

**Regional Committee for Europe**  
Sixty-third session

EUR/RC63/R7

**Çeşme Izmir, Turkey, 16–19 September 2013**

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## **Resolution**

### **Governance of the WHO Regional Office for Europe**

The Regional Committee,

Recalling resolution EUR/RC60/R3 which, inter alia, requested the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee (SCRC) to initiate a cycle of comprehensive reviews of governance in the WHO European Region and report back to the Regional Committee on lessons learned in this regard at such intervals as the SCRC itself deems appropriate;

Noting that the Twentieth SCRC decided at its second session in November 2012 to establish an ad hoc working group on governance with a mandate to review experience over the past two years in the implementation of the above-mentioned resolution;

Further noting that the SCRC has endorsed fully the recommendations of the above-mentioned working group regarding the method of work and amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for Europe and of the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe;

Having itself considered those recommendations, as contained in the report of the Regional Director on this subject (document EUR/RC63/16 Rev.1);

1. CONFIRMS that the selection of Member States in the European Region to submit candidatures for membership of the Executive Board and the SCRC shall be made in accordance with:

- (a) the subregional groupings of countries confirmed by resolution EUR/RC60/R3, and as contained in Annex 1 to the present resolution;

- (b) the periodicity for permanent members of the United Nations Security Council set forth in resolution EUR/RC60/R3; and
  - (c) the criteria for experience and areas of competence confirmed by resolution EUR/RC60/R3, and as contained in Annex 2 to the present resolution;
2. DECIDES that the selection of Member States in the European Region to submit candidatures for membership of the Executive Board and the SCRC shall follow the long-term schedules of representation outlined in Annex 3 to this resolution;
  3. DECIDES exceptionally that the term of office for two out of the four members of the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board (EHMB) elected at the sixty-third session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe will be for three years (from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2016), while the remaining two members will serve for the standard term of 2 years (from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2015) ;
  4. ENDORSES the recommendations relating to (a) transparency of SCRC proceedings and (b) communications between SCRC members and Member States in the European Region, contained in Annex 4 to this resolution;
  5. FURTHER DECIDES that names and titles of the SCRC members will be posted on the public web site of the Regional Office and that their contact details will be posted on the password-protected web site;
  6. ADOPTS the amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for Europe and of the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe contained in Annex 5 to this resolution, to be effective from the end of this session;
  7. ADOPTS the Code of Conduct for the Nomination of the Regional Director of the European Region of the World Health Organization, contained in Annex 6 to this resolution;
  8. CALLS UPON Member States to implement and abide by the Code of Conduct, make it widely known and easily accessible, and bring it to the attention of persons they wish to propose for the post of Regional Director in future nomination processes;
  9. DECIDES that the Code of Conduct will become effective at the end of this session of the Regional Committee;
  10. REQUESTS the Regional Director to support the implementation of the Code of Conduct, as envisaged in the Code;

11. FURTHER REQUESTS the Regional Director to impress upon the Secretariat of the Regional Office the importance of complying with the obligations laid out in the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules with regard to the conduct to be observed during the process of nomination of the Regional Director, as provided in the section of the Code of Conduct on internal candidates.

## **Annex 1. Subregional grouping of Member States**

### **Group A: (17 Member States)**

Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

From this group there would at all times be four members of the Standing Committee and two seats on the Executive Board, plus a third seat alternating with Group B.

### **Group B: (17 Member States)**

Andorra, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland

From this group there would at all times be four members of the Standing Committee and two seats on the Executive Board, plus a third seat alternating with Group A.

### **Group C: (19 Member States)**

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

From this group there would at all times be four members on the Standing Committee and three seats on the Executive Board.

## **Annex 2. Criteria for the selection of candidates for membership of the WHO Executive Board and the Standing Committee of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe**

A broad mix of skills and practical experience in public health as well as in national administration is desirable when considering the selection of candidates to serve on the Executive Board and on the Standing Committee.

The following criteria regarding experience and areas of competence are proposed:

- (a) a current position in health administration in his/her country (or a position held in the recent past) close to the political decision-making level;
- (b) experience of working with international organizations, WHO or other United Nations organizations;
- (c) the ability to collaborate, coordinate and communicate within the country and between countries;
- (d) experience of coordinating high-level political and/or technical programmes, nationally (interregional, interministerial) or internationally (bilateral or intercountry);
- (e) availability and commitment; and
- (f) gender (female applicants are encouraged).

