

Process for the election of the Director-General

The document provides a description of the process for the election of the Director-General. Further information on the election process and the applicable rules, resolutions and decisions, as well as the text of the Code of Conduct for the Election of the Director-General and Candidates' Forums have been posted in all official languages on the following page of the WHO website: <https://www.who.int/about/governance/election> .

Contents

I.	Process April-December 2021	3
	April – September 2021: Submission of candidatures	3
	April 2021 onwards: Electoral campaign activities, including on the margins of Regional Committee sessions	4
	November 2021: Web forum (if applicable)	6
	November 2021: First candidates' forum (if applicable)	6
II.	Process January-May 2022.....	7
	January 2022: Nomination by the Executive Board at its 150th session	7
	March 2022: Second candidates' forum (if applicable)	10
	May 2022 : Appointment by the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly	11
III.	Adjustments to the process if there is only one candidate	13
IV.	Limitations to physical meetings: contingency arrangements.....	13
V.	Voting scenarios.....	14

I. Process April-December 2021

April – September 2021: Submission of candidatures

Proposal of candidates

1. Through a communication dated 21 April 2021, the Director-General informed Member States that they may propose one or more persons for the post of Director-General.¹
2. Proposals submitted by Member States should be accompanied by the following information:
 - (i) The curriculum vitae (“CV”) of the candidate(s). To this end, the standard form for CV contained in Annex 3 to resolution WHA66.18 should be used as the sole document to be submitted and may not exceed 3500 words.² The 3500-word limit will be interpreted as applying to the CV, including any additional pages that may be added to it in accordance with the standard form for the CV (although excluding the wording of the standard form itself). Reference to “supporting information” in Rule 62 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board will be interpreted as referring only to any additional pages that may be added to the CV in accordance with the standard form itself (and which must therefore be included within the 3500-word limit).³ The Chair of the Executive Board will verify that the word limit is respected⁴ and, should it not be the case, will extract what he or she considers to be essential parts of the CV to reduce it to fewer than 3500 words in the language of submission. The CV must also be submitted in electronic format on a USB memory storage device.
 - (ii) A statement to the effect that the Member State and the person proposed pledged to observe the provisions of the Code of Conduct for the Election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization (the “Code of Conduct”).⁵
3. Proposals must be sent under confidential sealed cover to the Chair of the Executive Board and reach the WHO headquarters in Geneva (Switzerland) not later than 18:00 Central European Time on 23 September 2021.⁶

Opening of proposals

4. Shortly after the expiry of the deadline for submission of candidatures, on 23 September 2021, the Chair of the Executive Board, assisted by the Legal Counsel and other relevant Secretariat staff, as appropriate, will open the proposals received. The Chair of the

¹ i.e. not less than nine months before the date fixed for the opening of the 150th session of the Executive Board at which the nomination for the post of Director-General will take place, in accordance with Rule 62, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

² Resolution WHA66.18, paragraphs 3 and 4.

³ In accordance with the information provided to the Executive Board through document EB148/38.

⁴ Resolution WHA66.18, paragraph 4.

⁵ Section B.I of the Code of Conduct contained in Annex 1 to resolution WHA66.18, as amended by decision WHA73(27).

⁶ i.e. not less than four months before the date fixed for the opening of the 150th session of the Executive Board in accordance with Rule 62, paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

Executive Board will verify that the curricula vitae received have also been submitted electronically and that they respect the 3500-word limit referred to in paragraph 2.⁷

Dispatch of proposals to Member States and publication of information

6. The Secretariat will translate the proposals received into all six WHO official languages and will dispatch them electronically to all Member States after the closure of the last Regional Committee session prior to the 150th session of the Executive Board and in any event at least 10 weeks before the date fixed for the opening of the 150th session of the Executive Board.⁸

7. Shortly after the closure of the last Regional Committee session, the Secretariat will post on the WHO website the statements by which the proposing Member States and the candidates pledge to observe the provisions of the Code of Conduct and information on all candidates, including their curricula vitae and other particulars of their qualifications and experience as received from Member States, as well as their contact information.⁹ The Secretariat will also provide links to individual websites of candidates, if any and upon request. Each candidate is responsible for setting up and financing her or his own website.

