



REGIONAL COMMITTEE

*Seventieth Session
Maldives
6–10 September 2017*

Provisional Agenda item 7.3

SEA/RC70/6 Rev.1

17 August 2017

Transparency, accountability, monitoring and evaluation

The purpose of this Agenda item is to update Member States on the various initiatives undertaken by the Organization and the South-East Asia (SEA) Region to reaffirm and strengthen transparency, accountability, enhanced compliance, risk management and adherence to ethical principles across the Organization.

This working paper aims to stimulate deliberation and dialogue among Member States to further strengthen transparency, accountability, monitoring and evaluation within the SEA Region by: (i) actively engaging Member States at the Regional Committee; and (ii) seeking the guidance of Member States on global, regional and country reform matters.

The paper highlights the significant progress made in the SEA Region to improve accountability and transparency, as well as to strengthen the capacity of WHO country offices in working with their implementing partners. The strong performance in these areas was commended by the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee (IEOAC) in their reports to PBAC25 (Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board) and PBAC26 in 2017 following their review of the Region's performance on these important indicators.

In an effort to mainstream and strengthen the culture of evaluation, a Regional Framework for Evaluation was developed and a corresponding plan of work for 2018–2019 proposed. The Secretariat proposes to report to the Regional Committee annually on evaluation work done in the Region accordingly.

The SEA Region implemented significant changes to the election process for the Regional Director in 2012 through resolution SEA/RC65/R1, introducing a number of measures that increased the transparency, fairness and equity of the process. Following the World Health Assembly Decision WHA69(8) and thereafter the Regional Committee Decision SEA/RC69 (1), some further enhancements of procedure have been recommended to ensure full alignment across the WHO Regional Offices. A working group has met to consider the proposed measures and a draft resolution with draft annexes (including a proposed amendment to Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for South-East Asia) are included.

The attached working paper was presented to the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme Development and Management (SPPDM) for its review and recommendations. The recommendations made by the Subcommittee for consideration by the Seventieth Session of the Regional Committee are:

Actions by WHO

- (1) Present the report of the Working Group to Align the Process of Nomination of the Regional Director and the Draft Resolution for consideration by the Regional Committee.
- (2) Present the Evaluation Workplan for 2018–2019 to the Regional Committee for its consideration.

This working paper and the SPPDM recommendations are submitted to the Seventieth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia for its consideration and decision.

CONTENTS

1. Working Paper

Background

Updates from the SEA Region on measures to strengthen transparency, accountability, monitoring and evaluation

Aligning the process of nomination of the Regional Director: Decision SEA/RC69(1) on Overview of WHO Reform

2. Annex A: Report of the Working Group meeting to align the process of nomination of the Regional Director

Concept Note

Programme

List of participants

3. Annex B: Draft Resolution on Amendment to Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia and Process for the Nomination of the Regional Director for the South-East Asia Region

Draft Code of Conduct for the Nomination of the Regional Director of the South-East Asia Region of the World Health Organization

Form for Curriculum Vitae

Proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia Region.

Background

1. The Organization has reaffirmed its commitment to improving accountability and transparency through enhanced compliance, risk management and adherence to ethical principles across the Organization. It continues to promote a culture of accountability and transparency, and develops and applies new policies and tools for more efficient, effective and ethical operations, use of resources and delivery of results.
2. Significant progress has been made towards meeting the objectives of making WHO a more effective, efficient, accountable and transparent Organization that leverages its relative strengths and comparative advantages to improve health outcomes.
3. Actions have been taken in the regional offices to strengthen accountability and transparency. All WHO regional offices have established compliance functions, with mandates that include checking transactions of country offices in some regions, and review, monitoring and oversight in others. In the regional offices, various accountability mechanisms and tools are used to track resources and results.
4. Consistent with its commitment to greater transparency, WHO in November 2016 joined the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), a voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiative that seeks to increase the transparency of development cooperation and increase its effectiveness in tackling poverty. The first submission of information on the IATI platform was published in May 2017.
5. The Organization has also reaffirmed its commitment to transparency through a new policy on information disclosure, which ensures that information concerning WHO's activities is made publicly available, primarily through WHO's websites. The policy, which defines distinct categories of information items according to their status with regard to public disclosure, will be implemented progressively over a period of two years.
6. The WHO Evaluation Policy was approved in 2012 at the 131st session of the Executive Board. The Policy requires the Secretariat to report annually to the Executive Board on progress in implementing evaluation activities. The review of implementation of the WHO Evaluation Policy and the Framework for Strengthening Evaluation and Organizational Learning is underway; the final report is expected to be delivered during the second quarter of 2017.
7. Four high-impact corporate evaluations/assessments were completed in 2016. These include evaluation of WHO's country presence, evaluation of the impact of WHO publications, a comprehensive evaluation of implementation of the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property, and assessment of the functioning of the Category and Programme Area networks, all of which provided useful recommendations and proposed actions for improvement of the Organization's performance.
8. Implementation of the Programme Budget is continuously monitored and updated in the corporate management system (Global Management System – GSM) by the responsible officers in headquarters, Regional Office departments and all country offices. In addition, at the end of the first year of a biennium, a monitoring exercise in the form of a mid-term review is a corporate requirement. Implementation of Programme Budget 2016–2017 was reviewed up to 31 December 2016 as part of the mid-term review exercise by responsible officers, Budget

