

## **Practical arrangements for the conduct of the secret ballot vote for the nomination of the candidate for the post of Director-General**

1. This document provides information about the practical arrangements that will apply to the secret ballot vote required for the appointment of the Director-General under item 4.2, entitled “Appointment of the Director-General”. Background information on and a summary of the Health Assembly’s role in the appointment of the candidate for the post of Director-General is provided in document A75/INF./1.

### **A. SUBMISSION OF CREDENTIALS**

2. Members wishing to vote for the appointment of the Director-General should be represented at the Health Assembly. To this end, they should communicate to the Director-General, if possible not less than 15 days before the opening of the Health Assembly, the names of their representatives and must deliver their credentials to the Director-General.<sup>1</sup> Credentials should be submitted through the online registration system before the opening of the Health Assembly on Sunday, 22 May 2022. Receipt of valid credentials is a prerequisite for the issuance of delegate badges to access the Palais des Nations.

3. Credentials must be issued by the Head of State, the Head of Government, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Health or by any other appropriate authority.<sup>1</sup> Credentials issued in the form of a note verbale by a Permanent Mission accredited to the international organizations in Geneva will be accepted as being issued by an appropriate authority of the State concerned. Credentials must explicitly refer to the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly and bear an official letterhead.

4. Furthermore, Member States are encouraged to clearly identify which members of their delegation will attend the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly as chief delegate, delegate(s), alternate(s) and adviser(s) respectively. No more than three delegates per Member State are permitted, one of whom must be designated as chief delegate (sometimes referred to as the “Head of delegation”).<sup>2</sup> No limitation is imposed to the number of alternates and advisors who may accompany delegates.

5. Any change in the composition of a delegation after the credentials have been submitted requires the submission of new or amended credentials.

6. As the appointment of the Director-General is due to take place on Tuesday, 24 May 2022, it is anticipated that the Committee on Credentials will meet on Monday, 23 May 2022 at 14:00. Member States are therefore strongly encouraged to deliver their credentials well in advance of the opening of

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<sup>1</sup> Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly.

<sup>2</sup> Article 11 of the Constitution. It is acceptable for credentials to refer to the chief delegate as the head of delegation.

the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly and, in any event, not later than Saturday, 21 May 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

## **B. ATTENDANCE AT THE PRIVATE MEETING AT WHICH THE APPOINTMENT TAKES PLACE**

7. The Health Assembly will consider the Board's nomination at a private meeting.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, attendance will be limited to delegations of Members, representatives of Associate Members, the representative of the United Nations and essential Secretariat staff.<sup>2</sup>

8. As a matter of principle, in order to preserve the serenity of the proceedings, the nominated candidate should not attend the private meeting at which the appointment takes place.<sup>3</sup>

9. Due to space restrictions in connection with ongoing renovations at the Palais des Nations, up to two members of each delegation of Member States and Associate Members may be present at a time in each room where official meetings of the Health Assembly are convened. This also applies to the meeting at which the appointment of the Director-General will take place. Members of delegations will be requested to be seated behind their respective nameplates. Only a person bearing a badge marked with two orange stripes, as explained in paragraph 11, will be considered capable of being designated to vote on behalf of the delegation. As a consequence, any delegation wishing to cast a vote for the appointment of the Director-General is invited to ensure that at least one of the two persons present in the room where the vote takes place holds a badge marked with two orange stripes.

## **C. MEMBERS OF DELEGATIONS CAPABLE OF BEING DESIGNATED TO VOTE IN PLENARY**

10. In plenary meetings of the Health Assembly, the chief delegate is entitled to vote on behalf of his or her delegation. He or she may designate another delegate to vote on behalf of the delegation. An alternate, but not an adviser, may also be so designated.<sup>4</sup> The process by which the chief delegate may designate another delegate or an alternate to vote is an internal matter for the delegation concerned, and need not necessarily be done in writing.