Medical examination of candidates

8. To ascertain that candidates fulfil the requirement to have “the good physical condition required of all staff members of the Organization”,¹⁰ the Secretariat will invite candidates to undergo a medical examination. Candidates will be required to bring a completed WHO medical examination form to the attention of the Director, WHO Staff Health and Wellbeing Services at headquarters.¹¹

April 2021 onwards: Electoral campaign activities, including on the margins of Regional Committee sessions

Requirements applying to electoral campaign activities

9. Member States and candidates should conduct electoral campaign activities related to the election of the Director-General, whenever they take place until the appointment by the Health Assembly, in accordance with relevant provisions of the Code of Conduct.

10. In particular, attention is drawn to the following provisions of the Code of Conduct:

- Member States and candidates “should promptly disclose their campaign activities (for example, hosting of meetings, workshops and visits), together with the amount and source of all funding for campaign activities, and communicate them to the Secretariat. Information so disclosed will be posted on a dedicated page of the WHO website”,¹²
- “Member States proposing persons for the post of Director-General should promptly disclose grants or aid funding to other Member States during the campaign period and

⁷ Rule 62, paragraph 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board and resolution WHA66.18, paragraph 4.

⁸ Rule 62, paragraph 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

⁹ Section B.II.11 of the Code of Conduct.

¹⁰ Resolution WHA65.15, operative paragraph 1(8)(f).

¹¹ Based on past practice developed by the Secretariat and agreed upon by the Board in resolution EB120.R19.

¹² Section B.II.3 of the Code of Conduct.

the previous two years in order to ensure full transparency and mutual confidence among Member States.”.¹³

Electoral campaign activities on the margins of governing bodies sessions

11. Under the Code of Conduct, Member States and candidates are invited to consider using as much as possible existing mechanisms for meetings and other promotional activities linked to the electoral campaign. Furthermore, candidates, whether internal or external, “should not combine their official travel with campaigning activities” and “[e]lectoral promotion or propaganda under the guise of technical meetings or similar events should also be avoided.”¹⁴ It is understood, however, that “candidates for the post of Director-General on official travel may participate in the web forum, the candidates’ forums and in campaign activities on the margins of regional committee sessions.”.¹⁵

12. Prospective candidate(s) may be invited to attend regional committee sessions upon request of the proposing Member State(s) to the Regional Directors concerned. In this regard, the Secretariat informed the Executive Board at its 148th session that the following guidance should be observed:¹⁶

- (a) it is not expected that campaigning will take place as part of the regional committees’ official programmes and, in particular, prospective candidate(s) and Member States will not be given speaking time during official meetings to promote a candidacy;
- (b) prospective candidate(s) and Member States may themselves hold campaign events in the margins of regional committees. These may consist of meetings organized by, or in support of, individual prospective candidates, or of meetings organized by Member States or groups of Member States to hear from several prospective candidates. Such events should take place during breaks in the official programmes, or before or after official meetings of the regional committees;
- (c) given that regional committee sessions will take place before the official announcement of names of candidates for the post of Director-General, it is envisaged that neither will prospective candidate(s) officially present candidatures to any of the regional committees nor will the Secretariat organize any events for prospective candidates in the margins of regional committee meetings;
- (d) Regional Directors will inform Members of regional committees in advance if any prospective candidates have been invited to observe the proceedings and, if so, that campaign activities are likely to take place in the margins of the committees’ meetings; and
- (e) in order to ensure equal treatment and fairness, to the extent that opportunities are provided for campaign activities, these opportunities must be open to all prospective candidates on a similar basis.