Centre heads, Programme Area and Category leads. The results of the review and the corresponding final implementation review were presented to the World Health Assembly as the WHO Mid-term Programmatic and Financial Report for 2016–2017, including audited financial statements for 2016.

9. This working paper outlines updates from the South-East Asia Region on the indicators demonstrating measurable improvement in strengthening transparency, accountability, monitoring and evaluation

10. In the context of World Health Assembly decision WHA69(8) and thereafter the Regional Committee Decision SEA/RC69(1), this working paper also presents the outcome from the three-member Working Group meeting held on 10 May 2017. The meeting discussed measures adopted by the other regional offices and regional committees of the Organization towards aligning the process of nomination of the Regional Director.

A. Updates from the SEA Region on measures to strengthen transparency, accountability, monitoring and evaluation

11. The SEA Region continues to make significant progress in transparency, accountability and risk management, which have been woven into the agendas of high-level regional meetings. Following their visit to the Regional Office in October 2016, the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee (IEOAC) commended the positive trends in several compliance areas and, at PBAC25 (Twenty-fifth Meeting of the Programme Budget and Administration Committee) and PBAC26, recognized and appreciated that the Region had no outstanding internal or external audit recommendations.

12. The SEA Region has developed a web-based resource mobilization system that automates clearance of donor agreements, allows for follow-up on donor reporting and accurately projects new resource streams. This was selected by WHO headquarters to be implemented Organization-wide as part of the Global Engagement Management (GEM) system. The corporate tool is currently being finalized with the assistance of IT developers in the Regional Office for South-East Asia, and will be launched gradually during 2017.

13. The SEA Region has realized important gains in the efforts towards securing increased compliance with WHO rules and regulations. These are highlighted by the hiring of a Senior Adviser on Reforms as well as a Compliance Officer, both positions reporting directly to the Regional Director. A Regional Compliance Network has been established with active participation and involvement of all country offices and departments at the Regional Office. The overall aim is to improve compliance through knowledge-sharing of best practices, policy development, and improvements in processes and procedures.

14. The SEA Region took regional ownership of the concept of Administrative and Programmatic Review Missions developed by the Office of Compliance, Risk Management and Ethics (CRE) at headquarters, by implementing country review missions based on a standard template that is captured in a centralized system. The purpose of country reviews is to identify best practices and areas for improvement in administration and programmatic management. The new module is based on one of the WHO Reform goals, allowing for recording of the results of the review through observations and action plans with system-built follow up and notifications. Under the new regional concept, missions have already been completed to WHO country offices in Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

15. The tool for capturing observations from the country review missions is a module in a new monitoring and evaluation system of the SEA Region, serving as a managerial tool that is both a reference guide as well as a documentation mechanism. This tool is to be expanded to capture high-level action points decided in regional managerial meetings and the Regional Director's meetings with WHO representatives. The intention of the module is to have a consolidated platform to monitor progress in the Region on priority initiatives, with particular attention to country offices.
16. According highest priority to regular monitoring of implementation of the Programme Budget, the Regional Office conducts a mandatory six-monthly monitoring and reporting exercise to ensure that programmes address changing needs and emerging challenges.
17. The annual representation letter, in addition to the Regional Director, has been expanded to include WHO representatives and departmental directors to certify compliance and accuracy of financial records. This harmonized approach enabled representation letters to feed into an Organization-wide Statement of Internal Control, constituting an integral part of accountability for the SEA Region. The delegation of authority and Regional Director's letter of representation are available on the SEA Region's website.
18. As part of continued efforts to target timely reporting, letters were dispatched to all ministries highlighting non-compliance with the Direct Financial Cooperation (DFC), emphasizing that no further disbursements will be made in cases of outstanding reports and introducing country-level assurance activities. As a result, the number of outstanding DFC reports has been reduced from 260 in January 2014 to 15 in end-May 2017.
19. Electronic monthly imprest returns have been developed and implemented, improving turnaround time and saving on pouch costs.
20. Delegation of authority has been streamlined and clarified.
21. The SEA Region gives high importance to evaluation. The 'WHO South-East Asia Regional Framework for Strengthening Evaluation for Learning and Development' was developed to further strengthen the culture of evaluation in the Regional Office and country offices. The Framework is being presented to the Regional Committee as a publication. A regional evaluation workplan will be submitted for further guidance.
22. The Region's commitment to promoting a culture of transparency, accountability and risk management, including independent evaluation, is reflected by the prioritization of the budget for this Programme Area in the Programme Budget for 2018–2019, despite a decrease in the Category "Corporate services and enabling functions".
23. The SEA Region has aligned its regional independent evaluation policy to the WHO Evaluation Policy and completed two independent evaluations: (i) Evaluation of the Contribution of the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia to Maternal Health in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka; and (ii) Evaluation of the Contributions of the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia to the implementation of the National Immunization Programme (NIP) in Bangladesh, with special emphasis on the Surveillance Medical Officer (SMO) programme. Two evaluations are currently underway: (i) Evaluation of Tobacco Control through MPOWER measures in SEA Region Member States, and (ii) Evaluation of collaboration between WHO and WHO Collaborating Centres of the South-East Asia Region.

