

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Thirteenth SessionORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉEB13/48 ✓
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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REVISION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE
EXECUTIVE BOARD

In connexion with the general revision of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly the Director-General has also reviewed the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board and proposes, for the consideration of the Board, the revision of these Rules as set forth in the Annex to this document. Apart from amendments which are particular to the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, further amendments are proposed in order to bring these rules into harmony with the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly.

The Board may wish, subject to such additional amendments as it considers desirable, to approve the proposed revision in adopting a resolution along the following lines:

"The Executive Board

ADOPTS the revised Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board
as reproduced in the Annex to this resolution."

PROPOSED REVISION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Note: Amendments are indicated by placing parts to be omitted in parenthesis and by underlining parts to be added.

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

MEMBERSHIP

Rule 1

The Executive Board (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") shall consist of eighteen persons (hereinafter referred to as the "members") designated by as many States Members elected by the World Health Assembly. The members may be accompanied by alternates and advisers.

No change.

Rule 2

The States Members shall be elected by the World Health Assembly (hereinafter referred to as the "Health Assembly") for a three-year term.

No change.

The term of office of each State Member entitled to designate a person to serve on the Board shall begin on the opening day of the first meeting of the Board held after the election of the State Member concerned and shall end at the expiration of the period for which such State Member has been elected.

During this period the State Member may change the person so designated.

Rule 3

When a member designated to serve on the Board is prevented from attending a meeting of the Board, the State Member concerned may designate an alternate to serve in his place with the same status as the absent member.

No change.

Rule 4

Should a member of the Board or his alternate be absent at two consecutive sessions of the Board, the Director-General shall report this fact to the Health Assembly for its consideration.

The proposed insertion tends to establish that the absence is intentional and not merely incidental.

CREDENTIALIALS

Rule 5

The States Members concerned shall inform the Director-General in writing of the names of the persons designated and of any alternate.

No change.

SESSIONS

Rule 6

The Board shall hold at least two sessions a year. It shall determine at each session the time and place of its next session.

The additional sentence reproduces a provision of Rule 10 in fine, which logically finds its place in Rule 6.

Notices convening the Board shall be sent by the Director-General to the members of the Board at least six weeks prior to the commencement of the session.

Rule 7

The Director-General, in consultation with the Chairman, shall also convene the Board at the joint request of any six members, addressed to him in writing and stating the reason for the request. In this case the ~~/session/~~ Board shall be convened within thirty days following receipt of the request and the session shall be held at Headquarters unless the Director-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Board, determines otherwise.

Drafting change.

Rule 8

If any matter of particular concern to a State Member or to an Associate Member or to a non-member State is to be discussed at any meeting of the Board, the Director-General shall give adequate notice thereof to the State or Associate Member concerned so as to enable that State or Associate Member, if it so desires, to designate a representative who shall have the right to speak, but not to vote, provided that in such cases the cost of representation shall be borne by that State or Associate Member.

No change.

Rule 9

The meetings of the Board shall be held in public unless the Board decides otherwise.

No change.

AGENDA

Rule 10

The provisional agenda of each session shall be drawn up by the Director-General in consultation with the Chairman. Except in the case of sessions convened under Rule 7, it shall be despatched by the Director-General to the members of the Board and the Members and Associate Members of the World Health Organization (hereinafter referred to as the "Organization") at least six weeks prior to the commencement of the session together with the notice convening the Board.

The substance of the part of the sentence to be deleted is reproduced in Rule 6.

Rule 11

The provisional agenda of each session shall include, inter alia:

- (a) all items the inclusion of which has been ordered by the Health Assembly;
- (b) all items the inclusion of which has been ordered by the Board at a previous session;
- (c) any item proposed by a Member or Associate Member of the Organization;
- (d) any item proposed by a member of the Board;
- (e) subject to such preliminary consultation as may be necessary between the Director-General and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, any item proposed by the United Nations;

(f) any item proposed by any specialized agency of the United Nations; /and/

(g) any item proposed by the Director-General;
and

(h) any item proposed in a joint request of any six members for the convening of a session pursuant to Rule 7.

The proposed additional provision fills a gap.

Rule 12

The Director-General may, in consultation with the Chairman, include any question suitable for the agenda which may arise between the despatch of the provisional agenda and the opening day of the session in a supplementary agenda which the Board shall examine together with the provisional agenda.

No change.

Rule 13

The /Executive/ Board shall not proceed, unless it determines otherwise, to the discussion of any item on the agenda until at least forty-eight hours have elapsed after the relevant documents have been made available to the members.

Drafting change.

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

Rule 14

The Board shall elect its officers, viz., a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, from among its members each year at its first session after its

No change.

reconstitution by the Health Assembly. The officers shall hold office until their successors are elected. The Chairman shall not become eligible for re-election until two years have elapsed since he ceased to hold office.

