

Joint Task Force on Global Health Architecture (GHA) Reform Regional Health Organizations - Proposed Selection Process

31 July 2026

WHA Decision 79(20) established the Joint Process on GHA Reform and requested the Director-General to convene relevant stakeholders to commence implementation.

Following the 26 June 2026 consultation with Member States on a draft Terms of Reference for the Joint Task Force, and in keeping with the Member States-led nature of the Joint Process, the Secretariat has updated the process for selecting the Regional Health Organization representative to the Joint Task Force¹ as follows:

- *Identification of potential Regional Health Organizations (31 July-7 August):* WHO Member States and GHA Reform Initiatives² are requested to submit by 7 August 2026 names of regional health organizations that they would like to have considered for this Task Force position and which meet the following definition: an established, multi-country institution whose primary purpose is to promote, coordinate, support, and improve health outcomes and health systems across a region.
- *Task Force Consideration & Proposal (17-21 August):* the Task Force will review the full list of organizations that are submitted, make a short list of those eligible based on the definition above, and agree on a preferred organization taking into consideration the composition of the Task Force at that point, the WHA's aim in Document WHA79/24 to have a balance of geographies, gender, and country contexts and, if relevant, the capacity of each organization to reflect the perspectives of different geographical areas and regional health organizations.
- *Member States Consultation:* the Co-Chairs will share the Task Force's decision and rationale for the Regional Health Organization representative with Member States at the next Member State consultation, tentatively scheduled for 13 August. In the event of serious disagreement, the decision would be suspended to allow further informal consultations and to be taken up again at the following Member States consultation.
- *Appointment of the Regional Health Organization representative:* the Director General will invite the agreed Regional Health Organization to nominate a representative to the Task Force, with the goal of appointing that representative by the end of August or early September 2026. If agreed by Member States, other regional health organizations could be invited to observe or participate in all or selected Member States consultation sessions. Timelines will be adjusted as needed.

¹ 14 representatives of WHO Member States, two from each WHO region and two Co-Chairs, and one each from WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, the Pandemic Fund, Unitaid and the World Bank; and a regional health organization. One additional United Nations entity representative may be invited.

² GHA Reform Initiatives include the completed or ongoing processes led by Wellcome Trust, EU/LMDs, HEAR CSO, Lusaka Agenda, Accra Reset, and the Africa High-Level Ministerial Committee.