Furthermore, depending on the availability of the venue of the regional committee session, the relevant Regional Office may provide, on an equal basis, office space or any other facilities to prospective candidate(s).

¹³ Section B.II.7 of the Code of Conduct.

¹⁴ Section B.II.10 of the Code of Conduct .

¹⁵ Ibidem.

¹⁶ Document EB148/38.

November 2021: Web forum (if applicable)

Duration and participation

13. After the dispatch of all proposals and curricula vitae to Member States, and if there is more than one candidate,¹⁷ the Secretariat will open on the WHO website a forum for questions and answers, open to all Member States and candidates. It is expected that the web forum will open by the end of November 2021.

Access

14. The Secretariat will provide each Member State with user accounts to access the web forum. Member States and candidates will be provided with technical instructions on how to access and use the web forum.

Web forum modalities

15. Member States and candidates will have the opportunity to post questions and answers, respectively, in any of the six WHO official languages. In line with the approach that was followed during the last election, translation of questions and answers will be provided into English only. The web forum will remain available to read-only until the appointment of the Director-General in May 2022.

November 2021: First candidates' forum (if applicable)

Duration and participation

16. If there is more than one candidate, the Director-General will, in consultation with the Chair, convene a first candidates' forum open to all Member States and Associate Members, to which all candidates will be invited to make themselves and their vision known to Member States on an equal basis.¹⁸

17. The first candidates' forum will be held starting on 22 November 2021 for a duration that will be further decided by the Officers of the Executive Board depending on the number of candidates,¹⁹ but will not exceed three days.

18. The candidates' forum will be broadcast through a link on the WHO website accessible to the public.²⁰ All candidates participating in the candidates' forum will be provided with financial travel support, consisting of an economy-class airline ticket and a per diem for the time necessary for the interview.²¹

¹⁷ Code of Conduct, section B.II.11.

¹⁸ Rule 62, paragraph 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

¹⁹ Decision EB149(4).

²⁰ Decision WHA73(27), Annex 2.

²¹ Decision WHA74(21).

Modalities

19. The first candidates' forum will be chaired by the Chair of the Executive Board with the support of the Officers of the Executive Board.²² Each candidate will make a presentation of up to 10 minutes, which will be followed by a question-and-answer session so that the overall duration of each interview will be 60 minutes. The order of interviews will be determined by lot. The interviews of candidates at the first candidates' forum will be conducted in accordance with the detailed arrangements set out in the Annex to decision EB149(4). If circumstances preclude the holding of the candidates' forums in person, please see Section III below of this Handbook.

II. Process January-May 2022

January 2022: Nomination by the Executive Board at its 150th session

Travel support to candidates

20. In line with previous practice, the Secretariat will provide, upon request, travel support to all candidates attending the interviews at the session of the Executive Board at which the nomination took place. Support will consist of an economy class airline ticket and a per diem for the time necessary for the interview.²³

Nature of the Board's meetings

21. With the exception of meetings at which candidates for the post of Director-General are interviewed, all meetings related to the nomination of the Director-General will be convened as private meetings.²⁴ Accordingly:

- no record shall be made of such meetings; and
- attendance will be open to: members of the Executive Board, their alternates and advisers; one representative of each Member State not represented on the Executive Board and of each Associate Member; and the Secretariat. Representatives of Member States not represented on the Executive Board and of Associate Members may attend without the right to participate.

Consideration of this item by the Executive Board will take place in the phases outlined below.

In the event that the 150th session of the Executive Board were to be held in person, the secret ballot vote for the nomination of the Director-General will be conducted following a paper-based system, in accordance with decision EB146(22) (2020).²⁵ If circumstances

²² Rule 62, paragraph 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board; decision WHA73(27), Annex 2.

²³ Document EB149/4, paragraph 8.

²⁴ Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, as amended by decision EB146(22).

²⁵ Decision EB149(5).

preclude the holding of the 150th session of the Executive Board in person, please see Section III below.

