

Process for 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-fourth World Health Assembly

1. The Secretariat introduced a report on the use of optical scanners in the context of the election of the Director-General,¹ and explained that after considerable research the conclusion had been reached that the use of optical scanners for the election of the Director-General did not bring sufficient time saving to outweigh the additional cost and risks incurred. The practice of counting votes manually should continue.
2. The Committee supported the continuation of current practice, as proposed by the Secretariat.
3. In response to a question on the recommendation of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response to introduce a single term of office of seven years for WHO Directors-General, the Secretariat indicated that it would endeavour to provide information on the practice in other United Nations bodies when the matter was considered by the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly.
4. The Secretariat also informed the Committee that the Health Assembly would have before it document A74/24 Add.2, setting out options for contingency arrangements for conducting the election of the Director-General if it were not possible to hold the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly as a physical meeting. The Health Assembly would be invited to establish a process to enable a decision to be taken later on the choice of option should that be necessary.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

5. The Committee, on behalf of the Executive Board, recommended that the Health Assembly should note the report contained in document A74/24 Add.1.

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¹ Document A74/24 Add.1.