

30th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

74th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

Washington, D.C., USA, 26-30 September 2022

Provisional Agenda Item 3.3

CSP30/4
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ELECTION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU AND NOMINATION OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION FOR THE AMERICAS

Introduction

1. Article 4, paragraph E, of the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) provides that: “The Conference shall elect the Director of the Bureau in accordance with Article 21, paragraph A, of the Constitution.”¹ Article 21, paragraph A, further prescribes that: “The Bureau shall have a Director elected at the Conference by the vote of a majority of the Governments of the Organization. The Director shall hold office for a period of five years and may not be reelected more than once.”
2. In accordance with Rule 57 of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan American Sanitary Conference (the Conference),² the name of the person elected as Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (Bureau or PASB) shall be communicated to the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) for appointment as Regional Director of WHO for the Americas.
3. In conformity with the above provisions, in 2012 Dr. Carissa Faustina Etienne was elected Director of PASB by the 28th Pan American Sanitary Conference and appointed Regional Director of WHO for the Americas to serve a five-year term of office beginning on 1 February 2013 and ending on 31 January 2018 (Resolution CSP28.R7). In 2017, the 29th Pan American Sanitary Conference reelected Dr. Etienne to serve a second five-year term of office, beginning on 1 February 2018 and ending on 31 January 2023 (Resolution CSP29. R10).
4. It is therefore incumbent on the 30th Pan American Sanitary Conference in 2022 to

¹ Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization adopted in 1947 and last amended in 1999. Available at: <https://iris.paho.org/handle/10665.2/45985>.

² Rules of Procedure of the Pan American Sanitary Conference, as amended by the 27th Pan American Sanitary Conference (2007). Basic Documents of the Pan American Health Organization, 19th Edition (2017). Available at: <https://iris.paho.org/handle/10665.2/51503>.

elect a new Director of PASB for a period of five years, beginning on 1 February 2023 and ending on 31 January 2028.

Election Process

5. The process for the election of the Director of PASB is described in Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference:

The Conference shall elect the Director by secret ballot, in conformity with Article 21, paragraph A, of the Constitution and the Rules Governing the Election Process for the Position of Director, as approved by the Directing Council. The election process shall begin at least six months prior to the date fixed for the opening session of the Conference or by 1 March, whichever comes first, with a notification from the President of the Executive Committee to the Members, [Participating States,] and Associate Members, inviting nominations for the post of Director to be submitted to the President of the Executive Committee. Such notification shall include a copy of the Rules Governing the Election Process for the Post of Director.

Each Member, [Participating State,] and Associate Member may submit the name of only one national from a country within the Region as a candidate for the Position of Director in accordance with the referenced Rules Governing the Election Process for the Position of Director. The nomination will be sent in a sealed, confidential envelope addressed to the President of the Executive Committee, c/o Legal Counsel, Pan American Health Organization, Washington, D.C., at least four months prior to the opening session of the Conference or by 1 May, whichever comes first, after which time the nomination period shall be closed. All nominations received shall be compiled by the Bureau, translated into the four official languages of the Organization, and forwarded by the President of the Executive Committee to the Members, [Participating States,] and Associate Members at least three months prior to the opening session of the Conference or by 1 June, whichever comes first.

In accordance with the Rules Governing the Election Process for the Position of Director, the President of the Executive Committee shall invite nominated candidates to make a presentation to all Members, [Participating States,] and Associate Members wishing to attend a Candidates' Forum to be held on the margins of the Executive Committee session preceding the session of the Conference.

6. In accordance with the above Rule 56 and the Rules Governing the Election Process for the Position of Director,³ on 1 March 2022, Members States, Participating States, and Associate Members of PAHO were invited to submit nominations for the position of

³ Rules Governing the Election Process for the Position of Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, as adopted by the 47th Directing Council (2006). Basic Documents of the Pan American Health Organization, 19th Edition (2017). Available at: <https://iris.paho.org/handle/10665.2/51503>.