B. Aligning the process of nomination of the Regional Director: Decision SEA/RC69(1) on Overview of WHO Reform

(i) Formation of the Working Group

24. The Sixty-fifth Regional Committee for South-East Asia adopted Resolution SEA/RC65/R1 to align its Rules of Procedure with respect to harmonization of the process of nomination of the Regional Director with those of the other regions. The overall purpose was to further strengthen transparency, fairness and equity in the process for nomination of the Regional Director.

25. In line with the above, **Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure** of the Regional Committee for South-East Asia, as amended in September 2013, outlines the various aspects of the nomination, viz., timelines, selection process through presentations, and voting through secret ballot. The Regional Committee also decided on the modalities for the presentation process for the nomination of the Regional Director as well as on desired criteria to be used for assessing candidates for the post of the Regional Director.

26. The World Health Assembly in its decision WHA69(8), having considered the report on the Member State consultative process on Governance Reform, decided on a number of items involving, inter alia, Regional Directors and Regional Committees.

27. Subsequently, following Decision SEA/RC69(1) on Overview of WHO Reform, a three-member Working Group – consisting of representatives from Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka – discussed the measures adopted by other regional offices and regional committees of the World Health Organization towards aligning the process of nomination of their respective Regional Directors. The Working Group met in the Regional Office for South-East Asia on 10 May 2017.

(ii) Recommendations of the Working Group set up in accordance with Decision SEA/RC69(1)

28. The Working Group was briefed on the current framework for the nomination of the Regional Director of the South-East Asia Region as well as best practices from other regions and WHO headquarters. The report of the Working Group, including its recommendations, is contained in Annex A to this working paper.

29. Based on the recommendations of the Working Group (see Annex A), and to align the process of nomination of candidates seeking election to the post of Regional Director, it is proposed to introduce a Code of Conduct [see Annex B(i)] for the Nomination of the Regional Director for South-East Asia, as well as a standardized form for a Curriculum Vitae [Annex B(ii)] to be used by Member States proposing persons for the post of Regional Director. The Code of Conduct would apply to Member States, candidates and the Secretariat throughout the election process. Cognizance is also taken of the fact that the regional committees in most regions have already introduced the Code of Conduct as part of their respective nomination practices.

30. The proposed Code of Conduct also provides for the opening by the Director-General of a web-based forum for questions and answers, open to all Member States of the South-East Asia Region and to candidates wishing to participate. The web forum would be opened after the Director-General has dispatched copies of all proposals for nomination as Regional Director. The

electronic forum would be password-protected and hosted on the WHO website. Member States would have the opportunity for an interactive session with the candidates.

31. In line with the proposed Code of Conduct, after the Director-General has dispatched the names and the curriculum vitae of candidates to Member States, the Regional Office would post on its website information on all candidates who so request for the same, including their curriculum vitae as received from Member States and their contact information. The website would also provide links to individual websites of the candidates upon request. Candidates would be responsible for setting up and financing their own websites.

(iii) Proposed amendment to the Rules of Procedure

32. Rule 49 (“Nomination of the Regional Director”) of the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia could be amended to reflect adoption of the Code of Conduct.

33. The proposed text for amending Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia, annexed to the draft resolution, is provided for the consideration of the Seventieth Session of the Regional Committee.

34. The Regional Committee is invited to consider the attached draft resolution (Annex B), including its draft annexes, for adoption of the proposals set out in paragraphs 29–31 of this working paper.

Report of the Working Group meeting to align the process of nomination of the Regional Director 10 May 2017, WHO-SEARO, New Delhi, India

A Working Group meeting was held on 10 May 2017 to review the measures adopted by other regional offices and regional committees of the World Health Organization for aligning the process of nomination of the Regional Director.