### **Annex 3. A. Schedule of European membership to the Executive Board**

Table 1: Annual overview of vacant seats per subregional grouping  
– by year of nomination

Nomination Year	Group A	Group B	Group C
2013	United Kingdom	No vacant seat	Russian Federation
2014	1 vacant seat	France 1 vacant seat	1 vacant seat
2015	1 vacant seat	No vacant seat	1 vacant seat
2016	No vacant seat	1 vacant seat	1 vacant seat
2017	United Kingdom 1 vacant seat	No vacant seat	1 vacant seat
2018	No vacant seat	1 vacant seat	1 vacant seat
2019	1 vacant seat	No vacant seat	Russian Federation
2020	1 vacant seat	France 1 vacant seat	1 vacant seat
2021	1 vacant seat	No vacant seat	1 vacant seat
2022	No vacant seat	1 vacant seat	1 vacant seat
2023	United Kingdom 1 vacant seat	1 vacant seat	1 vacant seat

The nomination year indicates the year when Member States are requested to nominate candidates and the Regional Committee will consider these nominations at its annual session, usually held in September. The nomination year is one year prior to the actual year of commencement of the term as an Executive Board member.

### **B. Schedule of membership to the Standing Committee**

Table 2. Annual overview of vacant seats per subregional grouping  
– by year of nomination

Nomination Year	Group A	Group B	Group C
2013	2 vacant seats	1 vacant seat	1 vacant seat
2014	1 vacant seat	2 vacant seats	1 vacant seat
2015	1 vacant seat	1 vacant seat	2 vacant seats
2016	2 vacant seats	1 vacant seat	1 vacant seat
2017	1 vacant seat	2 vacant seats	1 vacant seat
2018	1 vacant seat	1 vacant seat	2 vacant seats
2019	2 vacant seat	1 vacant seat	1 vacant seat
2020	1 vacant seat	2 vacant seats	1 vacant seat
2021	1 vacant seat	1 vacant seat	2 vacant seats
2022	2 vacant seats	1 vacant seat	1 vacant seat
2023	1 vacant seat	2 vacant seat	1 vacant seat

The nomination year indicates the year in which Member States are requested to nominate candidates and the Regional Committee will consider these nominations at its annual session, usually held in September. The selected candidates will take office immediately after that session of the Regional Committee.

## **Annex 4. Transparency of SCRC proceedings and communications between SCRC members and Member States in the European Region**

- The agenda of each SCRC meeting and a list of the documents to be discussed will be published on the password-protected web site well ahead of the meeting and, in the case of the May meeting of the Standing Committee, the draft documents will be made available to all Member States at the same time they are made available to members of the Standing Committee.
- Member States can send questions and/or proposals to the Regional Director through the password-protected web site. Those issues will be addressed in the Regional Director's opening statement, which will be transmitted by video streaming.
- Members of the SCRC will agree to be focal points for specific technical items and resolutions. The decision as to which members are nominated as focal points will be taken during the spring meeting of the SCRC, recorded in the minutes of the meeting and made available to all Member States, thus allowing them to contact their SCRC focal point from the open SCRC meeting in May until the Regional Committee's session in September.
- The officers of the SCRC – the Chair and Vice-Chair – shall work closely together with subregional organizations of Member States such as the European Union, the South-eastern Europe Health Network, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Eurasian Economic Community, especially in preparation for the Regional Committee. Members of the SCRC whose countries are members of these subregional organizations are encouraged to keep them informed about the SCRC's work.

## **Annex 5. Proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for Europe and of the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe**

### **Part 1: Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for Europe**

#### **Rule 14.2.10**

**h)** to examine credentials of delegates of Members, by establishing a subdivision of three members, and report thereon to the Regional Committee.

#### **Rule 22 bis**

Formal proposals by Member States in the form of resolutions or decisions, relating to items of the provisional agenda, shall be introduced in writing and transmitted to the Regional Director at least seven days prior to the opening of the first day of the session of the Regional Committee provided the relevant documentation is published three weeks prior to the commencement of that session. The Regional Committee may, if it deems it appropriate, consider formal proposals which have been introduced by Member States of the Region after the above-referenced deadline.

Proposals for substantive amendments of such formal proposals shall normally be introduced in writing and handed to the Regional Director, prior to the closure of the first day of the session of the Regional Committee. The Regional Director shall circulate copies of such amendments to the delegations no later than the opening of the second day of the session. No such amendments shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the Regional Committee unless copies of them have been circulated to all delegations at least 24 hours previously. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, even though they have not been circulated in accordance with this timeline.