Initial screening

22. In accordance with Rule 62 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, “[a]ll Members of the Board shall have the opportunity to participate in an initial screening of all candidatures in order to eliminate those candidates not meeting the criteria proposed by the Executive Board and approved by the Health Assembly”. These criteria have been set out in resolution [WHA65.15](#), according to which the Executive Board “should ensure that the nominated candidates fulfil the following criteria, while underscoring the paramount importance of professional qualifications and integrity and the need to pay due regard to equitable geographical representation, as well as gender balance in the process leading to the nomination of the candidate(s) that should be submitted to the Health Assembly; he or she should have:

- (a) a strong technical background in a health field, including experience in public health;
- (b) exposure to and extensive experience in international health;
- (c) demonstrable leadership skills and experience;
- (d) excellent communication and advocacy skills;
- (e) demonstrable competence in organizational management;
- (f) sensitivity to cultural, social and political differences;
- (g) strong commitment to the mission and objectives of WHO;
- (h) good health condition required of all staff members of the Organization;
- (i) sufficient skill in at least one of the official working languages of the Executive Board and the Health Assembly.”

23. The initial screening will be conducted by the Executive Board early in the session. With respect to the criterion of benefitting from a good health condition, the Chair will inform the Executive Board about the outcome of the assessment made by the Director, Staff Health and Wellbeing Services at WHO headquarters of the candidates’ fulfilment of this criterion.²⁶

24. A candidate is excluded at this stage if there is consensus in the Executive Board that he or she does not meet the criteria set out above.²⁷

Shortlisting

25. In the event that more than five candidates are proposed, the Executive Board will draw up a short list of five candidates.²⁸ The short list will be determined through one or more secret ballots, during which members will vote for the number of candidates equal to the

²⁶ Resolution EB120.R19, operative paragraph 1.

²⁷ Decision EB100(7); document EB132/29, paragraph 23.

²⁸ Rule 62(7) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board; decision EB100(7).

number of places to be filled, i.e. five.²⁹ The candidate or candidates receiving the lowest number of votes, as well as any candidates not receiving a minimum proportion of the votes cast (set at 10% of the ballot papers) will be eliminated until the number of remaining candidates equals the number of places to be filled.³⁰ If there are five or fewer candidates, this stage of the process will be omitted.

26. In line with the approach that was followed during the last election, the terms “votes cast” and “ballot papers” will be interpreted as referring to “members present and voting”.³¹ Under the Rules, the term “members present and voting” refers to those members casting a valid affirmative or negative vote, whereas members abstaining from voting will be considered as not voting”.³² This is the figure the Secretariat will use when calculating the minimum proportion of votes cast for the purpose of elimination of candidates. Thus, the 10% threshold will be attained by a candidate if he or she secures 3 votes when the number of members present and voting is between 21 and 30 (inclusive), and 4 when the number of members present and voting is between 31 and 34 (inclusive).

Interviews of candidates

27. The shortlisted candidates³³ will be interviewed by the Executive Board as a whole as soon as possible.³⁴ The day for the interviews will be determined in consultation with the Chair. If necessary, the Executive Board may extend the session in order to hold interviews and make its selection.³⁵ Candidates attending the interviews will receive financial travel support, consisting of an economy-class airline ticket and a per diem for the time necessary for the interview.

28. Each interview will be limited to 60 minutes, divided between (i) an oral presentation of no more than 20 minutes on the candidate's vision for the future priorities of the Organization, with an analysis of current problems facing it and suggestions as to how those should be addressed, and (ii) a question and answer session of no more than 40 minutes.³⁶ However, if there are insufficient questions to fill the allotted time, the candidate may make additional statements until the end of the period set for the interview provided that the total time of 60 minutes is not exceeded. Interviews will take place in open meetings and will be broadcast.

