



REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Seventieth session

Resumed virtual session, 24 November 2020

**REVISED SPECIAL PROCEDURES TO REGULATE THE CONDUCT OF THE RESUMED
VIRTUAL 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 shall be through a secured access to videoconference or other electronic means allowing representatives to hear other participants and to address the meeting remotely.
3. Attendance by nongovernmental organizations shall be through electronic means allowing representatives to hear other participants.
4. For the avoidance of doubt, virtual attendance of representatives shall be taken into account when calculating the presence of a quorum.

ADDRESSING THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

5. 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 Health Organization and nongovernmental organizations are invited to provide, in advance of the opening of the Regional Committee, written statements

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

- Rule 3 (Credentials);
- Rule 10 (Officers of the Committee);
- 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.

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. The statements can be under any of the following:

- WHO Programme Budget (Document AFR/RC70/6); and
 - Special event on the COVID-19 response in the African Region.
6. 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 Friday 20 November 2020. Those video statements will be broadcast at the virtual meeting in lieu of a live intervention under the item on the WHO Programme Budget (Document AFR/RC70/6); and the Special event on the COVID-19 response in the African Region.
 7. Written and video statements, in the language of submission, shall remain posted on the web site of the Regional Office until the adoption of the final report of the Regional Committee which will reflect the debate in accordance with the usual practice.
 8. During the resumed virtual session, Member States, Associate Members, invited representatives 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 shall be provided with the opportunity to take the floor. Individual statements will be limited to three minutes. Any representative wishing to take the floor should signal their wish to speak by raising their hand through the online platform.

COMMITTEES

9. All business shall be conducted in plenary.

REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS

10. The confirmations of participation as well as the online registration completed for the August session of RC70 are still valid for the resumed session. Credentials submitted by Member States in accordance with **Rule 3(b)** of the Rules of Procedure for the August session of RC70 are also still considered valid. Only Member States that wish to modify the composition of their delegation should electronically send copies of credentials to the Secretariat **by 20 November 2020**, indicating the new composition of the full delegation. Such credentials should be issued by the Head of State, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Health, or any other appropriate authority, that is, permanent missions and senior government officials, such as the Director-General for Health.
11. New participants mentioned in such credentials should register by 20 November 2020 at the link <http://indico.un.org/e/WHORC70RS>. Guidance for the online registration is enclosed. The credentials should be sent to afgorcregistration@who.int. The Chairperson of the Seventieth Regional Committee shall be invited, before the opening of a resumed session, to assess whether any credentials submitted by Member States are in conformity with the Rules of Procedure and shall report to the Regional Committee accordingly.

MEETINGS

12. All meetings of the Regional Committee shall be held in public. The virtual Regional Committee shall be broadcast on the Regional Office website.

DECISION-MAKING

13. All decisions of the Regional Committees taken in virtual session should as far as possible be by consensus. In any event, given the virtual nature of the session, no decision shall be taken by a show of hands vote or by secret ballot.

LANGUAGES

14. 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

15. 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: afgorcregistration@who.int not later than fourteen days from the date of dispatch of the draft final report. The Secretariat, following consultations with the Chairperson of the Regional Committee, shall finalize the final report and publish it on the website of the Regional Office.