No change.

Rule 15

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, he shall designate one of the Vice-Chairmen to preside. The same procedure shall be adopted when the Chairman is unable to attend a session of the Board.

No change.

If the Chairman is unable to make this designation, the Board shall elect one of the Vice-Chairmen to preside during the session or meeting.

Rule 16

If the Chairman for any reason is unable to complete his term of office, the Board shall elect a new Chairman for the remaining period of his term.

No change.

COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

Rule 17

The Board may establish such committees as it may deem necessary for the study of, and report on, any item on its agenda.

No change.

The Board shall review from time to time, and in any case once a year, the need to maintain any committee established under its authority.

SECRETARIAT

Rule 18

The Director-General shall act as the Secretary of the Board and of any subdivision thereof. He may delegate his functions.

No change.

Rule (19)*

The Director-General shall report to the Board on the technical, administrative and financial implications, if any, of all agenda items submitted by the Board.

The proposed new Rule (19) takes account of a practice already followed.

Rule 19 (20)

The Director-General or a member of the Secretariat designated by him as his representative may at any time make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

No change.

Rule 20 (21)

The Secretariat shall prepare minutes of the meetings. These minutes shall be prepared in both working languages and shall be distributed to the members as soon as possible after the close of the meetings to which they relate. Members shall inform the Secretariat in writing of any corrections they wish to have made, within such period of time as shall be indicated by the Director-General, having regard to the circumstances.

No change.

* When the number of a rule is placed within brackets, it indicates the new numeration made as a result of the revision of the rules.

Rule 21 (22)

All resolutions, recommendations, and other important decisions of the Board shall be communicated by the Director-General to the members of the Board and to all Members and Associate Members of the Organization.

No change.

LANGUAGES

Rule 22 (23)

Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official languages, and English and French the working languages of the Board.

No change.

Rule 23 (24)

Speeches made in either of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages and into Spanish. Speeches made in Spanish shall be interpreted into both working languages.

No change.

Rule 24 (25)

Speeches made in any of the other official languages shall be interpreted into both working languages and into Spanish.

No change.

Rule 25 (26)

Any member, or representative of a Member State, or of a non-Member State or of an Associate Member may speak in a language other than the official languages. In this case,

The suggested addition is necessary in view of the provisions of Rule 8.

he shall himself provide for interpretation into one of the working languages. Interpretation into the other working language by an interpreter of the Secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first working language.

The suggested addition is necessary in view of the provisions of Rule 8.

Rule 26 (27)

All resolutions, recommendations and other decisions of the Board shall be drawn up in both working languages.

No change.

VOTING

Rule 27 (28)

Unless otherwise provided by the Constitution of the Organization, or resolved by the Health Assembly, the decisions of the Board shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

No change.

Rule 28 (29)

Each member of the Board shall have one vote. For the purpose of these Rules, the phrase "members present and voting" means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members who abstain from voting shall be considered as not voting. In a secret ballot all invalid votes shall be so reported to the Board and shall be counted as abstentions.

No change.

Rule (30)

If a vote is equally divided on matters other than elections, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

No change.

Rule 29 (31)

The Board shall normally vote by show of hands. However, any member may request a roll-call which shall then be taken in the alphabetical order of the names of the members.

No change.

Rule 30 (32)

The vote of each member participating in any roll-call shall be inserted in the records.

No change.

Rule 31 (33)

All elections and the nomination of the Director-General shall be decided by secret ballot. However, except as concerns the vote required for the nomination of the Director-General, an election may be held by show of hands or by acclamation, provided that there is not more than one candidate for one elective office and that no member requests otherwise.

The new drafting of this rule contains additional provisions to legalize a practice already followed and prepares the insertion of new rule 37.

The nomination of the Director-General shall always be decided by secret ballot.

Rule 32 (34)

A secret ballot on any other question shall be taken at the request of one member supported by at least three other members.

Rule 33 (35)

When only one elective place is to be filled and /no/ none of the candidates obtains in the first ballot the majority required, a second ballot shall be taken which shall be restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. Subject to the provisions of rule 37 if in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the Chairman shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

Drafting change and adaptation of this rule to rule 37.

Rule 34 (36)

When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates obtaining in the first ballot the majority required shall be elected. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of places to be filled, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places, the voting to be restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled.

No change..

Rule (37)

For the nomination of the Director-General the Board shall establish a list of candidates whose names are selected by secret ballot and presented in alphabetical order. The Board shall then elect its candidate by secret ballot.

This new rule reproduces the procedure established by the Executive Board in its resolution EB11.R47.

For that purpose each member of the Board shall write down the name of a single candidate which he chooses from the above-mentioned list.

