

EB118.R2 Consideration of the acceleration of the procedure to elect the next Director-General of the World Health Organization

The Executive Board,

Noting decision EBSS(2) taken by the Board at its special session held on 23 May 2006, by which the Board requested the Secretariat “to submit to the Board at its 118th session options for its consideration concerning the acceleration of the procedure to elect the next Director-General of the World Health Organization”;

Having considered the reports by the Secretariat in response to the Board’s request,¹

1. DECIDES, in accordance with Rule 53 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, to suspend Rule 52 with regard to the deadlines set out in paragraphs 1 to 3 of the latter Rule, in order to accelerate the process of nomination of the next Director-General;
2. DECIDES that, for the purpose of nominating the next Director-General, the following deadlines will apply in lieu of those provided for under Rule 52:
 - (a) notification of Acting Director-General to Member States that they may propose persons for nomination to the post of Director-General: 1 June 2006;
 - (b) final date for receipt by WHO of proposals for nomination: 5 September 2006;
 - (c) date of dispatch of proposals, curricula vitae and supporting information to Member States: 5 October 2006;
3. DECIDES, in accordance with Rule 5 of its Rules of Procedure, to convene a session of the Board, which will be held from 6 to 8 November 2006 at the headquarters of the World Health Organization;
4. FURTHER DECIDES that the only item on the provisional agenda of the session of the Board referred to in the preceding paragraph will be entitled “Director-General” and will comprise two subitems entitled respectively “nomination for the post” and “draft contract”;
5. REQUESTS the Acting Director-General to consider placing officers and staff members who are candidates for the election referred to in the present resolution on temporary leave of absence with pay from their current posts during the period from 5 September 2006 until the Health Assembly’s appointment of a new Director-General;
6. REQUESTS the Acting Director-General, in accordance with Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly, to convene a special session of the Health Assembly on 9 November 2006 in Geneva, and to include on the provisional agenda of the special session only one item entitled “Director-General”, comprising two subitems entitled respectively “appointment” and “approval of contract”;
7. RECOMMENDS that the Health Assembly at its special session should suspend Rule 108 of its Rules of Procedure with regard to the term of office of the next Director-General and set his or her term of office so that it terminates shortly after closure of a Health Assembly.

¹ Documents EB118/20 and EB118/20 Add.1, which includes the costing.

(Third meeting, 30 May 2006)