11. The badges of the chief delegate, delegates and alternates within each delegation will be marked with two orange stripes so as to allow easy identification of those persons capable of being designated to vote on behalf of the delegation. While there can only be three delegates in each delegation, one of whom is designated as chief delegate, there is no limit to the number of alternates who may be part of a delegation. Accordingly, there may be more than three persons in a delegation holding badges marked with two orange stripes.<sup>5</sup>

12. Since advisers may not be designated to vote on behalf of the delegation, the badges of advisers will not be marked with two orange stripes. They may be present in the room during the election, subject

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<sup>1</sup> Rule 110 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly.

<sup>2</sup> Rule 21 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly.

<sup>3</sup> Section B.III.1 of the Code of Conduct for the Election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization.

<sup>4</sup> Rule 20, second paragraph, of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly.

<sup>5</sup> For example, should a delegation be composed of a chief delegate, two other delegates, three alternates and four advisers, the delegation would receive in total six badges marked with two orange stripes.

to the limitation mentioned in paragraph 9. However, they will not be permitted to receive a ballot paper and cast the vote of their respective Member State.

13. In order to ensure that correct badges are issued to members of each delegation, Member States are encouraged to clearly identify in their credentials which members of their delegations will attend the Health Assembly as chief delegate, delegate(s), alternate(s) and adviser(s) respectively.

#### **D. ROLE AND SELECTION OF TELLERS**

14. Tellers are appointed by the President of the Health Assembly before the vote, from among the delegations present.<sup>1</sup> In this way, the Health Assembly provides for the involvement of a number of its own Members in the conduct of the voting and in the counting of votes, thereby providing further assurance as to the fair and accurate conduct of proceedings. The tellers observe the placement of ballot papers in ballot boxes, and they count and record the votes. In doing so, they are supported by the Secretariat, including the Office of the Legal Counsel.

15. The President will appoint six tellers from among the delegations present and will allocate a teller to each of the three voting stations set up at the front of the room, while the other three tellers will oversee the voting.

16. Following feedback received from Member States at the mission briefing on 9 May 2022, regional coordinators were invited to consult Members of their respective regions with a view to identifying potential tellers who might be recommended to the President of the Health Assembly before the opening of the Health Assembly.

17. In order to familiarize themselves with the election procedures, those persons so identified will be invited to participate as tellers, on an informal basis and without prejudice to the formal appointment of tellers that will take place in the Health Assembly, in the election rehearsal that will take place prior to the opening of the Health Assembly. Details will be communicated to the persons identified based on paragraph 16.

#### **E. SUSPENSION OF VOTING PRIVILEGES**

18. Member States whose voting privileges are suspended by the Health Assembly will not be able to vote in the election for the Director-General. However, such Member States may have their voting privileges restored, and thus vote in the election, if they take the necessary action before the election takes place.

19. If a Member State 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 takes a decision under Article 7 of the WHO Constitution<sup>2</sup> to suspend the voting rights of the Member in question as from the opening day of the following Health Assembly.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly.

<sup>2</sup> Article 7 of the WHO Constitution provides 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.

<sup>3</sup> Resolution A41.7 (1988).

20. The list of Member States whose voting privileges continue to be suspended in accordance with previous Health Assembly resolutions is contained in document A75/28. That document also identifies those additional Member States whose voting privileges will be suspended as from the opening of the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly if they are at that point still in arrears to the extent described in paragraph 19.

21. Member States whose voting privileges are suspended may restore their voting privileges by reducing the amount of their arrears to a level that would no longer justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution.

22. Member States that wish to reschedule the payment of their arrears as part of an arrangement to have their voting privileges restored should follow the procedure set out in resolution A54.6 (2001). Any rescheduling of the payment of arrears requires prior approval of the Health Assembly.

