

Nomination of the Regional Director

- Note by the Legal Counsel -

1. This document provides a summary of the nomination process for the next Regional Director for the Western Pacific in advance of and during the Sixty-ninth session of the Regional Committee in Manila, Philippines in October 2018.

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 Western Pacific, Dr Shin Young-soo, comes to an end on 31 January 2019. Therefore, the Regional Committee should consider at its Sixty-ninth session in October 2018 the nomination of the Regional Director for the period beginning 1 February 2019, to enable the Executive Board to consider the matter at its 144th session in January 2019.

3. [Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee](#) for the Western Pacific 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 then decides on the appointment of a person so nominated. In 2012, the Regional Committee also adopted a [Code of Conduct for the Nomination of the Regional Director of the Western Pacific Region of the World Health Organization](#).

THE PROCEDURE IN ADVANCE OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

4. On 23 March 2018, the Director-General informed each Member of the Regional Committee that he would receive, for consideration by the Regional Committee, any proposals from Members for the names of candidates for the post of Regional Director. Such proposals shall be sent to the Director-General, so as to reach him at the Headquarters of the Organization at Geneva, Switzerland, not less than twelve weeks before the date fixed for the opening of the session, i.e. they should reach the Director-General no later than 18:00 Central European Time on Friday, 13 July 2018. In addition, Member States will be informed that proposals must be accompanied by the necessary particulars of each person'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 session, i.e. on or before 29 July 2018, the Director-General will communicate to Members the names of the candidates that he has received by the deadline together with the curriculae vitae and other supporting material submitted by Members.

6. As provided by Section B.II of the Code of Conduct, after the Director-General has dispatched the names and particulars of candidates 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. When submitting proposals, Members are therefore requested to indicate whether the persons proposed for the post of Regional Director are willing to participate in the web forum. A password and instructions related to the use of the web forum will be provided at the time the Director-General informs Member States of the proposals received. It is anticipated that the web forum will take place between 20 August 2018 and 14 September 2018.

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 procedure during the Regional Committee consists of three stages:

- (i) establishment of a shortlist in the event that there are more than five candidates;
- (ii) interviews of candidates;
- (iii) vote to nominate a candidate.

9. Subject to the agreement of the Regional Committee and depending on the number of persons proposed for the post of Regional Director, it is anticipated that the establishment of a short list and the establishment of the modalities for the interviews will be conducted in the afternoon of 8 October 2018 and that interviews and voting to nominate a candidate will take place on 9 October 2018. These will be private meetings of the Regional Committee in accordance with Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure. The result of the election will be announced afterwards at a public meeting of the Committee. Attendance at the private meetings besides Committee members is prescribed by the Director-General and limited to essential Secretariat staff. Except for their respective interviews, and in accordance with Section B.III of the Code of Conduct, candidates should not attend those meetings even if they form part of the delegation of their country.

10. Also in accordance with the Section B.III of the Code of Conduct, 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.

11. Within delegations, any representative is entitled to vote on behalf of his or her delegation. In accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the Regional Committee, representatives may designate an alternate to vote on behalf of the delegation, but not an adviser. The badges of representatives and alternates will be marked with two red stripes so as to allow easy identification of persons capable of being designated to vote on behalf of the delegation. It is therefore of paramount importance that Members wishing to vote be represented at the Regional Committee and communicate to the Regional Director, if possible 15 days before the date fixed for the opening of the session of the Committee, the names of their representatives, including all alternates and advisers. The credentials of representatives shall be delivered to the Regional Director, if possible, not less than one day before the opening of the session of the Committee.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SHORTLIST

12. 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. 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 tie votes, with those receiving the highest number of votes filling the remaining place or places on the shortlist.

INTERVIEWS OF CANDIDATES

13. Candidates shall be interviewed by the Committee (Rule 51). In accordance with [resolution WPR/RC61.R3](#) of the Regional Committee, the order in which candidates will be interviewed shall be drawn by lot and the interviews shall be limited to 60 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 period.

14. Rule 51 further provides that the Committee shall determine, as appropriate, modalities for the interview. Additional details are, therefore, described in the proposed modalities for interviews of candidates, [annexed to this document](#). It is assumed that the Regional Committee will wish to follow this approach again, which also follows closely the approach used since 1998 by the Executive Board for the nomination of the Director-General and the approach used by other Regional Committees to interview candidates for the post of Regional Director.

VOTE TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE

15. The final stage involves voting to nominate the candidate whose name is to be submitted to the Executive Board for appointment. The procedure for this stage is also set out in Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure.

16. In summary, each representative 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,¹ 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.

17. Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board provides that the appointment of a Regional Director shall be for five years, the Regional Committee does not therefore need to make any recommendation in this regard.

¹ 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 30 representatives entitled to vote cast a valid ballot and none abstains, the required majority is 16. Should five representatives abstain, for example, the Members present and voting would be 25 and the required majority would be 13.

- ANNEX -
MODALITIES FOR INTERVIEWS OF CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF REGIONAL
DIRECTOR OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

It is proposed that the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific implement the modalities for interviews of candidates for the post of Regional Director for the Western Pacific set out in [resolution WPR/RC61.R3](#) of the Regional Committee as follows.

1. The presentations are currently scheduled to be held on the second day of the session of the Regional Committee (*i.e.* Tuesday 9 October);
2. The Secretariat will time the presentation through a traffic light system. The light will remain green for 27 minutes, then turn to amber and turn to red after the allotted 30 minutes have expired, at which point the Chairperson will request the candidate to terminate his/her statement;
3. Before the beginning of the 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;
4. At the end of the presentation, an usher on the staff of the Secretariat will collect the papers into a box and hand them to the Chairperson. The Chairperson will draw at random a question and read it to the candidate, disclosing which Member is asking the question. (If the question does not indicate the Member posing the question, the question will not be read). The 30 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.
5. This part of the process will be timed by two sets of traffic lights. One set of traffic lights will time the 30 minutes; the light will turn from green to amber after 27 minutes and will turn red after the 30 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.
6. The same process will be repeated until the 30 minutes have expired. If there are not enough questions to fill 30 minutes, the candidate will be invited to make an additional statement if she or he wishes, provided that the 30 minutes allotted for this part of the presentation should not be exceeded.
7. Both the presentation and the question-and-answer session are conducted without the use of any visual aid (e.g. PowerPoint presentations) or the distribution of any written material in the meeting room.
8. It is proposed that, following the candidates' interviews, the Committee move immediately to the secret ballot to nominate the Regional Director in accordance with Rule 51 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure.