



**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**

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Agenda item 17

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE NOMINATION  
OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The Sixty-third session of the Regional Committee for Africa revised the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee, including the amendment to Rule 52 on the process of nomination of persons to the post of Regional Director. This was in follow-up to decision WHA65(9)<sup>1</sup> endorsed by the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly on harmonization across Regional Committees in relation to the processes for nominating Regional Directors, among other issues. In addition to the Regional Committee for Africa, other Regional Committees have also strengthened their processes for nomination of persons for the post of Regional Director, including through adoption of Codes of Conduct. The adoption of a Code of Conduct by the Sixty-eighth session of the Regional Committee for Africa would further strengthen the nomination process; promote the principles of fairness, accountability and transparency and improve harmonization across the regional committees.

2. This Code of Conduct builds on, and reinforces, the provisions pertaining to the nomination of the Regional Director for the African Region as set out in Rule 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa.<sup>2</sup> It also takes into account the issues raised in document EB142/26 on the Evaluation of the election of the Director-General which was considered by the 142nd session of the Executive Board in January 2018.<sup>3</sup> The adoption of the Code will necessitate an amendment to Rule 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee. The amendment is an additional clause to Rule 52.1, which now includes the following: *“In the information sent to Member States, the Director-General shall attach the Code of Conduct for the nomination of the Regional Director and draw the attention of the Member States to the need to honour and adhere to the provisions set out in the Code”*.

3. The Code of Conduct (hereinafter “the Code”) aims to promote an open, equitable and transparent process for the nomination for the Regional Director of the African Region of the World Health Organization (WHO).<sup>4</sup> In seeking to improve the overall process, the Code addresses a number of areas, including the submission of proposals and the conduct of electoral campaigns by Member States and candidates.

4. The Code is a political understanding reached by the Member States of the African Region. It recommends desirable conduct by Member States and candidates with regard to the nomination of the Regional Director, with the aim of increasing the fairness, openness and transparency of the process and thus its validity, as well as the legitimacy and acceptance of its outcome. As such, Member States and candidates are expected to abide by its contents.

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

### *Basic principles*

5. The entire nomination process, as well as the electoral campaign activities related to it, should be guided both by the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa and by the following principles that further the legitimacy of the process and of its outcome: fairness, equity, transparency, good faith, dignity, mutual respect and moderation, non-discrimination and merit.

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<sup>1</sup> WHA65(9) WHO reform ([http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA65/A65\\_DIV3-en.pdf](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA65/A65_DIV3-en.pdf)) accessed on 1 June 2018

<sup>2</sup> Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for Africa (<http://who.int/nominations/sites/default/files/pdf/rc---rules-of-procedure-final.pdf>), accessed on 9 May 2018.

<sup>3</sup> Evaluation of the election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization ([http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/EB142/B142\\_26-en.pdf?ua=1](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB142/B142_26-en.pdf?ua=1)), accessed on 18 May 2018.

<sup>4</sup> Similar codes of conduct have already been adopted in WHO for the election of the Director-General, as well as for the nomination of Regional Directors in other WHO Regions.

### ***Authority of the Regional Committee and its Rules of Procedure***

6. The Regional Committee for Africa is entrusted with the authority to conduct the nomination of the Regional Director in accordance with its Rules of Procedure and the relevant resolutions of the Regional Committee.

7. Member States that propose persons for the post of Regional Director have the right to promote their candidature. The same applies to candidates with regard to their own candidature. In the exercise of that right, Member States and candidates should abide by all rules governing the nomination of the Regional Director contained in the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee, as well as in relevant resolutions and decisions of the Regional Committee.

### ***Responsibilities***

8. Member States and candidates are urged to observe and respect this Code. Member States acknowledge that the process of nomination of the Regional Director should be open, transparent, equitable and based on the merits of the individual candidates. They should make this Code publicly known and easily accessible.

## **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

### ***Submission of proposals***

9. Member States proposing the name of one suitably qualified person for the post of Regional Director will be requested by the Director-General to submit the necessary particulars of the person's qualification and experience in accordance with Rule 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for Africa. The attached standard form for curriculum vitae is recommended for use.

