



Pan American  
Health  
Organization



World Health  
Organization  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE  
Americas

# 29th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

## 69th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

Washington, D.C., USA, 25-29 September 2017

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*Provisional Agenda Item 3.3*

CSP29/3  
15 July 2017  
Original: English

### 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.”<sup>1</sup> 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.”
2. In accordance with Rule 57 of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan American Sanitary Conference (the Conference), 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) so that it can appoint that person 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 the 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.<sup>2</sup> It is therefore incumbent on the 29th Pan American Sanitary Conference in 2017 to elect a Director of PASB for a period of five years.

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<sup>1</sup> Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization, adopted in 1947, last amended in 1999.

<sup>2</sup> Election of the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and Nomination of the Regional Director of the World Health Organization for the Americas, 28th Pan American Sanitary Conference, Resolution CSP28.R7 (2012).

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**Election Process**

4. The process for the election of the Director of PASB is described in Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference:<sup>3</sup>

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, which ever 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 Position 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, which ever 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, which ever 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.

5. In accordance with the above Rule 56 and the Rules Governing the Election Process for the Position of Director, on 1 March 2017, the Members States, Participating States, and Associate Members of PAHO were invited to submit nominations for the position of Director to the President of the Executive Committee by no later than 1 May 2017. By way of Note Verbale dated 19 May 2017 the President of the Executive Committee forwarded to the Member States, Participating States, and Associate Members the name and curriculum vitae of the only candidature received, that of the incumbent Director of the PASB, Dr. Carissa Faustina Etienne, nominated by the Government of

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<sup>3</sup> Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan American Sanitary Conference, as amended, and Rules Governing the Election Process for the Position of Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, adopted by the Directing Council, Resolution CD47.R4 (2006).

Dominica. The President of the Executive Committee convened the Candidates' Forum, as mandated by the above referenced Rules, to take place on 30 June 2017 following the closure of the 160th 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 virtually via the PASB's teleconference services.

### **Voting Procedures**

6. In accordance with Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Director shall be elected by secret ballot from among the candidates nominated pursuant to the Rules Governing the Election Process for the Position of Director.

7. 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." There being 38 Members, the required "majority" for the election of the Director of the PASB is thus any number of votes greater than 19, that is, 20 or more votes.

### **Action by the Pan American Sanitary Conference**

8. In accordance with the above provisions, the 28th Pan American Sanitary Conference (2012) elected the present Director for a period of five years, beginning on 1 February 2013 and ending on 31 January 2018. It is incumbent upon the 29th Pan American Sanitary Conference to elect a Director of the PASB for a period of five years, beginning on 1 February 2018 and ending on 31 January 2023. Once a candidate has received the majority required to be elected as Director of PASB, the Conference may wish to adopt the attached proposed Resolution.

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 29th 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 to begin 1 February 2018 and ending on 31 January 2023.

(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.