Director to the President of the Executive Committee by no later than 1 May 2022. By way of Note Verbale dated 1 June 2022 the President of the Executive Committee forwarded to Member States, Participating States, and Associate Members the name and curriculum vitae of the six candidatures received, as follows (in alphabetical order):

Dr. Camilo Alleyne, nominated by the Government of Panama
Dr. Jarbas Barbosa Da Silva Jr., nominated by the Government of Brazil
Dr. Florence Duperval Guillaume, nominated by the Government of Haiti
Dr. Nadine Flora Gasman Zylbermann, nominated by the Government of Mexico
Dr. Fernando Ruiz Gómez, nominated by the Government of Colombia, and
Dr. Daniel Salinas, nominated by the Government of Uruguay

7. The President of the Executive Committee convened the Candidates' Forum, as mandated by the above referenced Rules, which was held on 24 June 2022 following the closure of the 170th Session of the Executive Committee. The Forum was widely attended by PAHO Member States, Participating States, and Associate Members at Headquarters in Washington, D.C., as well as by other Members that participated via a virtual meeting platform.

Voting Procedures

8. In accordance with Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference and in conformity with Article 21 A of the PAHO Constitution and the Rules Governing the Election Process for the Position of Director, the Director of PASB shall be elected by secret ballot from among the candidates nominated.

9. Rule 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference further provides that where ballots are required, two tellers shall be appointed by the President of the Conference from among the attending delegates.

10. The required majority in the case of the election of the Director of PASB is established in Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, which states that a 'majority' means "any number of votes greater than half the number of the Members of the Organization."

11. Eligibility to vote is established in Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, which provides that each Member State and Participating Member officially represented at the Conference shall have the right to one vote. Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure further provides that Associate Members participate equally with Members in sessions of the Conference, but without the right to vote.

12. Consequently, given the above Rules and that there are 38 Members States and Participating States eligible to vote, the majority required to elect the Director of PASB is any number of votes greater than half the Members of the Organization eligible to vote (19) plus one, that is, 20 or more votes. The required "majority" for the election of the Director of PASB does not change depending on the number of votes actually cast (i.e., this is a static majority, based on the membership of the Organization).

13. Rule 55 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference further provides that each voting Member, unless it abstains, shall vote for the number of elective places to be filled. In this case, being that there is only one post to be filled (i.e., the Director of PASB), any ballot on which there is more than one name, or on which the name of any candidate appears more than once, or which is illegible or reveals the identity of the voter or is signed, shall be considered null and void.

14. In the event that no one candidate obtains the necessary majority, that is, in the event that no candidate receives 20 votes or more, Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference stipulates: “If in the first two ballots no person receives the majority required, two further ballots restricted to the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes in the second of the unrestricted ballots shall then be taken. If no candidate receives the majority required, two unrestricted and two restricted ballots shall be taken alternately until a candidate is elected.” Accordingly, the rounds would be as follows:

- a) If no candidate receives the required majority of 20 votes in the first ballot, a second round of balloting will be conducted the same as the first round (unrestricted rounds).
- b) If in the second ballot no person receives the majority required, two further ballots restricted to the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes in the second ballot shall then be taken (restricted rounds).
- c) If there is no majority after the fourth round of balloting, two unrestricted and two restricted ballots shall be taken alternately until a candidate is elected.

Action by the Pan American Sanitary Conference

15. In accordance with the above provisions, it is incumbent upon the 30th Pan American Sanitary Conference to elect a new Director of PASB for a period of five years, beginning on 1 February 2023 and ending on 31 January 2028. Once a candidate has received the majority required to be elected as Director of PASB, the Conference may wish to adopt the proposed Resolution presented in the Annex.

Annex

30th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

74th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

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Annex
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PROPOSED RESOLUTION

ELECTION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU AND NOMINATION OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION FOR THE AMERICAS

THE 30th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

(PP1) Bearing in mind Articles 4.E and 21.A of the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization, which provide that the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall have a Director elected at the Conference by the vote of a majority of the Members of the Organization;

(PP2) Bearing in mind Article 4 of the Agreement between the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization and Article 52 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization, which establish the procedure for the appointment of Regional Directors of the World Health Organization;

(PP3) Satisfied that the election of the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau has been held in accordance with the established rules and procedures,

RESOLVES:

(OP)1. To declare _____ elected Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau for a period of five years beginning on 1 February 2023 and ending on 31 January 2028.

(OP)2. To submit to the Executive Board of the World Health Organization the name of _____ for appointment as Regional Director of the World Health Organization for the Americas for the same period.
