

## **The need for increased representation of developing countries in the Secretariat and in Expert Advisory Panels and Committees**

The Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly,

Guided by the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the principle of the sovereign equality of its Member States;

Reaffirming the principle of equitable participation of all Members of the Organization in its work, including that of the Secretariat and various committees and bodies;

Bearing in mind Article 35 of the Constitution;

Recalling its resolution WHA4.51 adopting the Staff Regulations of the Organization and its subsequent resolutions amending these regulations;

Recalling its resolution WHA50.15 on recruitment of international staff in WHO: geographical representation;

Further recalling its resolution WHA35.10 approving the Regulations for Expert Advisory Panels and Committees and its subsequent resolutions amending these regulations;

Concerned that the developing countries are underrepresented in the Secretariat, in the professional category, including at headquarters;

Also concerned at the limited representation of developing countries on expert advisory panels and committees,

1. UNDERLINES that the Secretariat of WHO is a common secretariat for all Member States and should therefore reflect the composition of its membership, a majority of which are developing countries;
2. STRESSES, in this context, adherence to the principle of equitable geographical representation and gender balance at **all** levels in the Secretariat, especially at headquarters, in order to improve its representative character;

3. EMPHASIZES the principles of transparency, fair selection, objectivity, competence and merit in appointments both in the Secretariat and to expert advisory panels and committees;
4. UNDERLINES that country ranges for appointments in the Secretariat should, in principle, be based on membership, equitable geographical representation, population criteria, and balance between developed and developing countries, with less emphasis on financial contributions to the Organization;
5. REQUESTS the Director-General to ensure that the principles of equitable geographical representation, gender balance and a balance of experts from developed and developing countries are respected in making appointments in the Secretariat and in establishing expert advisory panels or expert committees;
6. FURTHER REQUESTS the Director-General to consult with health authorities concerned when appointing experts to advisory panels, to circulate information on all appointments made to these panels to Member States and to encourage developing countries to send nominations for the panels;
7. DECIDES to amend the Regulations for Expert Advisory Panels and Committees in light of this resolution, as per the Annex to this resolution;
8. REQUESTS the Director-General to submit a report to the Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly on implementation of this resolution, including different alternatives to the current representation formula in the Secretariat.

ANNEX

**AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS FOR  
EXPERT ADVISORY PANELS AND COMMITTEES**

**Amendment to Regulation 3.1**

Add at the end:

Information on all appointments made to these panels shall be circulated to all Member States. The Director-General shall encourage the developing countries to send nominations for the panels.

**Amendment to Regulation 3.2**

Replace the last sentence with the following:

He/she shall encourage nomination of experts from developing countries and from all regions and shall be helped in this task by Regional Directors.

**Amendment to Regulation 4.2**

Replace with the following:

As a general rule, the Director-General shall select from one or more expert advisory panels the members of an expert committee on the basis of the principles of equitable geographical representation, gender balance, a balance of experts from developed and developing countries, representation of different trends of thought, approaches and practical experience in various parts of the world, and an appropriate interdisciplinary balance. The membership of expert committees shall not be restricted by consideration of language, within the range of languages of the Organization.

Ninth plenary meeting, 18 May 2002  
A55/VR/9

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