23. For clarification or assistance, please contact Mr Sherif Younan at [younans@who.int](mailto:younans@who.int) or Ms Charlotte Hogg at [hoggc@who.int](mailto:hoggc@who.int)

## **F. PROCEDURES FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE SECRET BALLOT**

24. Voting will take place simultaneously at three voting stations set up at the front of the Human Rights Council room at the Palais des Nations. Three ballot boxes will be used, one placed at each voting station. The number of voting stations reflects the number of seating sections in the room. Member States will be allocated to voting stations (and thus to ballot boxes) in accordance with where they are seated in the room, which is determined by alphabetical order starting with a Member determined by lot.

25. The procedure for the conduct of secret ballots to be used for the election of the Director-General is set out in the Note by the Legal Counsel<sup>1</sup> and is as follows:

- (a) After the opening of the meeting, the President will explain, with the assistance of the Legal Counsel, the details of the procedure to be followed.
- (b) The President will then appoint six tellers from among the delegations present to assist with the procedure. The President will invite one teller to stand at each of the three voting stations set up at the front of the room. A legal officer will also be assigned to each voting station. The other three remaining tellers will oversee the voting.
- (c) Before opening the voting, the President will ask the tellers to verify that the three ballot boxes are empty. One ballot box will then be placed at each of the three voting stations.
- (d) The President will ask the Secretariat to distribute the requisite number of ballot papers to each of the three voting stations.
- (e) The ballot papers will bear “yes” and “no” boxes.

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<sup>1</sup> Document A75/INF./1.

- (f) Upon the signal of the President, the voting will be opened and delegations will be invited to vote at the voting station at the front of the seating block in which they are seated. They will be invited to do so in the order in which they are seated in the seating block.
- (g) Each delegation will be invited to send one person, starting with the row at the front of the room, to vote. If that person is not the chief delegate, they should be another delegate, or an alternate, designated to cast the vote of the Member concerned. They should present their conference badge to the legal officer at the relevant voting station, who will verify that they represent a Member entitled to vote and that they are a person capable of being designated to cast the vote of the Member concerned. A record of these facts will be made and a ballot paper provided to the delegation.
- (h) Delegations will be invited to vote behind a shield placed on the table set up at the relevant voting station. They should do so by placing a mark, such as an “X” or “tick” (“√”), in the box next to the “yes” box if they wish to appoint the candidate nominated by the Board, or next to the “no” box if they do not wish to appoint the candidate nominated by the Board. Members wishing to abstain may leave the ballot paper blank or write the word “abstention”.
- (i) Any ballot paper bearing the name of a person other than the candidate nominated by the Board, or bearing a distinguishing mark, such as the name of the voter, will be declared null and void.
- (j) Should any voter make a mistake, the mark made by mistake should be erased or crossed out so that it is clear to the tellers that the ballot paper has been corrected and that it is equally clear how the voter wishes to vote. If, during the voting, a new ballot paper is required, the voter concerned is invited to signal this to the legal officer positioned at the voting station in question and to request a new ballot paper, which will be printed by the Secretariat.
- (k) Members are invited to ensure that their delegation is present in the room before voting commences. If necessary, a delegation that is present in the room but has missed its turn to vote may nonetheless vote at the relevant voting station at any time before the President declares the voting closed.
- (l) Once each Member entitled to vote and wishing to do so has placed its ballot paper in a ballot box, the President will declare the voting closed. A pair of tellers will carry each ballot box from the voting station to one of three counting tables. The tellers at each counting table will open the ballot box placed on the table, count the number of ballot papers and verify that this corresponds to the total number of voters recorded for the ballot box in question. The tellers will then count the votes and record the results on a sheet prepared for this purpose by the Secretariat. One teller at each counting table will then carry the result sheet to a table where the three result sheets will be transcribed by one of the tellers onto the appropriate voting record sheet in order to reach the overall result. The voting record sheet will be signed by the six tellers. The Legal Counsel will give the overall result sheet to the President.
- (m) The President will report the result of the secret ballot to the Health Assembly, reading out the number of affirmative votes and the number of negative votes cast. The President will announce whether the candidate has received the majority required. The President will then ask the Secretariat to destroy the ballot papers.

26. If, as in this case, the Board nominates one person, the Health Assembly shall decide by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Rule 110(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly.