

HEALTH CANADA'S INPUT TO THE WORKING GROUP OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON STREAMLINING THE GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS OF PAHO

April 25, 2006

We would first like to thank the Secretariat for its diligence and attention to detail in producing the series of high quality documents that accurately reflect the discussions of the Working Group to date.

Health Canada's position on each document is outlined below.

1. Rules of Procedure of the Conference, Part IX, Election of the Director, Rule 56

1.1 As written, the revised Rule 56 adequately outlines in a single page the agreed upon procedures which appear fluid in terms of timing and transparent to all Member States.

1.2 With regard to paragraph two, Canada endorses the phrasing that each Member and Associate Member may submit the name of one of their nationals as a candidate for the post of Director in accordance with the referenced Rules Governing the Election Process for the Post of Director.

2. Rules of Procedure of the Directing Council, Part IX, Election of an Ad Interim Director, Rule 55

2.1 This issue was partially discussed by the Working Group.

2.2 Health Canada proposes that in the event the incumbent Director resigns or becomes deceased, the Deputy Director be automatically appointed as Ad-Interim Director by the President of the PASB, following which the same procedures for the Election of the Director as outlined in Rule 56 should apply.

2.3 However, should there be less than a 6 month period for the nomination process, the organization of the forum, and the final elections at the PASC to occur, the Ad-Interim Director assume the Directorship until the next annual meeting of the Directing Council/PASC .

3. Rules Governing the Election Process for the Position of Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, approved by the Directing Council of PAHO

- 3.1 *Article I, Nominating Criteria* reflects the consensus of the Working Group discussions in March and is endorsed by Health Canada.
- 3.2 *Article II, Presentation of Nominations* – we agree with the process as outlined, including the nomination of one national as a candidate.
- 3.3 *Article II, Candidate’s Forum* – During the open forum, Health Canada proposes that the questions from the Member States be submitted in writing to the President of the Executive Committee who will review the questions before reading them aloud to the candidate. The questions will be randomly selected from the pool. Each candidate will have a maximum of 5 minutes to respond to each question (thus allowing for approximately 12 questions in the one hour allotted for questions and answers).
- 3.4 *Article IV Candidates who are PAHO or WHO Staff Members.* Health Canada agrees with the wording of this Article, which reflects the points of discussion pertaining to leave of absence and/or related campaign activities by internal candidates for the post of the Director, and the neutral role expected of all staff members of PAHO or WHO.
- 3.5 *Article V Election* Health Canada endorses the continuation of the use of a secret ballot to elect the Director.
- 3.6 *Article VI Post Election Measures.* Health Canada supports the limitations on employment and contracting to Delegates participating in the election for a six-month period Post election. Health Canada also endorses the proposal that the use of the Organization’s discretionary funds be monitored by the SPBA for six months before and after the election. (ie: from March 1st or the deadline when nominations must be received to March 31st of the following year after the election).

4. Open Forum with Candidates for the Post of Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau

- 4.1 Health Canada agrees with the process laid out in the document but recommends that each oral presentation by the candidates be between 20 - 30 minutes. A good speaker should be able to make his/her points effectively in 20 minutes.
- 4.2 With a view to clarifying the modalities pertaining to the conduct of the question and answer period, we refer to 3.3 above. The event will be broadcast live to the Member States by way of webcasting.

5. Rules of Procedure of the Directing Council

- 5.1 Health Canada accepts the proposed changes to these rules of procedure and recognizes that once approved by the Executive Committee, the corresponding Rules of Procedure of the Pan American Sanitary Conference and Executive Committee may also require amendment

6. Proposed Resolution: Subcommittee on Planning and Programming

- 6.1 Health Canada agrees with the wording of this resolution but suggest a refinement of the first bullet under 2.1 “Functions” to read as follows:

- changes in the health situation in the Americas and the economic and social factors that affect health conditions and the health sector; **changes may include emergency health situations requiring the immediate attention of the countries;**

6.2 *Membership of the Subcommittee.* The present practice determining the membership of the subcommittee is that, of the nine (9) Members of the Executive Committee, four (4) of the total Membership of thirty-eight (38) are elected by the Members of the Executive Committee to participate in the SPP. Prior to each session, the Director can appoint three additional members according to the specific topic(s) being addressed. In addition, member states not represented on the SPP and invited institutions or organizations may, at their own expense, send observers and participate in the proceedings.

Recognizing the fact that the Working Group did not reach a consensus on this issue Health Canada proposes the following composition of the SPBA for its consideration.

Health Canada feels that the present size of the Subcommittee works well. With a view to maintaining the same number of working members on the SPBA (ie: seven) while seeking to attain a wider hemispheric participation of Member States in the revised SPBA, the 3 representatives normally invited by the Director be named from countries not presently serving on the Executive Committee. Clear justification for their selection and nomination should be provided by the Director in discussion with the Executive Committee Members. The practice of allowing Member States not represented on the SPP and invited institutions or organizations should continue. The latter group may, at their own expense, send observers and participate in the proceedings.

7. Proposed Resolution: Subcommittee on Women, Health and Development

7.1 Health Canada concurs with the wording of this resolution.

7.2 Health Canada's understanding is that the proposed TAG would serve as an advisory group for the implementation of two of the three gender equality policy components applying to PAHO's work – that is: *i) technical cooperation and ii) national policy and programming frameworks*. As such, the TAG on Women, Health and Development would report to the Executive Committee and would focus on these two policy components.

7.3 The third policy component pertaining to *gender and human resources management* within the Organization is primarily the responsibility of PAHO's Human Resources Management Division.

7.4 As such, the Working Group's recommendation that the gender aspects of the Organization's human resources management be monitored by the SPBA means that the Human Resources Management Division be responsible for reporting on this matter to the SPBA.