A. Background

In May 2012, the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly, having considered the documents on WHO Reform, via its decision WHA65(9), endorsed the proposals for, among others, increasing harmonization across regional committees of the process for nomination of regional directors.

This World Health Assembly initiative follows efforts already made across the regions in recent years. Specifically, several changes were made to the Rules of Procedure of the South-East Asia Regional Committee in 2012 following consultative processes.

In line with the discussions at the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly in May 2016, and thereafter at the Sixty-ninth session of the Regional Committee in September 2016, further amendments were proposed, which were discussed at the Working Group meeting.

A Concept Note, outlining the current framework for nomination of the Regional Director of the SEA Region, as well as the best practices followed by other regions, was shared with all participants ahead of the meeting.

B. Objectives

The objective was to review the measures adopted by other regional offices and regional committees of WHO in aligning the process of nomination of the Regional Director. This was in line with the Regional Committee Decision SEA/RC69 (1) and took into consideration Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure of the SEA Regional Committee, in order to introduce further potential amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for the SEA Region.

The Working Group discussed the following:

- (1) Introduction of
 - a Code of Conduct for the election of the Regional Director of the SEA Region;
 - a standardized form for proposing names for the post of Regional Director or a standard form for the curriculum vitae (CV) of candidates;
- (2) Potential establishment of a web forum and/or Candidates' Forum;
- (3) Potential posting of information on candidates on the SEA Regional Office website as well as cross-linking the regional webpage on the process for nomination of the Regional Director with the WHO website.

C. Introduction

The Working Group comprised representatives from Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr Hussain Rasheed, Minister of State for Health, Ministry of Health, Maldives.

The Director, Administration and Finance (DAF), SEA Region, welcomed the Working Group members and provided a brief outline of the meeting, followed by a review of the best practices from the other Regions. The following documents were summarized:

- draft Code of Conduct,
- standardized form,
- standardized form for the CV of candidates,
- best practices from other regions, as outlined in the Concept Note, and the related background documents provided as reference.

D. General discussion

DAF informed the meeting that the deliberations from the Working Group would be presented to the High-Level Preparatory (HLP) Meeting/ Subcommittee on Policy and Programme Development and Management (SPPDM) for the Seventieth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia. Thereafter, these would be presented to the Seventieth Session of the Regional Committee in Maldives for review and endorsement.

The Director, Programme Management added that the Regional Committee resolution SEA/RC65/RC1 already allows the introduction of oral presentations by candidates for the post of Regional Director at a private meeting of the Regional Committee, as well as the criteria for assessing candidates for the post of the Regional Director. As per decision WHA69(8), the focus is currently on harmonizing processes across the Organization.

H.E. the Minister of State for Health, Maldives, reminded participants that the discussions should be focused on the scope of the Sixty-ninth Regional Committee Decision SEA/RC69(1) and also observed that the Working Group, in its capacity of a subcommittee, would need to make clear recommendations to the HLP meeting/SPPDM for its review.

DAF clarified that as per practice, the Director-General invites nominations for the post of Regional Director from all Member States and a Regional Director can serve up to a maximum of two terms.

The Working Group agreed that the procedure of introducing the CV for nomination of the Director-General by headquarters should be followed as a benchmark. Introducing the CV was recognized as a transparent mechanism for access to detailed information about the candidate.

The Code of Conduct was recognized as a guideline to promote an open, fair, equitable and transparent process for the nomination of a Regional Director. The Code addressed a number of areas, including submission of proposals and the conduct of an electoral campaign by Member States and candidates. The draft presented for discussion has been drawn from the Codes of Conduct adopted by the WHO European, Eastern Mediterranean and Western Pacific regions.

The option of a having a web forum and/or Candidates' Forum was discussed by the Working Group, with the understanding that the objective would be to align practices with those used in other regional committees, as contained in the sample Code of Conduct.

E. Conclusions and recommendations

The Working Group discussed the conclusions and recommendations in line with the outlined objectives:

- (1) *Adoption of the Code of Conduct.* The Code of Conduct will build on and reinforce the provisions pertaining to the nomination of the Regional Director for the South-East Asia Region as set out in Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia.
- (2) *Introduction of a standardized form for the CV of candidates nominated for the post of Regional Director.* This would also cover the criteria for assessing the candidates, as included in the nomination form.
- (3) *Introduction of a web forum.* In principle, aligning with the practice of other Regional Committees, the Working Group agreed to introduce a web forum before the Seventy-first session of the Regional Committee in 2018. DAF would provide clear guidelines on the mechanisms of having the web forum to the HLP Meeting/SPPDM.
- (4) *Guidelines for sharing the candidates' information on the WHO website.* More clarity is to be sought from WHO headquarters on posting information on candidates on the WHO website.
- (5) *Discussion at the HLP Meeting/SPPDM.* The background document on the subject will provide details of the proposed revision to the Rules of Procedure for the nomination of the Regional Director.

