



**XXIV PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE**  
**XLVI REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
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Provisional Agenda Item 3.4

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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**

Article 4, paragraph E, of the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization 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 vote of a majority of the Governments of the Organization. The Director shall hold office for a period of four years."

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 the Regional Director for the Americas. This communication is based on Rule 58 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 electoral procedure is described in Rule 57 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, as follows: "The Conference shall elect the Director of the Bureau by secret ballot in plenary session, in conformity with Article 21, paragraph A, of the Constitution. Before voting is begun, delegations 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 45 of the Rules of Procedure of the 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 Governments 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 these constitutional provisions, the XXIII Pan American Sanitary Conference (1990) re-elected the present Director for a period of four years, beginning on 1 February 1991 and ending on 31 January 1995. It is therefore incumbent on the XXIV Pan American Sanitary Conference to elect the Director of the Bureau for the period which will begin on 1 February 1995 and end on 31 January 1999.