

Status of collection of assessed contributions, including Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution

Situation in respect of 2019¹

Report by the Director-General

DEFERRAL OF DECISION ON MEMBER STATES IN ARREARS

1. In November 2020, the Seventy-third World Health Assembly considered a report on the status of collection of assessed contributions, including Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify involving Article 7 of the Constitution.² Following discussion, the Health Assembly adopted decision WHA73(31), deferring a decision on the matter to the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly, on the understanding that the Health Assembly would take up this issue on the basis of a report providing an update on the situation by the Executive Board, through the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee.³

2. The initial report to the Seventy-third World Health Assembly named 13 Member States subject to Article 7 from the opening of the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly. Three of those Member States paid sufficient contributions prior to the opening of the Seventy-third World Health Assembly such that they were removed from the draft resolution. Three further Member States reduced their arrears after the resumed session. As at 22 April 2021, seven Member States are still subject to Article 7 since no further payment of arrears has been received (Annex).

MEMBERS IN ARREARS AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

3. Article 7 of the Constitution states that, if a Member fails to meet its financial obligations to the Organization, the Health Assembly may suspend the voting privileges to which a Member is entitled. If, at the time of the opening of the Health Assembly, a Member is in arrears in an amount that equals or exceeds the amount of contributions due from it for the preceding two full years, the Health Assembly

¹ Full details on the status of collection, including annexes, can be found in document A74/31.

² Document A73/26.

³ See document EB148/29.

takes a decision on suspension of the Member's voting privileges in accordance with resolution WHA41.7 (1988).

4. Decision WHA73(31) deferred a decision by the Seventy-third World Health Assembly on Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution. As at 22 April 2021, the deferred decision affects seven Member States, namely Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Sudan, Suriname and Yemen, and will take effect shortly after the opening of the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly (2021). The suspension will then continue at the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly (in 2022) and subsequent Health Assemblies until the arrears have been reduced to a level below the amount that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution.

5. Pursuant to resolution WHA41.7, unless there are exceptional circumstances justifying a different measure, the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly may wish to adopt a resolution deciding that the voting privileges of the seven Member States mentioned in paragraph 4 will be suspended as from the time that this resolution is adopted, if at that time the Member States concerned are still in arrears to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution.

ACTION BY THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

6. The Health Assembly may wish to consider the following draft resolution in respect of Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Sudan, Suriname and Yemen, in accordance with the principles stated in resolution WHA41.7:

The Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on the status of collection of assessed contributions, including Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution;¹

Noting that Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Sudan, Suriname and Yemen were in arrears at the time of the opening of the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly to such an extent that it was necessary for the Health Assembly to consider, in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution, whether the voting privileges of those countries should be suspended at the opening of the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly in 2021,

DECIDES:

(1) that if, by the time of the opening of the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Sudan, Suriname and Yemen are still in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution, their voting privileges shall be suspended as from the time that this resolution is adopted;

(2) that any suspension that takes effect as set out in paragraph (1) above shall continue at the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly and subsequent Health Assemblies, until the arrears of Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Iran (Islamic

¹ Document A74/30.

Republic of), Sudan, Suriname and Yemen have been reduced to a level below the amount that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution;

(3) that this decision shall be without prejudice to the right of any Member to request restoration of its voting privileges in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution.

ANNEX

MEMBERS WHOSE VOTING PRIVILEGES MAY BE SUSPENDED FROM THE SEVENTY-FOURTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Amounts payable (US\$) ^a													
Member State or Associate Member	2009 and prior Years	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Chad										23 920	23 920	19 140	66 980
Democratic Republic of the Congo										38 270	38 270	47 850	124 390
Equatorial Guinea										47 840	47 840	76 560	172 240
Iran (Islamic Republic of)									284 742	2 397 619	2 397 619	2 053 107	7 133 086
Sudan										47 840	47 840	47 850	143 530
Suriname										28 700	28 700	23 930	81 330
Yemen										47 840	47 840	47 850	143 530
Total									284 742	2 632 029	2 632 029	2 316 287	7 865 086

^a Sw.fr. balance outstanding expressed as US\$ (applying a rate of US\$ 1 equals Sw.fr. 0.883, as at 31 December 2020), where relevant.