The Director, Programme Management, thanked the Chair, H.E. the Minister of State for Health, Maldives, honourable delegates from Bhutan and Sri Lanka, as well as the Secretariat for their inputs and fruitful deliberations. He reaffirmed that the discussion on the subject during the HLP Meeting/ SPPDM will follow from the recommendations of the Working Group meeting.

Thereafter, once deliberated and endorsed by the Seventieth Session of the Regional Committee, the proposed amendments will be implemented for election of the Regional Director for the South-East Asia Region in 2018.

Annex A (i)

Working Group to review the measures adopted by the other regional offices and regional committees of the World Health Organization in aligning the process of nomination of the Regional Director: SEA/RC69 (1)

Concept Note

The sixty-fifth World Health Assembly (WHA), in May 2012, having considered the documents on WHO Reform endorsed the proposals via its decision WHA69(5) for, amongst others, increasing harmonization across the regional committees in relation to the nomination of Regional Directors.

This WHA initiative follows efforts already made across the regions in recent years. Specifically, several changes were made to the rules of procedure of the SEA Regional Committee in 2012 following consultative processes.

In line with the discussions at sixty-ninth World Health Assembly in May 2016 and thereafter the Sixty-Ninth session of the Regional Committee in September 2016, further amendments are being proposed, which along with the background, are presented in this Concept Note.

Background

(i) Current framework for the nomination of the Regional Director of the South-East Asia Region:

Proposed changes to the process for nomination of Regional Director were reviewed during the High Level Preparatory (HLP) meeting for the Regional Committee in June 2011 in preparation for the Sixty-fourth session of the Regional Committee.

On the recommendations of a Consultative Meeting convened in March 2012 to advise on the way forward, in September 2012, the Sixty-fifth Regional Committee for South-East Asia adopted resolution **SEA/RC65/R1** to align its Rules of Procedure with respect to harmonization of the process of nomination of the Regional Director with those of the other regions.

The overall purpose was to further strengthen transparency, fairness and equity in the process for nomination of the Regional Director.

In line with the above, **Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure** of the Regional Committee for South-East Asia Region, as amended in September 2013, outlines the various aspects of the nomination viz., timelines, selection process through presentations and voting through secret ballot. The Regional Committee also decided on the modalities for the presentation process for the nomination of the Regional Director as well as on desired criteria to be used for assessing candidates for the post of the Regional Director (Annexes B and C to resolution SEA/RC65/R1(2012)).

While not written into the Rules of Procedure, for the most recent RD election SEA Region also introduced a Code of Conduct for WHO Staff during elections for elected posts through an internal Information Circular to all staff (IC-2011-38).

(ii) *WHA69(8) – Decision based on the agreed recommendations of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Meeting on Governance Reform (Geneva, 8-9 March 2016 and 28-29 April 2016):*

The World Health Assembly in decision WHA69(8), having considered the report on the Member State consultative process on Governance reform, decided on a number of items involving, inter alia, Regional Directors and Regional Committees.

Operative paragraph 9 of the decision on “Increasing harmonization across the regional committees in relation to the nomination of Regional Directors” is discussed here for consideration and implementation for the South-East Asia Regional Committee. Specifically, the Assembly decided “to invite each Regional Committee to consider measures to improve the process of nomination of Regional Directors, taking into consideration best practices from the six regions.”.

(iii) *SEA/RC69(1) – Overview of WHO Reform*

The Sixty-Ninth session of the Regional Committee, in line with World Health Assembly decision WHA69(8) decided to set up a working group comprised of the Member States from the Region to review the measures adopted by the other Regional Offices and Regional Committees in aligning the process of nomination of the Regional Director, such as introducing a code of conduct for the nomination of the Regional Director, a standardized curriculum vitae, and a candidates’ forum.

Best practices in other regions

As a part of Governance Reform, the Eastern Mediterranean, European and Western Pacific regions have adopted **Codes of Conduct** for the nomination of their Regional Director. The content for all the three regions remaining almost the same, the appended table provides details of document reference other annexes considered to support the code of conduct:

WHO Region	Document Reference	Standard formats		Web Forum open to all Members and the candidates who request to participate	Candidates’ forum
		Standard for the proposal of Names of Persons for nominations of the RD – <i>criteria adopted as per Regional Committee Resolutions</i>	Standard form of the CV		
AMRO	Rules governing the election process for the position of Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, adopted by the Directing Council, Resolution CD47.R4 (2006)	X	X	X	√ (conducted in accordance with the Rules governing the candidates’ forum for the position of Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau)

