

Nomination of the Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean

- Note by the Legal Counsel -

1. This document provides a summary of nomination process for the next Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean in advance of and during the Seventieth session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean.

BACKGROUND

2. Article 52 of the [WHO Constitution](#) provides that “the head of the regional office shall be the Regional Director appointed by the Board in agreement with the regional committee”. The appointment of the incumbent Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean comes to an end on 31 January 2024. Therefore, the Regional Committee will consider at its Seventieth session the nomination of the Regional Director for the period beginning 1 February 2024 to enable the Executive Board to consider the matter at its 154th session in January 2024.

3. The applicable legal framework is as follows:

--Rule 51 of the [Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean](#) (the “Rules of Procedure”) governs the process by which the Regional Committee nominates a candidate for the post of Regional Director.

--The [Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board](#) set out how the Board decides on the appointment of a person so nominated.

--In 2012, the Regional Committee decided to use the criteria for assessing candidates for the post of Regional Director that are set out in the annex to decision n. 3, contained in document [EM/RC59/13](#).

--In 2016, the Regional Committee adopted a [Code of Conduct for the nomination of the Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Region](#). A [standard form for the proposal of names of persons for nomination of the Regional Director](#) is contained in the Appendix to the Code of Conduct, which reflects the criteria for assessing candidates referred to above.

THE PROCEDURE IN ADVANCE OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

4. On 4 April 2023, the Director-General informed the Members of the Region that he would receive proposals of names of candidates for nomination by the Committee as Regional Director.¹ Such proposals must be sent to the Director-General so as to reach him no later than Friday, 14 July 2023 18:00 Central European Time, i.e. not less than twelve weeks before the opening of the Regional Committee session.² Member States were informed that proposals must be accompanied by details of each candidate’s qualifications and experience and be submitted using the standard form annexed to the Code of Conduct.

5. No later than ten weeks before the date fixed for the opening of the Regional Committee session, i.e. on or before 28 July 2023, the Director-General will communicate to Members of the Region copies of all proposals for nomination as Regional Director (with particulars of qualifications and experience) that he has received by the deadline.³

6. After the Director-General has communicated copies of all proposals received, he will open on the web site of WHO a password-protected question-and-answer web forum open to all Member States and the candidates who request to participate.⁴ When submitting proposals, Member States are therefore requested to indicate whether the persons proposed for the post of Regional Director are willing to

¹ In accordance with Rule 51(a) of the Rules of Procedure.

² In accordance with Rule 51(b) of the Rules of Procedure.

³ In accordance with Rule 51(d) of the Rules of Procedure.

⁴ Section II of the Code of Conduct.

participate in the web forum.

7. The Regional Office will also post on its web site information on all candidates who so request, including their curricula vitae and other particulars of their qualifications and experience as received from Member States, as well as their contact information. The web site will provide links to individual web sites of candidates upon request. Each candidate will be responsible for setting up and financing her or his own web site. When submitting proposals Member States are requested to indicate whether the persons proposed for the post of Regional Director are willing to post their curricula vitae, other particulars of their qualifications and experience, their contact information, as well as links to their individual web sites if applicable, on the web site of the Regional Office.

THE PROCEDURE DURING THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

8. The nomination of the Regional Director during the Regional Committee is articulated around three stages:

- (i) Establishment of a shortlist in the event that there are more than five candidates;
- (ii) Interviews of candidates;
- (iii) Secret ballot to nominate a candidate.

9. It is anticipated that the nomination of the Regional Director will be considered on 10 October 2023.

10. Member States should respect the integrity, legitimacy and dignity of the proceedings. As such, they should avoid behaviors and actions, both inside and outside the conference room where the nomination takes place, which could be perceived as aiming at influencing its outcome.⁵ Member States should also 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.⁶ Attendance at the private meetings besides Committee members is limited to essential Secretariat staff. Except for their respective interviews, and in accordance with Section III of the Code of Conduct, candidates should not attend those meetings even if they form part of the delegation of their country

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SHORTLIST

11. In the event that more than five candidates are proposed, the Committee is to draw up a shortlist of candidates at the commencement of its session.⁷ For this purpose, the Committee shall hold a secret ballot, and the five candidates obtaining the highest number of votes shall make up the shortlist. In the event of a tie between two or more candidates such that there are more than five candidates identified for inclusion on the shortlist, there shall be additional ballots between the candidates receiving the tied votes, which those receiving the highest number of votes filling the remaining place or places on the shortlist.