### ***Electoral campaign***

10. This Code applies to electoral activities related to the nomination of the Regional Director whenever they take place until the nomination by the Regional Committee. All Member States and candidates should encourage and promote communication and cooperation among one another during the entire nomination process. Member States and candidates should act in good faith bearing in mind the shared objectives of promoting equity, openness, transparency and fairness throughout the nomination process.

11. Member States and candidates should refer to one another with respect. No Member State or candidate should at any time disrupt or impede the campaign activities of other candidates. Member States and candidates should not make any oral or written statements or other representations that could be deemed slanderous or libellous.

12. All Member States and candidates should disclose their campaign activities such as hosting of meetings, workshops, and visits. Information disclosed will be posted on a dedicated page of the website of the Regional Office. Member States and candidates should refrain from improperly influencing the nomination process by, for example granting or accepting financial or other benefits in exchange for the support of a candidate, or by promising such benefits. Member States and candidates should not make promises or commitments in favour of, or accept instructions from, any person or entity, public or private, when that could undermine, or be perceived as undermining, the integrity of the nomination process.

13. Member States that have proposed a candidate should facilitate meetings between their candidate and other Member States, if so requested. Wherever possible, meetings between

candidates and Member States should be arranged on the occasion of conferences or other events involving Member States of the Region rather than through bilateral visits.

14. Member States nominating candidates for the post of Regional Director should consider disclosing grants or aid funding received for the campaign for the previous two years in order to ensure full transparency and mutual confidence among Member States.

15. Travel by candidates to Member States to promote their candidature should be limited in order to avoid excessive expenditure. In this connection, Member States and candidates should consider using as much as possible existing mechanisms such as the Regional Committees, the Executive Board, and the World Health Assembly for meetings and other promotional activities linked to the electoral campaign. Electoral promotion or propaganda under the guise of technical meetings or similar events should be avoided.

16. Following the dispatch of the names and particulars of candidates to Member States by the Director-General, the Regional Office will post on its website the curricula vitae of all candidates (as received from Member States by the deadline to make proposals) and the contact information of all candidates (unless candidates request that their curricula vitae and contact information not be posted), as well as the relevant rules and decision points pertaining to the nomination process as stipulated in Rule 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa. The website will also provide links to individual websites with candidates' information upon request. Each candidate is responsible for setting up and financing his/her own web site.

### *Nomination*

17. The nomination of the Regional Director is conducted in private meetings of the Regional Committee in accordance with Rule 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa. Attendance at the private meetings is prescribed by the Director-General and limited to essential Secretariat staff besides Member States. Candidates should not attend those meetings even if they form part of the delegation of their country. The votes in the private meeting are conducted by secret ballot. The results of the ballots should not be disclosed by Member States.

18. Member States should abide strictly by Rule 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa and other applicable resolutions and respect the integrity, legitimacy and dignity of the proceedings. As such, they should avoid behaviour and actions, both inside and outside the conference room where the nomination takes place, which could be perceived as seeking to influence the outcome of the nomination process.

19. 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.

### *Internal candidates*

20. WHO staff members, including the incumbent Regional Director, who are proposed for the post of Regional Director, are subject to the obligations contained in the WHO Staff Regulations and Rules, as well as to the guidance that may be issued from time to time by the Director-General.

21. WHO staff members who are proposed for the post of Regional Director must observe the highest standard of ethical conduct and strive to avoid any appearance of impropriety. WHO staff members must clearly separate their WHO functions from their candidacy and avoid any overlap,

or perception of overlap, between campaign activities and their work for WHO. They also have to avoid conflict of interest or any perception of conflict of interest.

22. WHO staff members are subject to the authority of the Regional Director and the Director-General, in accordance with the applicable regulations and rules, in case of allegations of breach of their duties with regard to their campaign activities. Under Staff Rule 650, the Director-General can place internal candidates who are proposed for the post of Regional Director on special leave.

