Amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the
WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia

The Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly in May 2012, in its Decision WHA65(9), endorsed the proposals for enhancing the alignment in functioning between the Regional Committees and the Executive Board with the intent to strengthen, streamline and improve the methods of work and roles of the Governing Bodies. The proposals included increasing harmonization across the regional committees in relation to the nomination of Regional Directors, and the review of credentials and participation of Observers. Accordingly, regional committees for the different WHO regions complied with the requests of Member States.

The attached Working Paper enumerates the proposed amendment to Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia. Also included is a draft Resolution for consideration by the Sixty-ninth Session of the Regional Committee for South-East Asia.

The attached Working Paper was presented to the High-Level Preparatory Meeting for its review and recommendations. The recommendation made by the HLP Meeting for the consideration of the Sixty-ninth Session of the Regional Committee is:

Action by WHO

1. Place the amended Resolution before the Sixty-ninth Session of the Regional Committee for its consideration and decision.

This Working Paper and the HLP Meeting recommendations are submitted to the Sixty-ninth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia for its consideration and decision.
Introduction

1. The Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly in May 2012 endorsed the decision of the Executive Board at its Special Session in November 2011 to strengthen, streamline and improve the methods of work and roles of the Governing Bodies of WHO. This included endorsing proposals for increasing harmonization across the regional committees in relation to the nomination of Regional Directors, and the review of credentials of delegates and participation of Observers.

2. The regional committees also complied with the requests of Member States at the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly. Accordingly, Rules 2, 3 & 49 of the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia were amended vide resolutions SEA/RC66/R8 (of the Sixty-sixth session of the Regional Committee for South-East Asia) and SEA/RC65/R1 (of the Sixty-fifth session of the Regional Committee for South-East Asia).

3. In the light of the revisions to Rule 3 pertaining to “Credentials”, a further revision was procedurally warranted based on the fact that while the revised Rule 3 was amended and implemented, the reference to the “Credentials Sub-Committee” continued to appear in Rule 12 of the said Rules.

4. For the purpose of harmonization of the clauses of the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia, Rule 12 must, therefore, be amended to formalize that which is already in practice in the conduct of Regional Committee sessions in the South-East Asia Region in the matter of review of credentials of delegates.

Proposed changes

Rule 12: Officers of the Committee (Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia)

- In conjunction with Rule 3 bis, the proposed revision to Rule 12 amends the reference to the Credentials Sub-committee, and the amended text reads as follows:
  - If the Chairman is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman shall preside. The same procedure shall be adopted when the Chairman is unable to attend a session of the Committee.
  - In the event that neither the Chairman nor the Vice-Chairman is present at the opening of a session, the Regional Director shall preside ad interim until the election of a Chairman.

5. The existing and proposed texts of Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure may be found in Annex 1. The Regional Committee is invited to consider the draft Resolution as contained in Annex 2.
Annex 1

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<tr>
<th>Existing text</th>
<th>Proposed revised text</th>
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Annex 2

Draft Resolution

The Regional Committee is invited to consider the following draft Resolution:

**Amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia**

The Regional Committee,

Having considered the World Health Assembly Decision WHA65(9), by which the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly decided *inter alia* that the regional committees should harmonize their practices in relation to the nomination of Regional Directors, the review of credentials and the participation of Observers,

Noting the revision to Rule 3 pertaining to “Credentials” at the Sixty-sixth Session of the Regional Committee (SEA/RC66/R8), a further revision was procedurally warranted based on the fact that while the revised Rule 3 was amended and implemented, the reference to the Credentials Sub-Committee continued to appear in Rule 12 of the said Rules,

And having further considered the report of the Secretariat,

1. DECIDES to amend Rule 12 of its Rules of Procedure concerning Officers of the Committee by deleting the phrase “which shall be the item immediately following the acceptance of the report of the Credentials Sub-committee”.

2. DECIDES that the foregoing amendment will be reflected in the Rules of Procedure from the Sixty-ninth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia.