

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Seventy-third session

Gaborone, Botswana, 28 August–1 September 2023

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE SPECIAL PROCEDURES TO REGULATE
THE CONDUCT OF THE HYBRID SESSION OF THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION
OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**

The Seventy-third session of the Regional Committee for Africa,

1. **ADOPTS** the special procedures to regulate the conduct of the hybrid session of the Regional Committee as set out in Annex 1 to this decision; and
2. **DECIDES** that the said special procedures shall apply to the Seventy-third session of the Regional Committee for Africa to be held from 28 August to 1 September 2023.

ANNEX 1

SPECIAL PROCEDURES TO REGULATE THE CONDUCT OF THE HYBRID SESSION OF THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. The Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for Africa shall continue to apply in full, except to the extent that they are inconsistent with these special procedures, in which case the Regional Committee's decision to adopt these special procedures shall operate as a decision to suspend the relevant Rules of Procedure to the extent necessary in accordance with Rule 53 of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for Africa.¹

ATTENDANCE AND QUORUM

2. Attendance by Member States, Associate Members, Committees of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and other regional international organizations and economic communities having interests in common with the World Health Organization as well as nongovernmental organizations may be in person or through a secured access to videoconference or other electronic means allowing representatives to hear other participants and to address the meeting remotely.

3. For the avoidance of doubt, both in-person and virtual attendance of representatives of Member States and Associate Members shall be counted in determining the presence of a quorum.

ADDRESSING THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

4. Member States, Associate Members, Committees of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and other regional international organizations and economic communities having interests in common with the World Health Organization as well as, at the invitation of the Chairperson, non-governmental organizations shall be provided with the opportunity to take the floor. Statements will be limited to three minutes for Member States and Associate Members; to two minutes for committees of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and other regional international organizations and economic communities; and to one minute for non-governmental organizations. Any representative wishing to take the floor shall signal their wish to speak by raising their nameplate, if attending in person, or through the tools made available by the online platform, if attending virtually.

5. Heads of Member State and Associate Member delegations shall also have the opportunity, if they so wish, to submit pre-recorded video statements of no more than three minutes in duration in advance of the opening of the session, if possible, by Monday, 21 August 2023. Those video statements will be broadcast at the hybrid meeting in lieu of a live intervention. Member States and Associate Members, Committees of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and other regional international organizations and economic communities having interests in common with the World

¹ This will affect notably the relevant provisions of the following Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for Africa:

- Rule 3 (Credentials);
- Rule 20 (Final Report);
- Rules 45, 48 through 51 (voting by show of hands and secret ballot);
- Rule 54 (amendments of and addition to the Rules of Procedure) insofar as these Special Procedures may be regarded as amendments of or addition to the Rules of Procedure and to the extent that Rule 54 requires receipt and consideration of a report thereon by an appropriate subcommittee.

Health Organization and nongovernmental organizations are invited to also provide, if they so wish, in advance of the opening of the Regional Committee, written statements of no more than 600 words in one of the official languages of the African Region, which will be posted on the Regional Office website.

6. Written and video statements, in the language of submission, shall remain posted on the Regional Office website until the adoption of the final report of the Regional Committee, which will reflect the debate in accordance with the usual practice.

REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS

7. Online registration is required for all participants, whether attending in person or virtually.

8. Consistent with Rule 3, credentials of representatives, including all alternates, advisers and secretaries, shall be communicated electronically to the Regional Director, if possible, by 13 August 2023; credentials shall be issued by Heads of State, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Ministers of Health or any other appropriate authority. All credentials and lists of representatives, including all alternates, advisers and secretaries, should be submitted electronically. One member of each Member State delegation is invited to upload a copy of the credentials in the registration platform.

9. In accordance with Rule 3(c), a Committee on Credentials consisting of representatives physically present of seven Member States shall be appointed at the beginning of the session by the Regional Committee on the proposal of the Chairperson. Given the hybrid nature of the session, credentials submitted electronically shall be considered as formal credentials.

MEETINGS

10. All meetings of the Regional Committee shall be held in public. The hybrid session shall be broadcast on the Regional Office website.

DECISION-MAKING

11. All decisions of the Regional Committees taken in the hybrid meeting should, as far as possible, be by consensus. In any event, no decision shall be taken by a show of hands vote or by secret ballot.

LANGUAGES

12. For the avoidance of doubt, Rule 23 continues to apply, whereby speeches made in an official language shall be interpreted into the other official languages.

FINAL REPORT

13. Following the closure of the session, the Secretariat shall prepare and share electronically a draft final report for consideration of and comments from the representatives of Member States and Associate Members. Comments shall be sent electronically to the Secretariat at the following email address GoverningBodiesAfro@who.int not later than fourteen days from the date of dispatch of the draft final report. The Secretariat, following consultations with the Rapporteurs and the Chairperson of the Regional Committee, shall finalize the final report and publish it on the Regional Office website.