

# **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 noted the report of the Chairperson of the informal consultations on the evaluation of the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization<sup>1</sup> and adopted decision EB146(22). In that decision, the Board recommended to the Seventy-third World Health Assembly that it decide: to continue conducting the appointment of the Director-General by means of a paper-based secret ballot vote as currently provided for in its Rules of Procedure; and that in future the beginning of the Director-General's contract be set for mid-August of the year of appointment, and that the contract of the incumbent Director-General be amended accordingly.
2. In the light of the discussions at its 146th session regarding the length of the campaign period, the Board decided to request the Director-General to facilitate informal consultations with Member States on this, to be held prior to the thirty-second meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee, in order for the Committee to formulate recommendations to the Seventy-third World Health Assembly and the Board. However, given the current circumstances, it has not been possible to hold a second round of informal consultations to complete the discussions and for recommendations to be made to the Seventy-third World Health Assembly.
3. The next election process, based on the currently applicable timetable, will start around April 2021. Deferring the matter of the length of the campaign period to the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly in May 2021 would therefore not allow for any change to the start date of the election process to be effective for the next election. Therefore, unless an opportunity arises to complete the informal consultations and submit the recommendations to a session of the Health Assembly later in 2020, the next election of the Director-General will take place according to the currently applicable timetable.
4. The Board in decision EB146(22) also decided, inter alia, to request the Director-General: to retain the current practice of asking delegates to switch off their electronic devices and leave them switched off for the duration of the vote; and to take appropriate steps to ensure that the organization of the election of the Director-General is conducted at arm's length from any internal candidates by establishing, within the Secretariat, a unit with operational independence.

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB146/39; see also the summary records of the Executive Board at its 149th session, fourteenth meeting, section 6, and fifteenth meeting, section 1. The Annex to document EB146/39 presents the results of the informal consultations held on 20 September and 9 October 2019.

## **ACTION BY THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

5. The Health Assembly is invited to note this report and to consider the adoption of the following draft decision:

The Seventy-third World Health Assembly, having considered the report on the evaluation of the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization,<sup>1</sup> decided:

- (1) to continue conducting the appointment of the Director-General by means of a paper-based secret ballot vote as currently provided for in the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly;
- (2) that in future, the beginning of the Director-General's contract be set for mid-August of the year of appointment, to lengthen the transition period between the appointment of the Director-General by the Health Assembly in May and her or his taking office, and that the contract of the incumbent Director-General be amended accordingly.

6. The Health Assembly is further invited to consider the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The Seventy-third World Health Assembly,

### **I**

Having considered the report on the evaluation of the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization;<sup>1</sup>

Wishing to extend the transition period between the election of future Directors-General and their taking office;

Pursuant to Article 31 of the Constitution and Rules 108, 109 and 122 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly,

- (1) SUSPENDS Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly in relation to the length of the term of office of the Director-General to allow for an extension of one and a half months;
- (2) APPROVES the amendments to the contract establishing the terms and conditions of appointment, salary and other emoluments for the post of Director-General, as set out in the Annex to this resolution.

### **II**

Pursuant to Rule 112 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly,

AUTHORIZES the President of the Seventy-third World Health Assembly to sign the amendment to this contract in the name of the Organization.

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<sup>1</sup> Document A73/20.

## ANNEX

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONTRACT OF THE  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL<sup>1,2</sup>**

Current version	Proposed amended version
<p>...</p> <p>(2) The Director-General has been duly appointed by the Health Assembly at its meeting held on the twenty-third day of May of the year two thousand and seventeen for a period of five years.</p> <p>NOW THIS CONTRACT WITNESSETH and it is hereby agreed as follows,</p> <p>I. (1) The Director-General shall serve from the first day of July of the year two thousand and seventeen until the thirtieth day of June of the year two thousand and twenty-two, on which date the appointment and this Contract shall terminate.</p> <p>...</p>	<p>...</p> <p>(2) The Director-General has been duly appointed by the Health Assembly at its meeting held on the twenty-third day of May of the year two thousand and seventeen for a period of five years. <b>The current term is extended as reflected in paragraph I.(1) below to five years and one and a half months.</b></p> <p>NOW THIS CONTRACT WITNESSETH and it is hereby agreed as follows,</p> <p>I. (1) The Director-General shall serve from the first day of July of the year two thousand and seventeen until the <del>thirtieth</del> <b>fifteenth</b> day of <del>June</del> <b>August</b> of the year two thousand and twenty-two, on which date the appointment and this Contract shall terminate.</p> <p>...</p>

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<sup>1</sup> The contract of the Director-General is contained in document WHA70/2017/REC/1, Annex 1.

<sup>2</sup> Proposed deletions are indicated in strikethrough and proposed additions in bold.