INTERVIEWS OF CANDIDATES

12. The persons proposed or, in the event of more than five candidates, those persons on the shortlist, shall be interviewed by the Committee.⁸ The interviews shall consist of a presentation by each candidate in addition to answers to questions from members. The Committee shall determine, as appropriate, modalities for the interviews. In this regard, the Regional Committee may wish to follow the proposed modalities that are set out in the Annex to this document. Such proposed modalities are in line with the approach followed by the Regional Committee at its Sixty-third Session as well as the approach followed since 1998 by the Executive Board for the nomination of the Director-General and the approach followed by other Regional Committees with only minor technical variations.

⁵ Section B.III.2 of the Code of Conduct.

⁶ Section III of the Code of Conduct.

⁷ Rule 51 (f bis) of the Rules of Procedure.

⁸ Rule 51 (f ter) of the Rules of Procedure.

SECRET BALLOT TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE

13. The final stage involves voting by secret ballot to nominate the candidate whose name is to be submitted to the Executive Board for appointment. The procedure for this stage is set out in paragraphs g) to i) of Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure.

14. Each Member State indicates the name of one candidate on his or her ballot paper. If no candidate receives a majority of votes from the representatives present and voting,⁹ the candidate receiving the least number of votes is eliminated at each ballot until a candidate receives the required majority. Rule 51 provides a specific procedure to deal with persistent tied votes between two sole remaining candidates.

15. Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board provides that the appointment of a Regional Director shall be for five years. The Executive Board at its 154th session in January 2024 will appoint the next Regional Director for a period of five years starting from 1 February 2024.

⁹ Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee provides that decisions of the Committee shall be made by a majority of the representatives present and voting which, in accordance with Rule 41, means that abstentions are not counted in calculating the required majority. Consequently, if all 21 representatives entitled to vote cast a valid ballot and none abstains, the required majority is 11. Should five representatives abstain, for example, the Members present and voting would be 16 and the required majority would be 9.

- ANNEX -

**PROPOSED MODALITIES FOR THE INTERVIEW OF CANDIDATES
FOR THE POST OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
REGION**

1. The order in which candidates will be interviewed shall be drawn by lot at a meeting of the Regional Committee.
2. The interviews shall be limited to 40 minutes, equally divided between
 - (i) an oral presentation of the candidate's vision of the future priorities for the Region with an analysis of current problems facing it and suggestions as to how those should be addressed; and
 - (ii) a question and answer session.
3. The Secretariat will time the presentation through a traffic light system. The light will remain green for 17 minutes, then turn to amber to indicate three minutes remaining, and then turn to red after the allotted 20 minutes have expired, at which point the Chairperson will request the candidate to terminate her or his statement;
4. Before the beginning of the oral presentation, the Secretariat will distribute to each Member of the Committee a paper on which the Member may write one question for the candidate. The paper should also identify the Member posing the question. Any official language of the Regional Committee may be used to write questions;
5. At the end of the oral presentation, the Secretariat will collect the papers into a box and hand them to the Chairperson. The Chairperson will draw randomly a question and read it to the candidate, disclosing also which Member is asking the question. If the question does not indicate the Member posing the question, the question will not be read out. The 20 minutes allotted for this part of the presentation process will start running when the Chairperson reads the first question. It is proposed that the candidate have a maximum of 3 minutes to respond to each question.
6. This part of the process will be timed by two sets of traffic lights. One set of traffic lights will time the 20 minutes; the light will turn from green to amber after 17 minutes and will turn red after the 20 minutes have expired. The second set of traffic lights will measure the time allotted for each question; the light will turn to amber after 2 minutes and then to red after 3 minutes, at which point the Chairperson will request the candidates to terminate his response to each question.
7. The same process will be repeated until the 20 minutes have expired. Candidates may finish answering the question being considered when the 20 minutes have expired. If there are insufficient questions to fill 20 minutes, the candidate will be invited to make an additional statement if he or she wishes, provided that the 20 minutes allotted for this part of the presentation should not be exceeded.