



## **Amendments to Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board: term of office of Regional Directors**

### **Report by the Director-General**

The Board agreed with the proposal of its special group for the review of the Constitution of WHO that the term of office of Regional Directors should be five years, renewable once. It agreed that this rule should be effected by a change to its Rules of Procedure and that a draft resolution implementing this change should be considered at its 102nd session. This document sets out the background of the change and contains a draft resolution.

1. At its 101st session, the Executive Board considered the report of the special group for the review of the Constitution of WHO.<sup>1</sup> The special group had proposed that the term of office of Regional Directors should be five years, renewable once, but that this rule should not be applicable to present incumbents. The Board agreed with this proposal.<sup>2</sup>
2. It was also agreed that since the Executive Board appointed Regional Directors, it should follow the same approach as the Health Assembly had done in its role as the appointing body for the Director-General when it amended its Rules of Procedure to establish a limitation for the term of office of the Director-General. Thus, it was decided that the Board would consider at its 102nd session a proposed amendment to its Rules of Procedure establishing a limitation of a five-year term of office, renewable once, for the appointment of Regional Directors.
3. The Board was informed, however, that - in view of the separate legal status of PAHO - an exception would need to be made with respect to the Regional Director for the Americas, as there was a constitutionally prescribed four-year term of office for the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. Since the Bureau served also as the WHO Secretariat, the Director of the Bureau and the Director of the Regional Office had to be the same person. As a result, although it might be possible to implement a two-term limit through a change in the rules of procedure of the Pan American Sanitary Conference, a change from a four- to a five-year term would require a constitutional amendment. A separate action by the governing bodies of PAHO would in any event be required to implement the rule limiting the appointment of Regional Directors currently being considered by the Board.

<sup>1</sup> Document EB101/1998/REC/1, Annex 3.

<sup>2</sup> Document EB101/1998/REC/2, sixth meeting.

## **ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

4. The Board may wish to consider adoption of the following resolution:

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report of the special group for the review of the Constitution of the World Health Organization, which proposed that the term of office of Regional Directors should be five years, renewable once;

Noting the special group's view that such a change in rules should not apply to an incumbent, and that this same position was adopted by the Forty-ninth World Health Assembly in resolution WHA49.7, when establishing the same limitation for the Director-General;

Accepting therefore that establishment of a limit for Regional Directors of a five-year term, renewable once, should be subject to the proviso that it applies only to future new appointments and not to a reappointment of any current Regional Director;

Having regard to Article 54 of the WHO Constitution on the integration of WHO and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and noting that application of such a rule to the Regional Director for the Americas would require, *inter alia*, an amendment to the Constitution of PAHO,

AMENDS Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board so that it reads as follows (new text shown by underlining):

### *Rule 48*

Elections shall normally be held by secret ballot. Except as concerns the nomination of the Director-General and the appointment of the Regional Directors, and in the absence of any objection the Board may decide to proceed without taking a ballot on an agreed candidate or list of candidates. Where a ballot is required, two tellers appointed by the Chairman from among the members present shall assist in the counting of votes.

The nomination of the Director-General shall be decided by secret ballot in accordance with Rule 52.

Subject to Article 54 of the Constitution, the appointment of a Regional Director shall be for five years and he or she shall be eligible for reappointment once only.

REQUESTS the Regional Director for the Americas to bring this amendment to the attention of the appropriate governing body of PAHO with a view to considering an amendment to its Constitution, and taking such other action as may be appropriate, so as to establish the same rules for the appointment of the Director of PAHO as are established by this resolution.

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