Nomination phase

29. The Executive Board will fix a date for the meeting at which it will nominate up to three persons by secret ballot, from among the candidates presented, or those on the short list if one was established. In the exceptional circumstance in which the nomination of three candidates is not practicable, for instance when there are only one or two candidates, the Executive Board may decide to nominate fewer than three candidates.³⁷ A vote by secret ballot is required, even in cases in which there is one candidate.

²⁹ Decision EB100(7), paragraphs 2 and 4.

³⁰ Decision EB100(7), paragraph 3.

³¹ Decision EB149(4).

³² In accordance with Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

³³ Or the candidates retained after initial screening, if five or fewer.

³⁴ Rule 62, paragraph 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

³⁵ Rule 62, paragraph 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

³⁶ Decision EB146(22).

³⁷ Rule 62, paragraph 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

30. Each member of the Executive Board will select the names of three candidates from the short list. Those candidates obtaining in the first ballot the majority required, i.e. a simple majority, will be elected. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of places to be filled, the candidate having received the least number of votes will be eliminated at each ballot. If two candidates tie for the least number of votes, a separate ballot is held between them and the candidate receiving the least number of votes will be eliminated. If more than three candidates secure the simple majority of Members present and voting in the first round of voting, those candidates obtaining the largest number of votes will be nominated.³⁸ The same mechanism applies, *mutatis mutandis*, when the Executive Board decides to nominate fewer than three candidates.³⁹ Members abstaining from voting are considered as not voting⁴⁰ and will not be counted for purposes of calculating the majority.

Submission of names of nominated candidates to the Health Assembly

31. The name of the person(s) nominated by the Executive Board will be announced at a public meeting of the Executive Board, to be convened immediately after the adjournment of the private meeting, and will be submitted to the Health Assembly.⁴¹ The Executive Board will propose a draft contract establishing the terms and conditions of appointment, salary and other emoluments attached to the office.⁴² The contract's duration is set at five years, starting from 16 August 2022⁴³, with eligibility for reappointment only once.⁴⁴

32. In order to enable all candidates nominated by the Executive Board to have access to appropriate information to support their candidacy, the Secretariat will make available to all candidates, on an equal basis, any information that may have been requested in the context of the election by one of the candidates.⁴⁵

March 2022: Second candidates' forum (if applicable)

33. If there is more than one candidate, the Director-General will, in consultation with the Chair, convene a second candidates' forum following the nomination of candidates by the Executive Board. The second candidates' forum will consist of a more interactive panel discussion between the candidates and Member States and Associate Members attending the forum.⁴⁶

34. The second candidates' forum will be held starting on 16 March 2022 for a duration that will be decided by the Officers of the Executive Board depending on the number of nominated candidates,⁴⁷ but will in any case not exceed three days. As for the first candidates' forum, financial travel support, consisting of an economy-class airline ticket and

³⁸ Decision EB149(4).

³⁹ Rule 62, paragraph 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

⁴⁰ Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

⁴¹ Rule 62, paragraph 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

⁴² Rule 112 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly.

⁴³ In accordance with decision WHA73(16).

⁴⁴ Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly.

⁴⁵ Document EB148/38, paragraph 19.

⁴⁶ Decision WHA73(27), Annex 2.

⁴⁷ Decision EB149(4).

a per diem for the time necessary for the interview, shall be provided to all candidates participating in the candidates' forums.⁴⁸

35. Detailed arrangements for the second candidates' forum will be considered and decided by the Executive Board at its 150th session in January 2022. If circumstances preclude the holding of the candidates' forums in person, please see Section III below.

May 2022 : Appointment by the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly

Candidates' statements (if applicable)

36. Unless there is only one candidate, candidates nominated by the Executive Board will address the Health Assembly before the vote for the appointment of the Director-General, as follows: (a) statements would be limited to a maximum of 15 minutes each; (b) the order of statements would be decided by lot; (c) there would be no questions and answers after the statements; and (d) candidates' statements would be webcast on the WHO website in all official WHO languages.⁴⁹

Appointment

37. The Health Assembly will consider the Executive Board's nomination at a private meeting, which will be open to delegations of Members as well as to representatives of Associate Members and of the United Nations.⁵⁰ In the event that the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly were to be held in person, the secret ballot vote for the appointment of the Director-General will be conducted following a paper-based system, in accordance with decision WHA73(16).⁵¹ If circumstances preclude the holding of the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly in person, please see Section III below.

