

Follow-up of the report of the Working Group on the Election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization

1. The Sixth-fifth World Health Assembly decided to revise the process for the nomination and appointment of the Director-General of the World Health Organization and to set out certain tasks to be completed by the Secretariat, for its consideration, through the Executive Board. The Health Assembly, inter alia, requested the Director-General to develop a code of conduct, which candidates and Member States should undertake to observe and respect; modalities for a candidates' forum as a non-decision-making platform for candidates; and appropriate tools to enhance the Board's effective application of the revised criteria that the nominated candidate should fulfill (as decided in subparagraph 1(f) of resolution WHA65.15). The Health Assembly additionally requested the Director-General to propose to the Board amendments to its Rules of Procedure.¹

2. In her report to the Executive Board at its 132nd session in January 2013,² the Director-General submitted a number of proposals for the Board's consideration, as well as possible amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly.

3. In resolution EB132.R13, the Board decided to amend Rule 52 of its Rules of Procedure with effect from the closure of the 132nd session. The amendment aims to support full implementation of the decisions of the Health Assembly in resolution WHA65.15 and those of the Board at its 132nd session.

4. Additionally the Board, after a substantive discussion on the various proposals put forward by the Director-General,³ adopted resolution EB132.R14, which recommends to the Sixty-sixth World Health Assembly the adoption of a resolution providing the following:

- adoption of a code of conduct for the Election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization;
- establishment of a candidates' forum open to all Member States⁴ and approval of its modalities;

¹ See resolution WHA65.15.

² Document EB132/29.

³ See the summary records of the Board's discussions at its twelfth and seventeenth meetings.

⁴ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

- approval of the standard form for a candidate’s curriculum vitae and of modalities for its submission;
- amendment of Rules 70 and 108 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly, and the addition of a new Rule 70*bis*;
- a request to explore options for the use of electronic voting for the appointment of the Director-General, including the financial and electronic security implications thereof, and consolidation of the description of the overall process for the election of the Director-General in a single reference document for consideration by the Sixty-seventh Health Assembly, through the Executive Board.

ACTION BY THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

5. The Health Assembly is invited to adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Executive Board in resolution EB132.R14.¹

= = =

¹ See document EB132/2013/REC/1.