WHO Region	Document Reference	Standard formats		Web Forum open to all Members and the candidates who request to participate	Candidates' forum
		Standard for the proposal of Names of Persons for nominations of the RD – <i>criteria adopted as per Regional Committee Resolutions</i>	Standard form of the CV		
EMRO	EM/RC63/8 Rev.1 and resolution EM/RC63/R.6	√ Contained in the Appendix to Annex 2 to document EM/RC63/8 Rev.1	X	√ Section II, eleventh paragraph of the Code of Conduct	X
EURO	EUR/RC63/R7	None	X Format reviewed but not included in the final document	√ Section II, eleventh paragraph of the Code of Conduct	X
WPRO	WPR/RC63.R7	√ Contained in the Appendix to the Annex to resolution WPR/RC63.R7	X	√ Section II, eleventh paragraph of the Code of Conduct	X

Apart from the above, for the election of the Director-General, a standard form for a CV was approved by the Health Assembly in resolution WHA66.18, Annex 3. This was required to be used by Member States proposing candidates for the post of Director-General as the sole document to be submitted. In the same resolution the Assembly adopted a Code of Conduct for the Election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization (contained in Annex 1 to that resolution) and established a candidates' forum (as set out in Annex 2 to that resolution) in addition to the web forum foreseen in the Code of Conduct.

The way forward:

In line with the RC decision **SEA/RC69(1)** and taking into consideration Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure of SEA Regional Committee, in order to introduce further potential amendments **to the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee** for the South-East Asia Region, we propose to form a Working Group comprising of representative(s) from three Member States to review the measures adopted by the other regional offices and regional committees of the World Health Organization in aligning the process of nomination of the Regional Director.

The Working Group will discuss the following:

1. Introduction of :
 - a Code of Conduct for the election of the Regional Director of the South-East Asia Region;
 - standardized form for the proposal of names for the post of Regional Director or standard form for CV for candidates ;
2. Potential establishment of a Web Forum and/or Candidates' Forum

3. Potential posting information on candidates on the SEARO regional website as well as cross-linking the regional webpage on the process for the nomination of the Regional Director from WHO website.

Draft Code of Conduct as well as standard forms for the proposal of names of persons for nominations to the post of the Regional Director and CV are attached.

Recommendations from the Working Group will be presented to the HLP Meeting /SPPDM in July 2017 for deliberations and thereafter presented to the Seventieth Session of the Regional Committee in Male, Maldives in September 2017 for review and endorsement.

Date and venue:

The Working Group meeting is proposed to be held on Wednesday, 10 May 2017 at the Regional Office for South-East Asia, immediately following the World Health Assembly briefing conclusion.

Proposed membership of the Working Group:

One representative each from Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

List of reference documents:

1. Document WHA69/5: Member State consultative process on Governance Reform
2. Decision WHA69 (8) based on the agreed recommendations of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Meeting on Governance Reform (Geneva, 8 and 9 March 2016 and 28 and 29 April 2016)
3. Sixty-ninth session of the Regional Committee decision SEA/RC69(1)
4. Code of Conduct for the Nomination of the Regional Directors of the Eastern Mediterranean, European and Western Pacific Regions
5. Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for South-East Asia Region
6. RC resolution : SEA/RC65/R1 on the Process for the Nomination of the Regional Director (2012)
7. Documents SEA/RC65/19 and Inf. Doc
8. Resolution WHA66.18 on the Follow-up of the report of the Working Group on the Election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization

Working Group to align the process of nomination of the Regional Director
WHO-SEARO, New Delhi, 10 May 2017

09 May 2017 Rev 1

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 10 May 2017

1400 – 1630 hours
(Venue: Sri Lanka Room)

Item 1	Opening session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening remarks by the Director, Programme Management• Introduction of participants• Overview of the working group meeting by DAF
Item 2	Business session Discussion on the process of nomination of the Regional Director Review of : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Best practices from other Regions• Formulation of draft Code of Conduct, standardized format of Candidate's CV• Potential establishment of a Web Forum and Candidates' Forum• Potential posting information on candidates on WHO HQ or regional website
Item 3	Closing session Conclusion and recommendations



**Working Group to align the process of nomination
of the Regional Director
WHO-SEARO, New Delhi, 10 May 2017**

08 May 2017

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Bhutan

Mr Jayendra Sharma
Officiating Chief Planning Officer
Policy and Planning Division
Ministry of Health
Royal Government of Bhutan

Maldives

H.E. Mr Hussain Rasheed
Minister of State for Health
Ministry of Health
Republic of Maldives

Sri Lanka

Dr (Mrs) H.S.R.P De Silva
Ag Deputy Director General (Planning) &
Director – Organization Development
Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous
Medicine
Government of the Democratic Socialist
Republic of Sri Lanka

