

Evaluation of the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization

Report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to the Seventy-third World Health Assembly

1. The Committee considered reports concerning the evaluation of the process for the election of the Director-General,¹ and was addressed by the Chair of the informal consultations on the evaluation of the election of the Director-General.
2. Proposals for adjustments to the election process had already been considered by the Executive Board at its 146th session in February 2020, and one issue, regarding the length of the period of campaign, had been referred to informal consultations for further consideration.²
3. The Committee discussed the issue and agreed with the outcome of the informal consultations, namely that the start of the campaign should not be brought forward. Rather, the announcement of the names of candidates should be delayed by a short period until after the last regional committee meeting of the year concerned, in order to ensure an equitable approach for all regional committee meetings, provided that the announcement should in any event take place no later than 10 weeks prior to the next session of the Executive Board.
4. The Committee also agreed with the view expressed by the informal consultations that prospective candidates could be invited to attend regional committee meetings but not to address those meetings, and that the code of conduct for the election of the Director-General should be amended to require candidates to disclose the source of all funding for campaign activities.
5. The Committee further agreed that a second candidates' forum should be held in the form of an interactive panel discussion between candidates and Member States.

The Committee, on behalf of the Executive Board, recommended that the Health Assembly adopt the draft decision contained in document A73/20 Add.1.

The Committee recommended that the Executive Board adopt the draft decision contained in document EB147/4 Add.1.

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¹ Documents A73/20 Add.1 and EB147/4 Add.1.

² See the summary records of the Executive Board at its 146th session, fourteenth meeting, section 6, and fifteenth meeting, section 1.