

## **Update on governance issues**

### **Report by the Secretariat**

1. The Member State mechanism on substandard and falsified medical products was established by the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly in 2012 through resolution WHA65.19. Its goal, objectives and terms of reference are set out in the Annex to that resolution. The structure, governance and funding of the Member State mechanism, including the composition and functions of its Steering Committee, were further defined in Appendix 1 to the report of the first meeting of the Member State mechanism in 2012<sup>1</sup> and through the subsequent decisions of the Member State mechanism itself.
2. The Steering Committee is composed of two vice-chairpersons for each WHO region. As Steering Committee members, they are expected to work closely with their respective region with a view to facilitating the provision of input on intersessional work and activities by all Member States. Regarding chairmanship, the Member State mechanism at its fourth meeting in 2015 decided that the chairmanship of the Member State mechanism would rotate among the regions in English alphabetical order.<sup>2</sup> At the same meeting, the Member State mechanism confirmed that the terms of office of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Steering Committee would expire at the end of every second regular session of the Member State mechanism.<sup>3</sup>
3. Accordingly, the current composition of the Steering Committee commenced from the closure of the seventh meeting of the Member State mechanism in 2018,<sup>4</sup> and is set to expire at the closure of the ninth meeting of the Member State mechanism in 2020. The current Chairperson comes from a Member State of the South-East Asia Region and his term will also expire at the closure of the ninth meeting of the Member State mechanism.
4. In this connection, it should be recalled that the current list of prioritized activities to implement the workplan of the Member State mechanism was agreed by the Member State mechanism at its eighth meeting in 2019 and covers the biennium 2020–2021. The next list of prioritized activities will be considered by the Member State mechanism at its tenth meeting in 2021. The terms of the current Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons are thus not aligned with the time frame established for the application of the current list of prioritized activities.
5. As suggested by the Steering Committee, the Member State mechanism may therefore wish to consider aligning the terms of the current Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons with the time frame established for the application of the list of prioritized activities in order to ensure a better

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<sup>1</sup> Contained in document A66/22.

<sup>2</sup> Document A/MSM/4/10, paragraph 21.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Document A72/22, Annex 2, paragraph 16.

implementation of those activities. To this effect, the Member State mechanism may wish to extend the terms of the current Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons by one year, such that their terms would expire at the closure of the tenth meeting of the Member State mechanism in 2021. It is understood that the subsequent terms of Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons would continue to expire at the closure of every second regular session of the Member State mechanism.

6. It is further understood that, in accordance with the principle of rotation recalled above, the next Chairperson of the Member State mechanism will come from a Member State of the Western Pacific Region.

**ACTION BY THE MEMBER STATE MECHANISM**

7. The Member State mechanism is invited to consider extending the terms of the current Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons by one year, such that their terms would expire at the closure of the tenth meeting of the Member State mechanism in 2021.

8. The Member State mechanism is further invited to note the information provided in paragraph 6.

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