the ~~Chairman~~ Chair of the Board, with the support of the Officers of the Executive Board. The Board ~~will formally convene the candidates' forum and decide its~~ **the dates of the forums** at the session preceding the session at which the nomination will take place.

## Timing

2. The candidates' forums shall be held not later than two months in advance of the sessions of the Board **and the Health Assembly session** at which the nomination **and appointment** will take place, respectively.

## Duration

3. The duration of the candidates' forums will be decided by the Officers of the Board depending on the number of candidates. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the maximum duration of the forums shall be three days **each**.

## Format

4. **The first candidates' forum will consist of interviews with the candidates.** Each candidate shall make a presentation of up to ~~30~~ **10** minutes, which will be followed by a question and answer session so that the overall duration of each interview shall be 60 minutes. The order of the interviews shall be determined by lot. ~~The forum shall decide, upon the proposal of the Chairman, on detailed arrangement for the interviews.~~

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<sup>1</sup> Proposed deletions are indicated in strikethrough and proposed additions in bold text.

<sup>2</sup> Already showing the amendments adopted by the Executive Board at its 144th session in January 2019 through decision EB144(4).

**4 bis. The second candidates' forum will consist of a more interactive panel discussion between the candidates and Member States and Associate Members attending the forum.**

~~5. Member States and Associate Members participating in the candidates' forum will be invited to prepare questions for each candidate during the initial presentation. Questions to be asked to each candidate will be drawn by lot by the Chairman.~~

**5. Further detailed arrangements for the interviews may be decided either by the Board at its session preceding the event or by the Member States and Associate Members attending the forum upon the proposal of the Chair of the Board.**

#### Participation

**6. Participation in the candidates' forums will be limited to Member States<sup>1</sup> and Associate Members of the World Health Organization.**

~~7. For those Member States or Associate Members which are not able to attend, the candidates' forums will be broadcast by the Secretariat through a link on the WHO website accessible to the public password protected web site.~~

#### Documentation

**8. The curricula vitae of candidates and other supporting information provided in line with Rule 62 of the Rules of Procedure of the Board within the deadline set out in the second paragraph thereof will be made available electronically to all Member States and Associate Members in the WHO official languages versions provided on a password protected website.**

### B. OTHER EVENTS WITH CANDIDATES

**9. The Secretariat will, in a format to be decided upon by the Executive Board in consultation with the relevant Regional Directors, convene (an) event(s) for all the candidates who so wish, on the margins of each regional committee session preceding the Board session at which the nomination will take place. Those events will not be held in case only one candidate has been proposed.**

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<sup>1</sup> And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

ANNEX 3<sup>1</sup>

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RULE 62 OF THE RULES OF  
PROCEDURE OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION<sup>2</sup>**

Current version	Proposed amended version
...	...
Any Member State may propose for the post of Director-General one or more persons, submitting with the proposal the curriculum vitae or other supporting information for each person. Such proposals shall be sent under confidential sealed cover to the Chair of the Executive Board, care of the World Health Organization in Geneva (Switzerland), so as to reach the headquarters of the Organization not less than four months before the date fixed for the opening of the session.	Any Member State may propose for the post of Director-General one or more persons, submitting with the proposal the curriculum vitae or other supporting information for each person. Such proposals shall be sent under confidential sealed cover to the Chair of the Executive Board, care of the World Health Organization in Geneva (Switzerland), so as to reach the headquarters of the Organization not less than <del>four</del> six months before the date fixed for the opening of the session.
The Chair 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 three months before the date fixed for the opening of the session.	The Chair 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 <del>three</del> five months before the date fixed for the opening of the session.

<sup>1</sup> Proposed deletions are indicated in strikethrough and proposed additions in bold text.

<sup>2</sup> Already showing the amendments adopted by the 144th session of the Executive Board in January 2019 through decision EB144(4).

<p>Immediately after the dispatch to Member States of the proposals, curricula vitae and supporting information, the Director-General shall, in consultation with the Chair of the Board, convene a candidates' forum open to all Member States and Associate Members, to which all candidates will be invited to make themselves and their vision known to Member States on an equal basis. The candidates' forum shall be chaired by the Chair of the Board and shall be held not later than two months before the opening of the session. The Board shall decide on the modalities of the candidates' forum. The candidates' forum shall not be convened in case only one person has been proposed for the post of Director-General.</p>	<p><b>Immediately A</b>fter the dispatch to Member States of the proposals, curricula vitae and supporting information, the Director-General shall, in consultation with the Chair of the Board, convene <b>a two</b> candidates' forums open to all Member States and Associate Members, to which all candidates will be invited to make themselves and their vision known to Member States on an equal basis. The candidates' forums shall be chaired by the Chair of the Board <del>and shall be held not later than two months before the opening of the session. The first forum should be held not later than two months before the opening of the Board and the second one not later than two months before the opening of the Health Assembly.</del> The Board shall decide on the modalities of the candidates' forums. The candidates' forums shall not be convened in case only one person has been proposed for the post of Director-General.</p>
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Fifteenth meeting, 8 February 2020  
EB146/SR15

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