The candidate who receives the least number of votes shall be eliminated at each balloting. Once the number of candidates has been reduced to two, there shall be as many ballots as are necessary in order to secure a majority for either candidate. In the event of a tie between the remaining candidates after three votes, the whole procedure established by this rule shall start again.

The name of the person so nominated shall be submitted to the World Health Assembly.

Rule 35

If a vote is equally divided on matters other than elections, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 36 (38)

[Twelve] Two-thirds of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 37 (39)

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these Rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing

This new rule reproduces the procedure established by the Executive Board in its resolution EB11.R47.

This rule is now reproduced in article (30) above.

It is preferable to determine a proportion instead of a fixed number

No change.

of each meeting of the Board, shall direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions and results of the voting.

No change.

Rule 38 (40)

A member may designate an alternate, who shall have the right to speak and vote on behalf of the member on any question. Moreover, upon the request of the member or his alternate, the Chairman may allow an adviser to speak on any particular point, but the latter shall not have the right to vote.

No change.

Rule 41

The Board may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker.

No change.

Rule 39 (42)

During the discussion of any matter, a member may rise to a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the Chairman in accordance with these rules. A member may appeal against the ruling of the Chairman in which case the appeal shall immediately be put to the vote. A member rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion but on the point of order only.

The additional text guarantees impartial debates.

Rule 40 (43)

During the discussion on any matter, a member may move the suspension or adjournment of the [debate] meeting. Any such motion if seconded shall be put to the vote immediately and without discussion.

Rule (44)

During the discussion of any matter, a member may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one speaker may speak in favour of, and one against, the motion, after which the motion to adjourn the debate shall be immediately put to the vote.

Rule 42 (45)

A member may at any time move the closure of the debate on the item under discussion whether or not any other member has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak against the closure may be accorded to not more than two members [.], after which [Rule 43] [T] the Chairman shall immediately take the sense of the Board on [any] the motion of closure. If the Board is in favour of the motion, the Chairman shall declare the closure of the debate.

There is confusion in the existing text between "debate" and "meeting".

See comments concerning rule (43).

The new draft combines the present rules 42 and 43.

Rule (46)

The following motions shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the meeting, except a point of order:

- (a) to suspend the meeting;
- (b) to adjourn the meeting;
- (c) to adjourn the debate on the item under discussion; and
- (d) for the closure of the debate on the item under discussion.

Rule 44 (47)

Parts of a proposal shall be voted on separately if a member requests that a proposal be divided. The resulting proposal shall then be put to a final vote in its entirety.

Rule 45 (48)

When an amendment to a proposal is moved, the amendment shall be voted on first. If
When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Board shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all amendments have been put to the vote. The Chairman shall determine the order of voting on the amendments under this rule. If one or more amendments are adopted the amended proposal shall then be voted upon in its entirety.

The list of priorities fills a gap and has been drawn up in accordance with general practice.

The additional sentence lays down a practice which is generally followed.

The additional sentences complete the rule and make it more precise.

Rule 46 (49)

When an amendment revises, adds to, or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first and, if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal, if it merely adds to, or deletes from, or revises part of that proposal. A motion which constitutes a substitution for a proposal shall be considered as a proposal.

Rule (50)

If two or more proposals are moved, the Board shall first vote on the proposal deemed by the Chairman to be furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the proposal next removed therefrom, and so on, until all proposals have been put to the vote, unless the result of a vote on a proposal makes unnecessary any other voting on the proposal or proposals still outstanding.

Rule 47 (51)

A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has begun, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion withdrawn may be re-introduced by any member.

The suggested definitions fill a gap.

The suggested new rule fills a gap.

No change.

Rule 48 (52)

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected it may not be reconsidered at the same session of the Board, unless the Board, by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be immediately put to the vote.

No change.

Rule 49 (53)

The Chairman may at any time require any proposal, motion, resolution, or amendment to be seconded.

No change.

Rule (54)

During the course of a debate the Chairman may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Board, declare the list closed. He may, however, accord the right of reply to any member if in his opinion a speech delivered after he has declared the list closed makes it desirable.

The proposed new rule adopts a procedure followed generally.

SUSPENSION AND AMENDMENT OF RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 50 (55)

Subject to the provisions of the Constitution any of these rules may be amended or suspended by the Board provided that at least forty-eight hours' notice of the proposal for such amendment or

No change.

suspension has been given to the Chairman and communicated by him to the members twenty-four hours before the meeting at which the proposal is to be submitted. If, however, on the advice of the Chairman the Board is unanimously in favour of such a proposal, it may adopt it immediately and without notice.

No change.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Rule 51 (56)

The Board may at its discretion apply such Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly as it may deem appropriate to particular circumstances.

No change.