



REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Sixty-ninth session

Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, 19–23 August 2019

Agenda item 8

DESIGNATION OF AN ACTING REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA

At its 145th session the WHO Executive Board decided to hold the 146th session of the Board from 3 to 8 February 2020. During the discussion the Board was informed that the 146th Executive Board was scheduled to hold elections for two Regional Directors, whose terms of office would expire on 31 January 2020. Were the 146th Executive Board to be deferred, the Board was further informed that there would be a short gap between the expiry of the terms of office of the incumbents and the appointment of their successors (expected to take place on 3 February 2020). This gap could in principle be filled by the designation of acting Regional Directors by the Director-General, pending the Board's finalization of the appointment by the Board of the new Regional Directors.

The Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for Africa make no express provision for the appointment of an acting Regional Director. However, the authority of the Director-General to designate a person to act as Regional Director in these circumstances can be seen as springing from Article 31 of the Constitution, which provides that the Director-General, subject to the authority of the Board, shall be the chief technical and administrative officer of the Organization. Furthermore, Article 51 of the Constitution notes that the Regional Office, which is the administrative organ of the Regional Committee, is subject to the "general authority" of the Director-General and Article 45 of the Constitution provides that each regional organization shall be an "integral part" of the Organization in accordance with the WHO Constitution.

Against this legal background, and mindful of the constitutional involvement of the Regional Committee (Article 52) in the appointment of Regional Directors, the Regional Committee is hereby informed that the Director-General proposes to designate an acting Regional Director for the period of time between 31 January 2020 and the appointment of the next Regional Director for Africa at the 146th session of the Board in February 2020.

It remains the case that Members of the Executive Board may, subject to the process outlined in Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, request a special session of the Board to consider this matter before the expiry of the contract of the current Regional Director should they prefer this to the proposed procedure outlined above.