

Ref.: C.L.46.2026

Process for the election of the Director-General

The Chair of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to Member States and has the honour to refer to the communication from the Director-General of 24 April 2026, by which Member States were informed, in accordance with Rule 62 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, that proposals of persons for nomination by the Executive Board for the post of Director-General may be submitted to the Chair, so as to arrive at WHO headquarters not later than 18:00 (CEST), on 24 September 2026.

The Chair of the Executive Board recalls that, in accordance with Rule 62 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the proposals received, including the names of the candidates, will be announced and dispatched to all Member States after the closure of the last Regional Committee session prior to the session of the Board at which the nomination will take place, that is on or after 29 October 2026.

The Chair of the Executive Board further recalls that the names of persons acknowledged as prospective candidates are posted on the WHO website.

The Chair of the Executive Board refers to the first candidates' forum required by Rule 62 and Annex 2 to decision WHA73(27) (2020), which will serve as a platform for candidates to make themselves and their vision known to Member States on an equal basis and be open to Member States and Associate Members. As agreed in decision EB159(3) (2026), the first candidates' forum will commence on 18 November 2026 and, in view of the number of candidates, the Officers of the Board have decided that the first forum will be held for a duration of two days. The first candidates' forum will take place at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, in the Auditorium. It will be convened from 9:30 to 12:30 and 14:00 to 17:00 (CET) on 18 and 19 November 2026. 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 EB159(3). Member States and Associate Members are invited to participate. Access to the Auditorium room will be limited to up to three persons per delegation. Interpretation will be provided in the six official languages and the candidates' forum will be broadcast through a link on the WHO website accessible to the public.

Delegations wishing to participate in the forum should register at <https://events.who.int/CF1>. Registration will open from 21 October to 9 November 2026.

In view of limited capacity, the link will be deactivated at the close of the deadline with no further opportunity to register. During registration in CVENT, delegations are required to upload a **Note Verbale**, detailing the delegate(s) in the following format: email address, Country, name (first name and surname of the delegate).

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Furthermore, in accordance with the Code of Conduct for the Election of the Director-General, the Secretariat will open a password-protected forum on the WHO website from 23 November to 20 December 2026. The web forum is an electronic forum for questions and answers open to Member States, and candidates wishing to participate. Each Member State may be granted up to three user accounts for access to the web forum. Further instructions will be communicated separately to Member States on how to register to create the accounts.

Additional information on the modalities of the web forum, including technical instructions on accessing it, will be provided to Member States in due course.

The Chair of the Executive Board takes this opportunity to renew to Member States the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 16 October 2026