#### **Rule 22 ter**

Formal proposals by the Secretariat in the form of resolutions or decisions, relating to items of the provisional agenda shall be sent by the Regional Director to the Member States, and to the organizations referred to in Rule 2 invited to be represented, at least six weeks before the commencement of the session.

Proposals for substantive amendments of such formal proposals shall normally be introduced in writing and handed to the Regional Director at least 24 hours prior to the opening of the first day of the session of the Regional Committee. The Regional Director shall circulate copies of such amendments to the delegations no later than the opening of the first day of the session. No such amendments shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the Regional Committee unless copies of them have been circulated to all delegations at least 24 hours previously. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, even though they have not been circulated in accordance with this timeline.

#### **Rule 22 quater**

In furtherance of the fair and efficient conduct of business of the session of the Regional Committee, formal proposals for resolutions, decisions or substantive amendments thereof may require prior consultation on the way forward with the Officers of the Regional Committee and the Regional Director, if the Regional Committee so decides. The Regional Committee may, furthermore, decide to establish a subcommittee to consider and elaborate on such matters.



**Rule 47**

**47.4** Any Member of the Region may propose the name or names of one or more persons, each of whom has indicated willingness to act as Regional Director, submitting with each proposal particulars of the person's qualification and experience. Member States shall be mindful of the Code of Conduct adopted by the Regional Committee and shall bring it to the attention of such persons. Such proposals shall be sent to the Director-General ... (*paragraph continues as in the current Rules of Procedure*).

**Part 2: Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe**

**Rule 3**

Except for the meeting to be held in May every year prior to the World Health Assembly in which all Members<sup>1</sup> from the Region will be invited to participate without the right to vote, the meetings of the Standing Committee shall be private unless the Standing Committee decides otherwise. However, having in mind ... (*paragraph continues as in the current Rules of Procedure*).

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<sup>1</sup> And regional economic integration organizations, where applicable

## **Annex 6. Code of Conduct for the Nomination of the Regional Director of the European Region of the World Health Organization**

This Code of Conduct (Code) aims to promote an open, fair, equitable and transparent process for the nomination of the Regional Director of the European Region of the World Health Organization (WHO). In seeking to improve the overall process, this Code addresses a number of areas, including the submission of proposals and the conduct of electoral campaigns by Member States and candidates.

The Code is a political understanding reached by the Member States of the European Region (Member States). It recommends desirable behaviour by Member States and candidates with regard to the nomination of the Regional Director to increase the fairness, openness and transparency of the process and thus its legitimacy, as well as the legitimacy and acceptance of its outcome. As such, the Code is not legally binding, but Member States and candidates are expected to honour its contents.

The Code builds on, and reinforces, the provisions pertaining to nomination of Regional Director for the European Region as set out in Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for Europe.

### **A. General requirements**

#### **I. Basic principles**

1. The whole nomination process, as well as electoral campaign activities related to it, should be guided both by the provisions of Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure and by the following principles that further the legitimacy of the process and of its result:

- fairness
- equity
- transparency
- good faith
- dignity, mutual respect and moderation
- non-discrimination
- merit.

#### **II. Authority of the Regional Committee and its Rules of Procedure**

1. Member States accept the authority of the Regional Committee for Europe (Regional Committee) to conduct the nomination of the Regional Director in accordance with Rule 47 of its Rules of Procedure and the relevant resolutions of the Regional Committee.

2. Member States that propose persons for the post of Regional Director have the right to promote their candidature. The same applies to candidates with regard to their own candidature. In the exercise of that right, Member States and candidates should abide by all rules governing the nomination of the Regional Director contained in Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee as well as in relevant resolutions and decisions of the Regional Committee.

#### **III. Responsibilities**

1. It is the responsibility of Member States and candidates to observe and respect this Code.

2. Member States acknowledge that the process of nomination of the Regional Director should be fair, open, transparent, equitable and based on the merits of the individual candidates. They should make this Code publicly known and easily accessible.

## **B. Requirements concerning the different steps of the nomination process**

### **I. Submission of proposals**

1. When proposing the name of one or more persons for the post of Regional Director, Member States will be requested by the Director-General to submit the necessary particulars of each person's qualifications and experience in accordance with the criteria adopted by resolution EUR/RC40/R3, affirmed and supplemented by resolution EUR/RC47/R5.

### **II. Electoral campaign**

1. This Code applies to electoral activities related to the nomination of the Regional Director whenever they take place until the nomination by the Regional Committee.

