



REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Provisional Agenda item 5

*Special Session  
Through video conferencing  
28 March 2019*

SEA/RCSS1/2 Rev.1

27 March 2019

**Adoption of the Agenda item on Time and place of future Sessions  
of the Regional Committee**

This Working Paper provides information on the deliberations at the Seventy-first session of the Regional Committee and follow-up of the decision SEA/RC71 (3).

The attached Working Paper is submitted to the Special Session of the Regional Committee for its deliberations.



## **Background**

1. The Seventy-first session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia was held in New Delhi from 3 to 7 September 2018.
2. The discussions on Agenda item 13 – Time and place of future sessions of the Regional Committee (SEA/RC71/20), noted the invitation from the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made at the Sixty-ninth session of the Regional Committee to hold the Seventy-second Session of the Regional Committee 2019 in Pyongyang. The invitation was also confirmed by the Hon'ble Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Director-General during the Seventy-first World Health Assembly in Geneva in May 2018.
3. The Committee, through its decision SEA/RC71(3) the "Time and place of future sessions of the Regional Committee" decided to hold the Seventy-second Session of the Regional Committee in Pyongyang during the week of 2-6 September, 2019 subject to clearance by the relevant Sanctions Committee and in the absence of such clearance, the Committee also decided to hold a Special Session in March 2019, to consider the matter.

## **Current Situation**

4. In line with the decision SEA/RC71(3): "Time and place of the future sessions of the Regional Committee", the WHO Regional Office, in consultation with Legal Department of WHO headquarters, followed a step-by-step process towards seeking clearance from the Security Council, as outlined in Annex 1.
5. As a precursor, the Ministry of Public Health, Democratic People's Republic of Korea was requested to submit a pre-assessment form. This was followed up by a mission from the WHO Regional Office to DPR Korea in December 2018 to review the logistics and IT readiness.
6. In the context and given the other statutory requirements viz., list of IT equipment, estimated budgeting from previous Regional Committees etc. the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia in consultation with WHO Legal Office in Geneva submitted the necessary documentation to seek required exemptions from the Security Council Committee established pursuant to Resolution 1718 (2006) for holding the Seventy- second Session of the Regional Committee in Pyongyang, DPR Korea.
7. The Secretariat was informed on 2 March 2019 that the Sanctions Committee did not approve the Secretariat request for exemption to hold the Seventy-second Session of the Regional Committee for South-East Asia in Pyongyang, DPR Korea.

## **The way forward**

8. Following the decision of the Sanctions Committee, this Special Session of the Regional Committee is invited to identify a suitable venue for holding the Seventy-second session of the Regional Committee, with no amendments to the dates.

## Annex 1: Timelines for RC 72

### 2018

<b>September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion at RC71 and decision SEA/RC71(3)</li> <li>• Request by Ministry of Public Health, DPR Korea for mission from the SEA Regional Office to discuss preparation for the Regional Committee session.</li> </ul>
<b>October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHO Representative reminder to MoPH, DPR Korea for submission of details of arrangements for hosting RC.</li> <li>• Reconfirmation from MoPH.</li> <li>• Request to MoPH to complete a pre-assessment checklist on required arrangements for hosting RC.</li> </ul>
<b>November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receipt of Checklist from MoPH</li> <li>• Preparation for the mission from Regional Office, including request for visa and logistical arrangements etc.</li> </ul>
<b>December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mission to DPR Korea from 10–14 December 2018.</li> <li>• Preparation by the Secretariat for communication to Sanctions Committee with relevant documentation</li> </ul>

### 2019

<b>January – February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter to Chairperson of the Sanctions Committee – submission of exemption request.</li> </ul> <p>Simultaneously following steps were taken in anticipation of the response from the Sanctions Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication to the Chairperson of the Regional Committee requested 'in principle approval to hold Special Session of the Regional Committee on Thursday 28 March 2019 via videoconferencing facility</li> <li>• Following clearance from the Chairperson, communication to Member States informing about the special session and seeking nominations in anticipation of the response from the Sanctions Committee.</li> </ul>
<b>March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notification on non-approval of the exemption request by the Sanctions Committee.</li> </ul>