

Contingency arrangements for an accelerated procedure for the nomination of a WHO Regional Director for Europe

Draft decision

The Regional Committee,

(PP1) Noting the communication from the Director-General of 24 April 2026, by which Member States were invited to make proposals for persons to be nominated by the Executive Board for the post of Director-General;

(PP2) Having considered the potential implications of a vacancy arising in the office of the Regional Director for Europe before the incumbent's term is complete;

(PP3) Recalling Rule 47 of its Rules of Procedure, which provides for the nomination process for the post of Regional Director;

(PP4) Recognizing the importance of ensuring continuity of regional leadership, minimizing the duration of any interim arrangements and preserving the authority of the Regional Committee over the nomination process;

(PP5) Emphasizing the need to ensure transparency, fairness and equal treatment of Member States and candidates, and to preserve the substantive safeguards applicable to the nomination process;

(PP6) Noting that the present decision is strictly contingent in nature and is without prejudice to, and does not anticipate or presume, the outcome of the process for the nomination and appointment of the Director-General;

(OP1) ADOPTS contingency arrangements for an accelerated procedure for the nomination of a WHO Regional Director for Europe, including a provisional timetable,¹ arrangements for the establishment of a Regional Evaluation Group (REG) and, as necessary, temporary suspensions of relevant provisions of the applicable Rules of Procedure to the extent necessary to permit the accelerated procedure to be implemented;

(OP2) DECIDES, in the case of the appointment of the serving Regional Director for Europe as the Director-General of the World Health Organization, to convene a special session of the Regional Committee, no earlier than 26 May 2027 and no later than 1 June 2027, in Geneva, Switzerland, to appoint a REG.

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¹ As set out in document EUR/RC76/21.