

ARGENTINA'S INPUT FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP ON STREAMLINING THE GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS OF PAHO

- a. The Ministry of Health and Environment of the Argentine Republic thanks the Secretariat for having taken so well the observations and discussions of the Working Group and the rules proposed.
- b. Argentina fully endorses the Proposed Rules of Procedure of the Pan American Sanitary Conference. **Part IX: Election of the Director, Article 56.** The proposed document clearly reflects and summarizes the conclusions reached about the proposed timetable.
- c. As already stated during the meeting, the idea that each country can nominate only one (1) candidate seems appropriate, since it is a realistic proposal, given the countries' situation, and it fosters an economy of efforts and resources among them, encouraging each country to select the most suitable candidate.
- d. In regard to the **Rules Governing the Election Process for the Position of Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau**, the **Nominating Criteria** clearly indicate the qualities that candidates should possess, within the framework of the new public health challenges identified in the document **A PAHO for the 21st Century**. It may not be clear to delegates who have not participated in the Working Group on Governance what point 1.2 on the **Declaration of Conflict of Interest** is referring to. This can be resolved with a footnote or more extensive clarification.
- e. In regard to **point 3.3**, we propose that it be expanded as follows:
“3.3. The designated candidates, or ultimately, the countries that nominate them, shall be responsible for all expenditures related to their participation in the Candidate” Forum.”

f. In regard to point 3.5, we suggest a small change in the Spanish version:

“**3.5.** *Siempre que sea posible, se utilizarán los medios...*”

g. In regard to **point 3.6**, we suggest that questions be presented in advance or posed spontaneously by the States. If a State has more than one question, priority will be given to answering the first question of each of the States and then moving on to successive ones. As to the presentation, 30 minutes seems appropriate.

h. Concerning **ARTICLE IV: Candidates Who Are PAHO or WHO Staff Members** and, in particular, **point 4.4**, we believe that we must consider the experiences of other organizations, such as IICA. Our same governments vote in both IICA and PAHO. We have an obligation to be ethically consistent from a political standpoint in what we do and how we do it. In this regard, we believe that a Director who wishes to be reelected should not take administrative leave. It is understood that a staff member who, over a given period of time, occupies the post of Director is well known to the countries through official visits, meetings of the Governing Bodies, participation in international meetings, technical and political messages, etc. Therefore, incumbent Directors virtually do not have to campaign; instead, they act through diplomatic contacts with the Governments and Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

i. Post Description for Members of Executive Management:

In the *Report of the Working Group on PAHO in the 21st Century*, the point Organizational Structure, numeral 32 stated:

The process of choosing or electing senior staff (Director, Deputy Director and Assistant Director) should be examined, with the object of ensuring that qualities other than political factors are considered, especially in the field of public health.”

We therefore consider it appropriate to look at these posts. However, we feel that, as with the post of Director, some criteria should be established for the qualities that candidates should possess, rather than simply creating a post description.

Here, as indicated previously for other areas, we believe that insofar as possible, the experiences of other agencies and the World Health Organization itself should be taken advantage of. PAHO has no post descriptions for the positions close to the Director. The posts of DD, AD, and AAA are positions of trust, whose responsibilities should be defined within a functional framework based on the changing conditions and the criteria of context and situation facing the Director of the Organization at a particular point in time. Therefore, Argentina maintains that there should be no post description for these positions.

j. Election of the Interim Director

In this regard, the Canadian proposal seems appropriate; that is, that:

*"... in the event that the **current Director resigns or dies**, the Deputy Director shall automatically be named Interim Director. This designation should make him the President of the Executive Committee, and later, as proposed, a new election would be held. "*

Point 2.3 of Canada's suggestion seems appropriate. That is, if less than six months remain before the nomination of candidates, the holding of the forum, and the final election during the Pan American Sanitary Conference, the Interim Director would serve as Director until the next annual meeting of the Directing Council or Pan American Sanitary Conference.

k. Applicability of the Proposed Modifications

Finally, Argentina has an additional concern, as it believes that we are discussing very important matters that would modify the Rules of Procedure of the Pan American Sanitary Conference. This leads us to consider when these modifications would go into effect.

We feel that this review process should be rigorous; that haste should not affect the quality of our decisions. We see how issues come up again and again in the meetings of the Working Group and spark new discussions that can affect consensuses. This process should have sufficient time to mature, since the points we have proposed to modify in the Rules of Procedure of the Pan American Sanitary Conference are many or very important.

Constitutional provisions or rules of procedure cannot be subject to frequent changes simply because we have failed to work with due reflection and care on the need for them.

Given all of the above, we suggest that the changes that we make and/or agreements that we reach go into effect in 2012.
