



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



## 128th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*Washington, D.C., USA, 25-29 June 2001*

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*Agenda Item 2.4*

CE128/27 (Eng.)

25 June 2001

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

### PROCESS FOR THE ELECTION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO TO THE 128th SESSION OF  
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In accordance with Rules 10 and 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the Delegation of Mexico presents the following working document:

Proposed procedures for the process of electing the Director of the Pan American Health Organization.

Most countries in the Americas have agreed on the need to strengthen democratic procedures in the region as a fundamental condition to achieve equity and development. In accordance to this mandate, democratic values should prevail in international organizations. Therefore, it is necessary to promote electoral mechanisms based on the following rules:

**The Member States should guide the electoral process.** This in order to comply with the PAHO Constitution, which determines that the electoral process corresponds to the countries.

**Equity in the conditions of the electoral contest.** Both internal and external candidates should compete with the same opportunities. Among other things, this would mean that internal candidates should leave temporarily their posts six months before the election, that is on September 2002. The internal candidates could retain their salaries and the possibility to rejoin their post once the electoral process is over.

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**Transparent platform presentation to guarantee accountability.** This means that the candidates should put forward their programs for government analysis in open sessions that may provide the electorate with elements for a reasoned vote.

**Universal and secret vote.** The election should take place during the ordinary meeting of the Pan American Sanitary Conference in September 2002, according to PAHO's Internal Regulations.

The proposed mechanism will allow an open dialogue that provides a vision for the future of the Pan American Health Organization, enabling it to face the challenges of international public health.