**ANNEX 1: STANDARD FORM FOR CURRICULUM VITAE**

Family name (surname):  First/Other names:	Attach recent photograph
Gender:	
Place and country of birth:	Date of Birth (Day/Month/Year)
Citizenship:	
If you have ever been found guilty of violation of any law (except minor traffic violations) give full details:	
Civil status:	Number of dependents:
Address to which correspondence should be sent:	Telephone:  Mobile Phone:  Fax:  Email:

Statement of vision, priorities and strategies

Degrees/Certificates obtained:

(Please indicate here the principal degrees/certificates obtained, with dates and names of institutions. Extra pages may be added)

**Knowledge of languages**

		<b>Mother Tongue</b>	<b>Speak</b>	<b>Read</b>	<b>Write</b>
<p>For languages other than the mother tongue, enter the appropriate number from the code below to indicate the level of your language knowledge. If no knowledge, please leave blank.</p> <p>Code 1: Limited conversation, reading newspapers, routine conversation.</p> <p>Code 2: Engage freely in discussions; read and write more difficult materials.</p> <p>Code 3: Fluent (nearly) as in mother tongue.</p>	English				
	French				
	Portuguese				

**Positions held**

Please indicate here your work experience and positions held during your professional career, with the corresponding dates, duties, achievements/accomplishments and responsibilities. Extra pages may be added.

Please state any other relevant facts that might help in the evaluation of your application. List your activities in the civil, professional, public or international domains.

Please list here major publications – especially the main ones in the field of public health, with names of journals, books or reports in which they appeared. An additional page may be used for this purpose, if necessary. (Please feel free also to attach a complete list of all publications). Do not attach the publications themselves.

Please list hobbies, sports, skills and any other relevant facts that might help in the evaluation of your application:

**ANNEX 2: AMENDMENT TO RULE 52 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE  
REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

<b>Current Text</b>	<b>Amended Text</b>
<p>Rule 52.1</p> <p>Not less than six months before the date fixed for the opening of a session of the Committee at which the Regional Director is to be nominated, the Director-General shall inform each Member State that he/she will receive proposals for the names of persons for nomination by the Committee for the post of Regional Director.</p>	<p>Rule 52.1</p> <p>Not less than six months before the date fixed for the opening of a session of the Committee at which the Regional Director is to be nominated, the Director-General shall inform each Member State that he/she will receive proposals for the names of persons for nomination by the Committee for the post of Regional Director. <b><i>In the information sent to Member States, the Director General shall attach the Code of Conduct for the nomination of the Regional Director and draw the attention of the Member States to the need to honour and adhere to the provisions set out in the Code.</i></b></p>

**ANNEX 3: AFR/RC68/R1: RESOLUTION ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE  
NOMINATION OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR AND AMENDMENT TO  
RULE 52 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE REGIONAL  
COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**

The Sixty-eighth session of the Regional Committee for Africa,

Having examined document AFR/RC68/14 on the Code of Conduct for the nomination of the Regional Director;

Recalling Resolution AFR/RC63/R2 by the Sixty-third session of the Regional Committee for Africa which amended the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee, including Rule 52 to define the qualification criteria and a selection and voting procedure;

Further recalling World Health Assembly decision WHA69(8) which addressed, inter alia, the increasing harmonization across the Regional Committees in relation to the nomination of Regional Directors in accordance with decision WHA65(9), and which invited each Regional Committee to consider measures to improve the process of nomination of Regional Directors taking into consideration best practices from the six regions;

Recognizing that other Regional Committees and the World Health Assembly have adopted codes of conduct for the nomination of the Regional Directors and Director-General in order to improve the transparency, credibility and effectiveness of the nomination process;

Acknowledging that the overall process of nomination, including the activities carried out by candidates and by Member States nominating or supporting those candidates, will benefit from agreed principles of good conduct,

1. **ADOPTS** the Code of Conduct for the Nomination of the Regional Director of the African Region of the World Health Organization;
2. **CALLS UPON** Member States to implement and abide by the Code of Conduct, to make it widely known and easily accessible, and to bring it to the attention of persons they wish to propose for the post of Regional Director in future nomination processes;
3. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to support the implementation of the Code of Conduct as envisaged in the Code;
4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Regional Director to impress upon the Secretariat of the Regional Office the importance of complying with the obligations laid out in the Staff Regulations and Rules with regard to the conduct to be observed during the process of nomination of the Regional Director, as provided in the section on internal candidates in the Code of Conduct;
5. **DECIDES** that the Code of Conduct will become effective as of the closure of the Sixty-eighth session of the Regional Committee for Africa;
6. **APPROVES** the standard form for curriculum vitae, which shall be used in accordance with the Code of Conduct by Member States proposing persons for the post of Regional Director; and
7. **ADOPTS** the amendment to Rule 52.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for Africa, to be effective from the closure of this Session.