
Opening of the session

Special procedures

Report by the Director-General

1. Following submission of a request by 16 members of the Executive Board in accordance with Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Director-General, in consultation with the Chair of the Executive Board, convened a special session of the Executive Board to be held in hybrid format on 10 December 2023.
2. Special procedures need to be put in place so that the Executive Board can pursue its work using such a hybrid format. This report is intended to enable the Board to take a decision in that regard. The special procedures are set out in the Annex to the draft decision below.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

3. The Executive Board is invited to consider the following draft decision.

The Executive Board, having considered the report on special procedures,¹ decided:

- (1) to adopt the special procedures to regulate the conduct of hybrid sessions of the Executive Board set out in the Annex to the present decision;
- (2) that the aforementioned special procedures shall apply to the seventh special session of the Executive Board, to be held on 10 December 2023, which will be a hybrid session.

¹ Document EBSS/7/2.

ANNEX

SPECIAL PROCEDURES TO REGULATE THE CONDUCT OF HYBRID SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. The Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board shall continue to apply in full, except to the extent that they are inconsistent with these special procedures, in which case the Executive Board's decision to adopt these special procedures shall operate as a decision to suspend the relevant Rules of Procedure to the extent necessary, in accordance with Rule 63 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.¹

ATTENDANCE AND QUORUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

2. Members of the Executive Board (and up to two additional delegates of the Executive Board member's delegation), Member States not represented on the Board and Associate Members (up to two delegates per delegation), and Observers (one delegate per delegation) will, where possible, be physically present in Geneva for the purposes of the session.

3. Attendance by members of the Executive Board, Member States not represented on the Board, Associate Members and Observers who, for any reason, cannot be physically present in Geneva for the purposes of the session, as well as invited representatives of the United Nations and other participating intergovernmental organizations, and non-State actors in official relations with WHO shall be provided for through secured access to videoconference or other electronic means allowing representatives to hear other participants and to address the session remotely.

4. Virtual attendance of members of the Executive Board shall be taken into account when calculating the presence of a quorum.

ADDRESSING THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

5. Except as otherwise decided by the Board, individual statements by members of the Board will be limited to three minutes; individual statements by Member States not represented on the Board and Associate Members will be limited to two minutes; and individual statements by Observers, invited representatives of the United Nations and other participating intergovernmental organizations, and non-State actors in official relations will be limited to one minute. Regional and group statements will be limited to four minutes.

DECISION-MAKING

6. All decisions of the Executive Board taken in hybrid meetings should, as far as possible, be taken by consensus. Given the hybrid nature of the session, no decision shall be taken by secret ballot or show-of-hands vote, unless a member of the delegation of each member of the Board is physically

¹ This will affect notably the relevant provisions of the following Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board as they appear in the 49th edition of Basic documents: Rule 51 (show-of-hands vote) and Rules 56–61 (secret ballot and elections).

present in Geneva at the meeting at which the vote is taken, in which case the secret ballot or show-of-hands vote will take place in person in Geneva.

7. In the event of a vote, it is understood that delegates physically present in Geneva for the purposes of the session are deemed to be duly authorized to speak and vote on behalf of their respective delegations.

8. In the event of a roll-call vote, and in line with normal practice, should any delegate, whether physically present or virtually connected, fail to cast a vote for any reason during the roll-call, that delegate shall be called upon a second time after the conclusion of the initial roll-call. Should the delegate fail to cast a vote on the second roll-call, the delegation concerned shall be recorded as absent.

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