38. The Health Assembly will appoint the Director-General by secret ballot.⁵² To this end, a clear and strong majority of Members present and voting, as set forth in Rule 110 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly, is required.⁵³ What constitutes a clear and strong majority is defined according to the stage of the election reached.

When three persons are nominated by the Executive Board, the following procedure applies

39. When the Executive Board nominates three persons:

- (a) If in the first ballot a candidate obtains a two third majority or more of the Members present and voting, this will be considered a clear and strong majority and he or she will be appointed Director-General. If no candidate obtains the required majority, the

⁴⁸ Decision WHA74(21).

⁴⁹ Decision WHA74(21).

⁵⁰ Rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly.

⁵¹ Decision WHA74(22).

⁵² Rule 110 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly.

⁵³ Rule 71 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly.

candidate having received the least number of votes will be eliminated. If two candidates tie for the least number of votes, a separate ballot will be held between them and the candidate receiving the least number of votes will be eliminated.

- (b) In the subsequent ballot, a candidate will be appointed Director-General if he or she obtains a two-thirds majority or more of the Members present and voting, which will be considered a clear and strong majority.
- (c) If no candidate receives the majority indicated in subparagraph (b), a candidate will be appointed Director-General if he or she receives in the subsequent ballot a majority of the Member States of the World Health Organization or more, which will be considered a clear and strong majority.
- (d) If no candidate receives the majority indicated in subparagraph (c), a candidate will be appointed Director-General if he or she receives in the subsequent ballot a majority of the Members present and voting, which will be considered a clear and strong majority.

When two persons are nominated by the Executive Board, the following procedure applies:

- 40. When the Executive Board nominates two persons⁵⁴:
 - (a) A candidate will be appointed Director-General if he or she obtains a majority of two thirds or more of the Members present and voting, which will be considered a clear and strong majority.
 - (b) If no candidate receives the majority indicated in subparagraph (a), a candidate will be appointed Director-General if he or she receives in the subsequent ballot a majority of the Member States of the World Health Organization or more, which will be considered a clear and strong majority.
 - (c) If no candidate receives the majority indicated in subparagraph (b), a candidate will be appointed Director-General if he or she receives in the subsequent ballot a majority or more of the Members present and voting, which will be considered a clear and strong majority.

When one person is nominated by the Executive Board, the following procedure applies:

- 41. If the Executive Board nominates one person, the Health Assembly will decide by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting.⁵⁵

Announcement and contract of appointment

- 42. The decision of the Health Assembly will be announced at a public meeting.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ Rule 110, n. 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly.

⁵⁵ Rule 110, n. 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly.

⁵⁶ Rule 21 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly.

43. Once the Director-General is appointed, the Health Assembly will approve his or her contract of appointment, which will be signed jointly by the Director-General and the President of the World Health Assembly, acting in the name of the World Health Organization.⁵⁷

III. Adjustments to the process if there is only one candidate

44. If there is only one candidate proposed for the position of Director-General, the procedure outlined in the preceding paragraphs will be adjusted as follows consistent with relevant Rules of Procedure, resolutions and decisions of the governing bodies:

- Neither the web forum nor the candidates' forums would be convened.
- At the 150th session of the Executive Board, the shortlisting phase of five candidates would not take place. The Executive Board would therefore conduct the initial screening of the candidate, interview the candidate and nominate the candidate through a secret ballot vote.
- At the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly, the candidate would not deliver a statement prior to the vote for appointment. The Health Assembly would however still need to appoint the Director-General through a secret ballot vote.

