

Possible convocation of a special session of the Executive Board

Report by the Secretariat

1. This report provides information regarding the possible convocation of special sessions of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific and Executive Board, respectively, should such sessions be required to consider the outcome of the investigation process in respect of allegations concerning the Regional Director for the Western Pacific. It provides options for the Board to make provision for the convocation of a special session of the Executive Board for this purpose should this be required, as well as on potential modalities for holding the special session.
2. The procedure for considering the findings of the investigation and related decisions, reflecting the advice of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee, was set out in the confidential briefing note of 16 November 2022 contained in the Annex¹ to this report, and was discussed at the informal briefing for members of the Board held on 29 November 2022.
3. On 22 December 2022 the Secretariat informed members of the Board that, following discussion between the Chair of the Executive Board, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Regional Committee, the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General (in her capacity as Officer-in-Charge of the Regional Office for the Western Pacific), it is anticipated that, should a special session of the Regional Committee be required, it could take place in Manila on 27 and 28 February 2023 and that, in those circumstances, the Executive Board would be invited to consider holding a special session in March 2023. The dates of 6 and 7 March 2023 had been identified as potential dates for such a special session. These dates remain provisional and are subject to confirmation.
4. The Board is invited to consider making provision to hold a special session in Geneva if needed.
5. The Board is further invited to consider the following possible modalities regarding the holding of such a special session:
 - Given the sensitive nature of the subject matter, the special session would take place in person in Geneva and be held in restricted format under Rule 7(c) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, with attendance restricted to members of the Board accompanied by up to two alternates or advisers each and essential Secretariat staff only.

¹ The Annex is confidential.

- Unless otherwise decided, all documentation for, and discussion at, the special session would be treated as strictly confidential and would be made available only to members of the Board and their delegations.
- The Secretariat would provide a report (the same as provided to a special session of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific, if any) for consideration at the special session of the Board, at least three weeks before the opening of the special session, through a secure online platform. The report would be made available in the six official languages.
- Supporting documents, comprising the relevant investigation reports, transcripts of the interviews on which they are based, reports of the WHO Global Advisory Committee on formal complaints of abusive conduct, relevant charge letters and the Regional Director's responses, would also be provided to delegates attending the special session through the secure online platform. The supporting documents would be made available in the original language (English) only at least three weeks before the opening of the special session. Where necessary to protect the identities of individuals, documents would be redacted to the extent possible. Access to the secure online platform would be provided for up to three persons per delegation upon request in accordance with instructions to be set out in the convocation notice for the special session.
- The outcome of the special session of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific would be conveyed to the Board separately before the opening of the special session of the Board.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

6. The Board is invited to note the report, including the procedure for considering the findings of the investigation and related decisions as set out in the Annex, and to consider adopting the following decision:

The Executive Board, having considered the report by the Secretariat on the possible convocation of a special session of the Executive Board,¹

Decided:

- (1) to hold a special session of the Board in the event that the outcome of the investigation process requires consideration of the matter by the Executive Board, in accordance with the procedure set out in the Annex to the report;²
- (2) to include on the agenda of the special session one item only, dedicated to considering any recommendation from the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific on the matter under discussion, as well as such consequential matters as may be appropriate;
- (3) that the special session should be convened by the Director-General, in consultation with the Chair of the Board;

¹ Document EB152/55.

² The Annex is confidential.

(4) that the special session should be held in person in Geneva on such date as may be decided upon, and subject to such adjustments to these arrangements as may be necessary and decided upon, by the Director-General, in consultation with the Chair of the Board;

(5) that the modalities set out in paragraph 5 of the report by the Secretariat shall apply to the special session of the Board.

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