
Article 4, paragraph E, of the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization, which has been amended and will be in force as of the opening date of this 26th Pan American Sanitary Conference, provides that: "The Conference shall elect the Director of the Bureau in accordance with Article 21, paragraph A, of the Constitution." Article 21, paragraph A, 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."

The name of the person elected as Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau is communicated to the Executive Board of the World Health Organization so it can appoint the person elected as Regional Director for the Americas. This communication is based on Rule 57 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, which states that: "Acting as Regional Committee of the World Health Organization, and in conformity with Articles 49 and 52 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization, the Conference shall submit to the Executive Board of the World Health Organization the name of the person so elected, for appointment as Regional Director."

The election procedure is described in Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, as follows: "The Conference shall elect the Director by secret ballot, in conformity with Article 21, paragraph A, of the Constitution. Before voting is begun, Members and Associate Members that wish to do so may nominate any person they deem suitable for the post, but no official list of candidates shall be drawn up, no eligibility requirements shall be established, and votes may be cast for a person whether nominated or not. 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."

Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan American Sanitary Conference states
that "majority" means, in the case of the election of the Director, "...any number of votes
greater than half the number of the Members of the Organization." There being 38 Member
and Participating Governments of the Pan American Health Organization, "majority" is thus
any number of votes greater than 19, that is, 20 or more votes.

In accordance with the constitutional provisions then applicable, the
25th Pan American Sanitary Conference (1998) elected the present Director for a period of
four years, beginning on 1 February 1999 and ending on 31 January 2003. In view of the constitutional amendments now in force, it is incumbent on the
26th Pan American Sanitary Conference to elect the Director of the Bureau for a period of
five years, beginning on 1 February 2003 and ending on 31 January 2008.

Once a candidate has received the majority required, the Conference may wish to
adopt a resolution along the following lines:

Proposed Resolution

THE 26th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

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 Governments
of the Organization;

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; and

Satisfied that the election of the Director of the Bureau has been held in accordance
with the established procedures,

Resolves:

1. To declare ___________________________ elected Director of the
   Pan American Sanitary Bureau for a period of five years to begin 1 February 2003.

2. To submit to the Executive Board of the World Health Organization the name of
   ___________________________ for appointment as Regional Director for the Americas.