



**DRAFT SPECIAL PROCEDURES TO REGULATE  
THE CONDUCT OF VIRTUAL SESSIONS OF THE  
REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC**

*(from 29 July 2020 Note verbale)*

# **DRAFT SPECIAL PROCEDURES TO REGULATE THE CONDUCT OF VIRTUAL SESSIONS OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR WESTERN PACIFIC**

## **Rules of procedure**

1. The Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific shall continue to apply in full, except to the extent that they are inconsistent with these Special Procedures, in which case the Regional Committee's decision to adopt these Special Procedures shall operate as a decision to suspend the relevant Rules of Procedure to the extent necessary in accordance with Rule 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific.<sup>1</sup>

## **Attendance and quorum**

2. Attendance by Member States, Associate Members, areas participating pursuant to Article 47 of the WHO Constitution, invited representatives of the United Nations and of other participating intergovernmental organizations and non-state actors in official relations with WHO and observers shall be through a secured access to videoconference or other electronic means.

3. For the avoidance of doubt, virtual attendance of representatives entitled to vote shall be taken into account when calculating the presence of a quorum.

## **Addressing the Regional Committee**

4. During the virtual session Member States, Associate Members and areas participating pursuant to Article 47 of the WHO Constitution shall be provided with the opportunity to take the floor. Invited representatives of the United Nations and of other participating intergovernmental organizations and non-state actors in official relations with WHO may be given the floor at the invitation of the Chairperson or on her or his acceding to a request from the organization concerned.

5. Member States, Associate Members, areas participating pursuant to Article 47 of the WHO Constitution, invited representatives of the United Nations and of other participating

---

<sup>1</sup> This will affect notably the relevant provisions of the following Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific:

- Rules 3 and 3 bis (credentials and examination of credentials by the Officers of the Regional Committee);
- Rules 44, 48 through 50 (voting by show of hands and secret ballot); and
- Rule 53 (amendments and additions to the Rules of Procedure) insofar as these Special Procedures may be regarded as additions to the Rules of Procedure and to the extent that Rule 53 requires receipt and consideration of a report thereon by an appropriate sub-committee.

intergovernmental organizations and non-state actors in official relations with WHO are invited to submit written statements relating to one or more of the items on the agenda of the Regional Committee session in one of the official languages of the Committee (i.e. Chinese, English or French) for web-posting in the language of submission.<sup>2</sup> Written statements submitted by Member States, Associate Members and areas participating pursuant to Article 47 of the WHO Constitution will be reflected in the report of the Regional Committee session. Written statements submitted by invited representatives of the United Nations and of other participating intergovernmental organizations and non-state actors in official relations with WHO will be listed in the report of the Regional Committee session.

6. Invited representatives of the United Nations and of other participating intergovernmental organizations and non-state actors in official relations with WHO shall also have the opportunity, if they so wish, to submit pre-recorded video statements of no more than two minutes in duration in advance of the opening of the session, by Friday, 18 September 2020 at 17:00 (Philippine time). Those video statements will be available on the website for viewing and may be broadcast at the virtual meeting at the discretion of the Chairperson.

7. Any representative wishing to take the floor should signal their wish to speak<sup>3</sup>. Any Member wishing to raise a point of order or exercise a right of reply in relation to a statement made at the virtual session of the Regional Committee should signal their intention to do so<sup>4</sup>. The right of reply shall be exercised at the end of the relevant virtual meeting. Any Member wishing to exercise a right of reply in relation to a written statement or pre-recorded video statement not broadcast at the virtual meeting should do it in writing as soon as possible and, in any case, no later than 10 working days following closure of the Regional Committee session. A Member wishing to respond to such a reply should do so in writing as soon as possible and, in any case, no later than 10 working days following the posting of the reply.

## **Registration and credentials**

8. Online registration will follow normal practice. Additional information is provided in the related invitation letter.

9. In accordance with Rules 3 and 3 bis, the names of representatives, which in the case of Members, Associate Members and areas participating pursuant to Article 47 of the WHO Constitution shall take the form of credentials, shall be communicated electronically to the Regional Director if possible no later than fifteen days before the opening of the Regional Committee. Given the need to facilitate virtual access to the meeting, all credentials and lists of representatives should be submitted electronically.

---

<sup>2</sup> Additional information about the modalities to submit written statements will be provided in the notice of invitation.

<sup>3</sup> Modalities for taking the floor will depend on the platform used for the virtual session and will be communicated in due course.

<sup>4</sup> Modalities for raising points of order and exercising the right of reply will depend on the platform used for the virtual session and will be communicated in due course.

10. The Chairperson of the seventieth session of the Regional Committee having assessed, before the opening of the seventy-first session, whether credentials of representatives are in conformity with the requirements of the Rules of Procedure, shall report to the Regional Committee accordingly during the opening with a view to the Regional Committee making a decision thereon.

11. The Chairperson of the seventy-first session of the Regional Committee shall be invited, during the seventy-first session, to assess whether credentials submitted by representatives following the decision of the Regional Committee at the opening of its session are in conformity with the requirements of the Rules of Procedure and shall report to the Regional Committee accordingly with a view to the Regional Committee making a decision thereon.

### **Decision-making**

12. All decisions of the Regional Committees taken in the virtual session should as far as possible be taken by consensus. In any event, given the virtual nature of the session, no decision shall be taken by a show of hands or by secret ballot. In the event of a roll-call vote, and in line with normal practice, should any delegate fail to cast a vote for any reason during the roll-call, that delegate shall be called upon a second time after the conclusion of the initial roll-call. Should the delegate fail to cast a vote on the second roll-call, the delegation shall be recorded as absent.

### **Languages**

13. For the avoidance of doubt, Rule 22 continues to apply, whereby speeches made in either of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working language and into Chinese; and speeches made in Chinese shall be interpreted into both working languages.