WHO Secretariat

Dr Arun Thapa
Director, Programme Management
Mr David Allen
Director, Administration and Finance
Dr Sharat Chauhan
Technical Officer
Partnerships, Interagency Coordination
and Resource Mobilization
Mr Gulshan Malhotra
Administrative Officer
Office of the Regional Director

Annex B

**Draft Resolution on
Amendment to Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure of the
WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia and
Process for the Nomination of the Regional Director
for the South-East Asia Region**

The Regional Committee,

Recalling the discussions held by the Committee since its Sixty-fifth session on the modalities to increase the fairness and transparency of the process for the nomination of the Regional Director; also recalling its resolution SEA/RC65/RC1 by which the Regional Committee amended its Rules of Procedure in order to improve the effectiveness of the procedure for nominating the Regional Director;

Recalling World Health Assembly decision WHA69(8) on Increasing harmonization across the regional committees in relation to the nomination of Regional Directors in accordance with decision WHA65(9) (2012), to invite 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 and endorsing the recommendations of the Working Group constituted in accordance with decision SEA/RC69(1) to further review the measures adopted by the other regional offices and Regional Committees of the World Health Organization in aligning the process of nomination of the Regional Director;

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 South-East Asia Region of the World Health Organization, contained in Annex B (i) to this resolution;
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 of the Code of Conduct;

5. DECIDES that the Code of Conduct will become effective as of the closure of this session;
6. APPROVES the standard form for a curriculum vitae, as set out in Annex B (ii) to this resolution, which shall be used henceforth by Member States proposing persons for the post of Regional Director as the sole document to be submitted;
7. DECIDES that the curriculum vitae of each candidate shall be limited to 3500 words and shall also be submitted in electronic format in order to enable the Director-General to verify that this limit is not exceeded;
8. ADOPTS the amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for South-East Asia Region set out in Annex B (iii) to this resolution, to be effective from the closure of this session.

Annex B (i)

Draft Code of Conduct for the Nomination of the Regional Director of the South-East Asia Region of the World Health Organization

This Code of Conduct (Code) aims to promote an open, fair, equitable and transparent process for the nomination for the Regional Director of the South-East Asia Region of the World Health Organization (WHO). In seeking to improve the overall process, this Code addresses a number of areas, including submission of proposals and the conduct of electoral campaigns by Member States and candidates.

The Code is a political understanding reached by the Member States of the South-East Asia Region. It recommends desirable behavior by Member States and candidates with regard to the nomination of the Regional Director to increase the fairness, openness and transparency of the process and thus its legitimacy, as well as the legitimacy and acceptance of its outcome. As such, the Code is not legally binding, but Member States and candidates are expected to honour its contents.

The Code builds on, and reinforces, the provisions pertaining to nomination of Regional Director for the South-East Asia Region as set out in Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee of South-East Asia.

A. General requirements

I. Basic principles

The whole nomination process, as well as electoral campaign activities related to it, should be guided both by the provisions of the Rules of Procedures of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia and by the following principles that further the legitimacy of the process and of its result:

- Fairness
- Equity
- Transparency
- Good faith
- Dignity, mutual respect and moderation
- Non-discrimination
- Merit

II. Authority of the Regional Committee and its Rules of Procedure

1. Member States accept the authority of the Regional Committee for South-East Asia Region to conduct the nomination of the Regional Director in accordance with its Rules of Procedure and the relevant resolutions of the Regional Committee.
2. 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.

III. Responsibilities

1. It is the responsibility of Member States and candidates to observe and respect this Code.
2. Member States acknowledge that the process of nomination of the Regional Director should be fair, open, transparent, equitable and based on merits of the individual candidates. They should make this Code publicly known and easily accessible.

B. Requirements concerning the different steps of the nomination process

I. Submission of proposals

1. When proposing the name of one or more persons for the post of Regional Director, Member States will be requested by the Director-General to submit the necessary particulars of each person's qualification and experience using the standard form for a curriculum vitae approved through resolution SEA/RC70/RC....¹

II. Electoral campaign

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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. Nor should any Member State or any candidate make any oral or written statements or other representations that could be deemed slanderous or libellous.
4. All Member States and candidates should disclose their campaign activities (e.g. hosting of meetings, workshops, visits). Information disclosed will be posted on a dedicated page of website of the Regional Office.
5. Member States and candidates should refrain from improperly influencing the nomination process, by, for example granting or accepting financial or other benefits as a quid pro quo for the support of a candidate, or by promising such benefits.
6. Member States and candidates should not make promises or commitments in favour of, or accept instructions from, any person or entity, public or private,

¹ The correct reference to the resolution will be inserted once the resolution has been adopted by the Regional Committee.

when that could undermine, or be perceived as undermining, the integrity of the nomination process.

