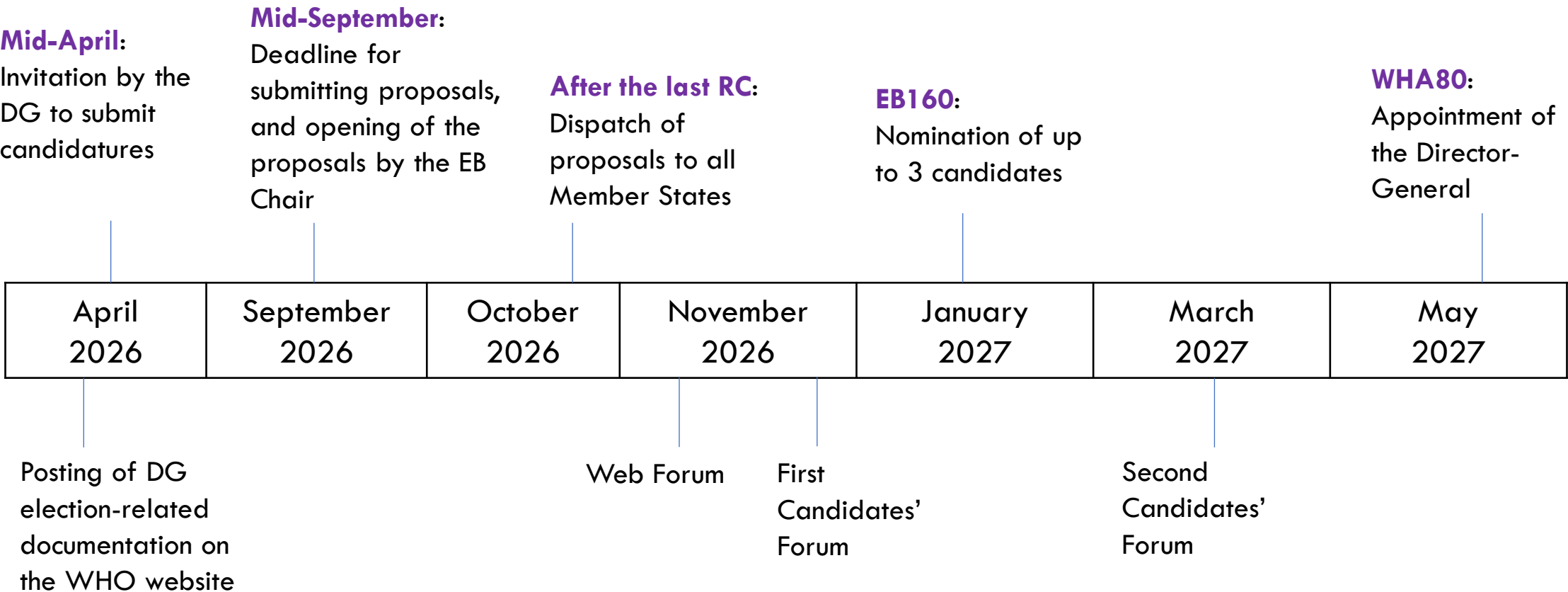


DG Election Process: Legal Basis

- Article 31 of the WHO Constitution
- Rule 62 of the EB Rules of Procedure (as amended in 2020)
- Rules 71 and 108 to 114 of the WHA Rules of Procedure
- Several WHA resolutions and decisions regarding inter alia:
 - Criteria, principles and main elements (res. WHA65.15)
 - Code of Conduct for the Election of the Director-General (res. WHA66.18 and dec. WHA73(27))
 - Candidates' forums (Annex 2 to dec. WHA73(27))
 - Candidates' statements at the WHA and travel support for the candidates' forums (dec. WHA74(21))

DG Election Process: Timeline



Precise dates will depend on the date set for the opening of EB160

DG Election Process: April 2026

- Circular Letter to be sent to all Member States, including:
 - Deadline for submitting candidatures;
 - Standard form for CV
 - Reminder regarding the pledge to observe the Code of Conduct
 - Posting of information about candidates
- Posting of DG election-related information on the WHO's website



DG Election Process: EB159

- EB159: Agenda item on the process for the election of the Director-General
- Matters for consideration by the Board: **Proposed dates of the First and Second Candidates' Forums**
- Matters for information of the Board:
 - Travel support to candidates attending the interviews at EB160 in January 2027
 - Expected arrangements for placing any internal candidates on annual leave

DG Election Process: Code of Conduct for the Election of the DG

- WHA-adopted Code to promote “an open, fair, equitable and transparent process for the election of the Director-General”; not legally binding but “Member States and candidates are expected to honour its contents”
- Sets out principles that guide the whole election process and electoral campaign activities, such as fairness, equity, transparency and good faith
- Contains provisions on, inter alia:
 - Disclosure of campaign activities as well as grants or aid funding to other Member States;
 - Behaviour expected of Member States and candidates, including during the nomination and appointment phases
 - Official travel and campaign activities
 - Internal candidates

DG Election Process: August - October 2026

- **From late August:** regional committees - provision for prospective candidates to attend on request by nominating governments. Campaigning permitted in the margins only
- **Mid-September:** deadline for the **submission of proposals** to be sent under confidential sealed cover to the EB Chair, including:
 - Proposal
 - Pledge to observe the Code of Conduct
 - Candidate's CV (standardized form; max 3500 words; hard and electronic format)
- **Late September:** EB Chair opens the proposals
- **Late October** (after the closure of the last Regional Committee):
 - Dispatch of all proposals, CVs and supporting information received by the deadline to all Member States;
 - Posting of proposals on the WHO's website
- Invitation to candidates to undergo a **medical examination**

DG Election Process: Web Forum (November 2026)

- Only if more than one candidate
- Password-protected forum for questions and answers
- Open to all Member States and candidates
- Expected duration: to be determined
- Supported by the Secretariat

DG Election Process: First Candidates' Forum (November 2026)

- Only if more than one candidate
- To be held no later than two months before the opening of EB160
- Non-decision-making platform for candidates to present themselves on an equal basis
- Structured around interviews of candidates
- Open to Member States and Associate Members, chaired by the EB Chair and broadcast
- Maximum 3 days (exact duration to be decided by the EB Officers)

DG Election Process: Nomination(s) by EB160

- Consideration of proposals at private meetings, except for the interviews
- Initial screening of proposals (by consensus)
- Short-listing of up to five candidates
- Interviews of candidates: presentation and Q&As from EB Members (max 60 minutes each)
- Nomination
 - Up to three candidates from among the short-listed ones
 - By secret ballot

DG Election Process: Second Candidates' Forum (March 2027)

- Only if more than one candidate
- To be held no later than two months before the opening of WHA80, i.e. **late March 2027**
- Non-decision-making platform for candidates to present themselves on an equal basis
- Structured around an interactive panel discussion
- Open to *Member States* and *Associate Members*, chaired by the EB Chair and broadcast
- Duration to be decided by the EB Officers

DG Election Process: Appointment by WHA80 (May 2027)

- Consideration of nominations at a private meeting, except for candidates' statements
- Statements by candidates before the vote for the appointment
- Appointment by secret ballot
- Contract of appointment to be approved by the WHA, and signed jointly by the DG and WHA President
 - Term of office: 5 years; eligible for reappointment once
 - Taking of office: mid-August 2027