2. All Member States and candidates should encourage and promote communication and cooperation among one another during the entire nomination process. Member States and candidates should act in good faith bearing in mind the shared objectives of promoting equity, openness, transparency and fairness throughout the nomination process.

3. Member States and candidates should refer to one another with respect; no Member State or candidate should at any time disrupt or impede the campaign activities of other candidates. Nor should any Member State or any candidate make any oral or written statements or other representations that could be deemed slanderous or libellous.

4. All Member States and candidates should disclose their campaign activities (e.g. hosting of meetings, workshops, visits). Information disclosed will be posted on a dedicated page of the web site of the Regional Office.

5. Member States and candidates should refrain from improperly influencing the nomination process, by, for example, granting or accepting financial or other benefits as a quid pro quo for the support of a candidate, or by promising such benefits.

6. Member States and candidates should not make promises or commitments in favour of, or accept instructions from, any person or entity, public or private, when that could undermine, or be perceived as undermining, the integrity of the nomination process.

7. Member States that have proposed a candidate should facilitate meetings between their candidate and other Member States, if so requested. Wherever possible, meetings between candidates and Member States should be arranged on the occasion of conferences or other events involving Member States of the Region rather than through bilateral visits.

8. Member States nominating candidates for the post of Regional Director should consider disclosing grants or aid funding for the previous two years in order to ensure full transparency and mutual confidence among Member States.

9. Travel by candidates to Member States to promote their candidature should be limited in order to avoid excessive expenditure, which could lead to inequality among Member States and candidates.

In this connection, Member States and candidates should consider using as much as possible existing mechanisms (regional committees, Executive Board, World Health Assembly) for meetings and other promotional activities linked to the electoral campaign.

10. Electoral promotion or propaganda under the guise of technical meetings or similar events should be avoided.

11. After the Director-General has dispatched the names and particulars of candidates to Member States in accordance with the provisions of Rule 47.9 of the Rules of Procedure, he/she will open on the web site of WHO a password-protected question-and-answer web forum open to all European Member States and the candidates who request to participate in such a forum.

12. After the Director-General has dispatched the names and particulars of candidates to Member States, the Regional Office will post on its web site information on all candidates who so request including their curricula vitae and other particulars of their qualification and experience as received from Member States, as well as their contact information and the relevant rules and decision points pertaining to the nomination process as per Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure. The web site will also provide links to individual web sites of candidates upon request. Each candidate is responsible for setting up and financing his/her own web site.

13. In addition to the above, the Regional Evaluation Group may, if it deems it desirable, make arrangements for candidates to give time-limited oral presentations to the meeting of European Member States convened jointly with the Standing Committee immediately prior to the opening of the World Health Assembly, as per Rule 47.8.

### **III. Nomination**

1. The nomination of the Regional Director is conducted in private meetings of the Regional Committee in accordance with Rule 47.12 of the Rules of Procedure. Attendance at the private meetings is prescribed by the Director-General and limited to essential Secretariat staff besides Member States. Candidates should not attend those meetings even if they form part of the delegation of their country. The votes in the private meeting are conducted by secret ballot. The results of the ballots should not be disclosed by Member States.

2. Member States should abide strictly by Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure and other applicable resolutions and respect the integrity, legitimacy and dignity of the proceedings. As such, they should avoid behaviours and actions, both inside and outside the conference room where the nomination takes place, which could be perceived as aiming at influencing its outcome.

3. Member States should respect the confidentiality of the proceedings and the secrecy of the votes. In particular, they should refrain from communicating or broadcasting the proceedings during the private meetings through electronic devices.

### **IV. Internal candidates**

1. WHO staff members, including the incumbent Regional Director, who are proposed for the post of Regional Director are subject to the obligations contained in the WHO Staff Regulations and Rules, as well as to the guidance that may be issued from time to time by the Director-General.

2. WHO staff members who are proposed for the post of Regional Director must observe the highest standard of ethical conduct and strive to avoid any appearance of impropriety. WHO staff members must clearly separate their WHO functions from their candidacy and avoid any

overlap, or perception of overlap, between campaign activities and their work for WHO. They also have to avoid any perception of conflict of interest.

3. WHO staff members are subject to the authority of the Regional Director and the Director-General, in accordance with the applicable regulations and rules, in case of allegations of breach of their duties with regard to their campaign activities.

4. The Regional Committee may suggest that the Director-General consider applying Staff Rule 650 concerning special leave to staff members who have been proposed for the post of Regional Director.