7. 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.
8. Member States nominating candidates for the post of the Regional Director should consider disclosing grants or aid funding for the previous two years in order to ensure full transparency and mutual confidence among Member States.
9. Travel by candidates to Member States to promote their candidature should be limited in order to avoid excessive expenditure, which could lead to inequality among Member States and candidates.

In this connection, Member States and candidates should consider using as much as possible existing mechanism (regional committees, Executive Board, World Health Assembly) for meetings and other promotional activities linked to the electoral campaign.

10. Electoral promotion or propaganda under the guise of technical meetings or similar events should be avoided.
11. After the Director-General has dispatched copies of all proposals for nomination as Regional Director in accordance with the provision of Rule 49(d) of the Rules of Procedure, he/she will open on the website of WHO a password-protected question-and-answer web forum open to all Member States in the South-East Asia region and the candidates who request to participate in such a forum.
12. After the Director-General has dispatched the names and particulars of candidates to Member States, the Regional Office will post on its web site information on all candidates who so request it including their curricula vitae as received from Member States, as well as their contact information and the relevant rules and decisions points pertaining to the nomination process as Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia. The web site will also provide links to individual web sites of candidates upon request. Each candidate is responsible for setting up and financing his/her own web site.

III. Nomination

1. The nomination of the Regional Director is conducted in private meetings of the Regional Committee in accordance with Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia. 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.

2. Member States should abide strictly by Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia and other applicable resolutions and respect the integrity, legitimacy and dignity of the proceedings. As such, they should avoid behaviours and actions, both inside and outside the conference room where the nomination takes place, which could be perceived as aiming at influencing its outcome.
3. 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.

IV. Internal candidates

1. WHO staff members, including the incumbent Regional Director, who are proposed for the post of the 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.
2. 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 any perception of conflict of interest.
3. 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.
4. The Regional Committee may suggest that the Director-General consider applying Staff Rule 650 concerning special leave to staff members who have been proposed for the post of Regional Director.

Annex B (ii)

Form for Curriculum Vitae

<p>Family name (surname):</p> <p>First / other names:</p>	<p>Attach recent photograph</p>
<p>Gender:</p>	
<p>Place and country of birth:</p>	<p>Date of birth (Day/Month/Year):</p>
<p>Citizenship:</p>	
<p>If you have ever been found guilty of the violation of any law (except minor traffic violations) give full particulars:</p>	

Civil Status:	Number of dependents:
Address to which correspondence should be sent:	Telephone: Mobile Phone: Fax: Email:

Degrees/Certificates obtained:

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

Knowledge of languages

		Mother tongue	Speak	Read	Write
<p>For language other than 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 of newspapers, routing correspondences</p>	Arabic				
	Chinese				
	English				
	French				
	Spanish				
	Russian				
	Others (please specify)				
<p>2. Engage freely in discussions, read and write more difficult material</p>					
<p>3. Fluent (nearly) as in mother tongue</p>					

Positions held

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

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

Please list here a maximum of 10 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 evaluation of your application:

Written statement

1. Please evaluate how you meet each of the “Criteria of candidates for the post of the Regional Director of the South-East Asia Region of World Health Organization” (see attached sheet). In so doing, please make reference to specific elements of your curriculum vitae to support your evaluation. The criteria that should be used for assessing candidates for the post of Regional Director are contained in resolution SEA/RC65/R1, Annex C and are the following:
 - 1) A strong technical and public health background and extensive experience in global health;
 - 2) Competency in organizational management;
 - 3) Proven historical evidence for public health leadership;
 - 4) Sensitiveness to cultural, social, and political differences;
 - 5) A strong commitment to the work of WHO;
 - 6) The good physical condition required of all staff members of the Organization;
 - 7) Commitment to personal compliance with the WHO policy on non-recruitment of smokers or other tobacco users; and
 - 8) Sufficient skill in the official working language of the Region

2. Please state your vision of priorities and strategies for the World Health Organization, in particular the South-East Asia Region.

Annex B (iii)

**Proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the
Regional Committee for the South-East Asia Region**

Current text	Amended text
<p>XI. Nomination of Regional Director Rule 49</p> <p>(b) Any Member of the Region may propose the name of one person from within the Region who has indicated willingness to act as Regional Director, submitting with the proposal particulars of the person's qualifications and experience. Such proposals shall be sent to the Director-General so as to reach him/her not less than twelve weeks before the date fixed for the opening of the session.</p>	<p>XI. Nomination of Regional Director Rule 49</p> <p>(b) Any Member of the Region may propose the name of one person from within the Region who has indicated willingness to act as Regional Director, submitting with the proposal particulars of the person's qualifications and experience. Member States shall be mindful of the Code of Conduct adopted by the Regional Committee and shall bring it to the attention of such persons. Such proposals shall be sent to the Director-General so as to reach him/her not less than twelve weeks before the date fixed for the opening of the session.</p>