IV. Limitations to physical meetings: contingency arrangements

45. If limitations to physical meetings preclude the holding of the candidates' forums, the 150th session of the Executive Board or the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly in person, the following contingency arrangements will apply.

150th session of the Executive Board

46. The nomination of candidates for the position of Director-General would take place in accordance with the contingency arrangements decided by the Executive Board, through a written silence procedure, based on a proposal by the Officers of the Board, following consultation with all Member States.⁵⁸

Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly:

47. The appointment of the Director-General would take place in accordance with the contingency arrangements decided by the Executive Board, through a written silence procedure, based on a proposal by the Officers of the Board, following consultation with all Member States.⁵⁹

⁵⁷ Rule 110 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly.

⁵⁸ Decision EB149(5).

⁵⁹ Decision WHA74(22).

V. Voting scenarios

1. **What happens if there is only one candidate for the position of Director-General? Will voting still be required at the 150th session of the Executive Board and/or at the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly?**

If there is only one candidate, the Executive Board will not need to draw up a short list of up to five candidates. The Executive Board will however still need to nominate the candidate by secret ballot⁶⁰.

At the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly, if the Executive Board nominates one person, the Health Assembly will appoint the Director-General by secret ballot, by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting.⁶¹

2. **What happens if, during the shortlisting phase at the Executive Board, two or more candidates, having received more than 10% of the votes cast by members present and voting, tie for the least number of votes in such a way that if they were both (all) eliminated the shortlist would consist of fewer than five names?**

In such an eventuality, a ballot would be held among the tying candidates to determine who among them will be elected to fill the available places on the shortlist.⁶²

3. **What happens if, during the shortlisting phase at the Executive Board, two or more candidates receive less than 10% of the votes cast by members present and voting in such a way that if they were both (all) eliminated the shortlist would consist of fewer than five names?**

In such an eventuality, it would be proposed to the Executive Board to proceed by eliminating the candidate(s) receiving the least number of votes among the two or more candidates having received less than 10% of the votes cast by members present and voting in order to arrive at a shortlist of five candidates.

4. **What happens if, during the nomination phase at the Executive Board, more than three candidates obtain in the first ballot the majority required?**

It is possible for more than three candidates to secure a simple majority of the members present and voting in the first round of voting, as required by the Rule 62, paragraph 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, although only three places are available on the nomination list. In such an eventuality, the interpretation set out in the Draft Standard Rules of Procedure for United Nations Conferences will be followed, according to which those candidates, in a number not exceeding the number of places to be filled, obtaining in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast and the largest number of the votes shall be nominated.

⁶⁰ Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

⁶¹ Rule 110(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly.

⁶² Rule 61 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

- 5. What happens if, during the nomination phase at the Executive Board, four candidates obtain in the first ballot the majority required, two of whom tie for the least number of votes among those obtaining the required majority?**

A separate ballot will be held between the candidates tying for the least number of votes, and the candidate receiving the least number of votes will be eliminated.

- 6. What happens if, during the nomination phase at the Executive Board, fewer than three candidates obtain in the first ballot the majority required?**

If two candidates obtain in the first ballot the majority required, those two candidates are nominated. A further ballot will be conducted to determine which of the remaining candidates fills the remaining place on the nomination list.

If one candidate obtains in the first ballot the majority required, that candidate is nominated. One or more further ballots will be conducted to determine which of the remaining candidates fill the remaining places on the nomination list.

If at any stage, two candidates have been nominated and, after eliminating the candidate having received the least number of votes, only one candidate remains, a further ballot will be held involving that one candidate. If the candidate obtains the required majority, he or she will be nominated; if the candidate fails to obtain the required majority, the Executive Board will consider whether to nominate fewer than three candidates or how otherwise to proceed.

- 7. What happens if, during the nomination phase at the Executive Board, no candidate obtains in the first ballot the majority required?**

If no candidate obtains in the first ballot the majority required, further ballots will be conducted to determine which candidates fill the places on the nomination list.