

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

Report by the Secretariat

1. At its 146th session in February 2020, the Executive Board adopted decision EB146(22) on the evaluation of the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization, in which it requested the Director-General “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”.
2. Pursuant to paragraph (4)(b) of decision EB146(22), the Secretariat contacted other intergovernmental organizations within the United Nations system and sought information on the codes of conduct and/or practices in place applicable to the election of executive heads and the respective compliance mechanisms to oversee the implementation of such codes and/or practices by candidates and Member States during the campaign period. The secretariats of 10 organizations replied. The Annex presents a table outlining the responses given.
3. The information received suggests that no uniform practice currently exists within the United Nations system concerning the establishment and implementation of codes of conduct for the election of executive heads and the scope of rules and principles governing those elections.
4. Out of the 10 organizations that replied, it was found that:
 - None had a code of conduct or equivalent guidance for candidates standing for executive head positions – a few had guidance for staff and internal candidates only;
 - None had a legally binding code of conduct or equivalent guidance; and
 - None had an oversight or compliance mechanism to handle complaints relating to non-compliance.

ACTION BY THE BOARD

5. The Board is invited to note the report and to provide guidance on whether further consideration of the matter is required.

ANNEX

**INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS
SYSTEM ON CODES OF CONDUCT AND/OR PRACTICES APPLICABLE TO THE ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE HEADS¹**

United Nations entity	Code of conduct for candidates standing for executive head positions		Other guidance	Legally binding character	Oversight/Compliance mechanism
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)		NO	Guidance on aspects related to the elections ²	N/A	N/A
World Trade Organization (WTO)		NO	Guidance to staff issued by the Director-General ³	N/A	N/A
Universal Postal Union (UPU)		NO	Provisions applicable to the distribution of promotional material	N/A	N/A
International Maritime Organization (IMO) ⁴		NO	N/A	N/A	N/A
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)		NO	N/A	N/A	N/A

¹ Information concerns the situation as at February 2020.

² Document CCLM 106/2 on Procedures related to the process of appointment of the Director-General; document CCLM 107/4 on Address to the Council by candidates for the office of Director-General; and document CCLM 105/3 on Attendance by candidates or scrutineers appointed by candidates at the count of votes.

³ This guidance covers, inter alia, aspects related to the use of the Organization's resources to campaign and taking leave to conduct activities related to the candidature process.

⁴ Resolution A.1136(31) on Ethical considerations and guidelines for conduct of IMO Council election campaigns provides guidance applying to IMO Member States seeking election to the Council and those Member States participating as voters.

United Nations entity	Code of conduct for candidates standing for executive head positions		Other guidance	Legally binding character	Oversight/Compliance mechanism
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)		NO	Ethics Office Guidance on Ethical aspects of certain campaign activities prior to the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference ¹	N/A	N/A
International Labour Organization (ILO)		NO	N/A	N/A	N/A
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)		NO	N/A	N/A	N/A
International Organization for Migration (IOM)		NO	N/A	N/A	N/A
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)		NO	Guidance to staff issued by the Director-General ²	N/A	N/A

¹ This guidance is aimed primarily at candidates with a current role in the Union, namely appointed staff members and elected officials.

² This guidance covers aspects related to conflicts of interest and leave for staff members who are candidates.