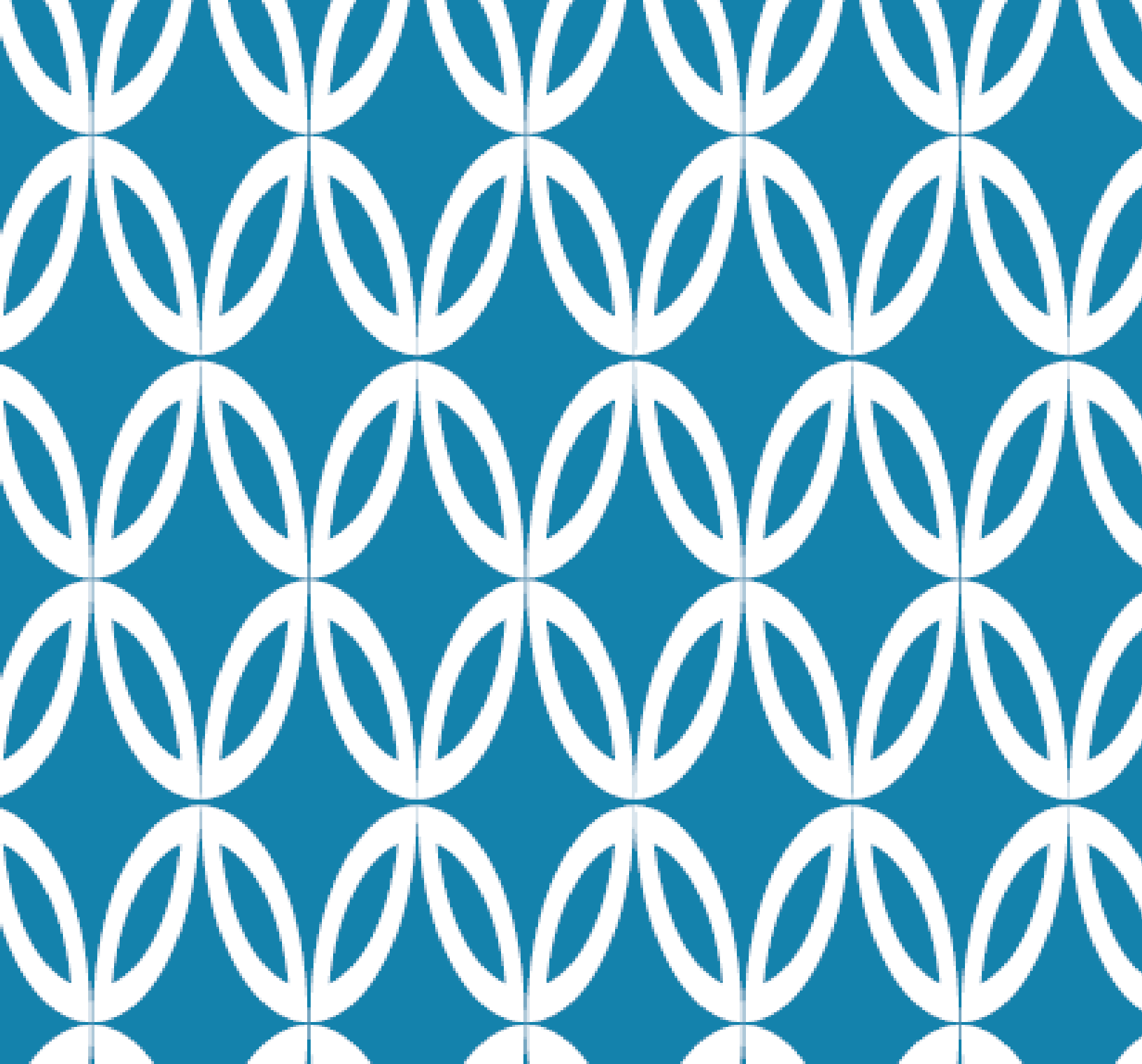




Second special session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, Geneva, Switzerland, 18 May 2025

Final report



**Second special session of the WHO
Regional Committee for Africa, Geneva,
Switzerland, 18 May 2025**

Final report

Reference number:

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Designed in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

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Part I

Procedural decisions and resolutions

Procedural decisions

Decision 1. Composition of the Committee on Credentials

In accordance with Rule 3(c) of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for Africa, the Regional Committee appointed a Committee on Credentials consisting of the representatives of the following Member States: Benin, Gabon, Kenya, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, Zambia.

The Committee on Credentials met on 18 May 2025 and elected Dr Stephen Muleshe, from the delegation of Kenya, as its Chairperson.

Decision 2. Credentials

The Regional Committee, acting on the report of the Committee on Credentials, decided to recognize the credentials submitted by the following 47 Member States to be in conformity with Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for Africa: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Resolutions

Resolution 1. Nomination of the Regional Director

The Regional Committee,

Considering Article 52 of the Constitution; and

In accordance with Rule 52 of its Rules of Procedure,

1. NOMINATES Dr Mohamed Yakub Janabi as Regional Director for the African Region, and
2. REQUESTS the Director-General to propose to the Executive Board the appointment of Dr Mohamed Yakub Janabi for a period of up to 5 years and eight months.

Resolution 2. Expression of appreciation to Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu

The Regional Committee,

Having nominated Dr Mohamed Yakub Janabi as Regional Director for Africa;

Commending the remarkable efforts made by the Acting Regional Director, Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu, to ensure continuity of the work and activities of WHO in the African Region through a critical period;

1. EXPRESSES its appreciation to Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu for his continued commitment to the Organization and his leadership in the Regional Office for Africa;
2. ADDRESSES to him its sincere gratitude and best wishes as he assumes his position as Executive Director of the Health Emergencies Programme.

Part II

Report of the Regional Committee

Opening of meeting

1. The Second special session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Africa was officially opened on Sunday 18 May 2025 by Honourable Louise Mapleh Kpoto, First Vice-chairperson of the Seventy-fourth Regional Committee from Liberia, at the WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The ceremony included speeches from the Acting WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu, and the WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

2. In his remarks, the Acting Regional Director began by paying tribute to the late Dr Faustine Ndugulile, who had been nominated for the post of Regional Director for Africa by the Seventy-fourth session of the Regional Committee for Africa in August 2024. He also acknowledged the work of the previous Regional Director, Dr Matshidiso Moeti, in championing transformation and country-centred leadership. He reflected on his interim tenure since February 2025, highlighting efforts to strengthen the team at the Regional Office, partnerships, management processes, and responses to health emergencies.

3. The Acting Regional Director thanked all the candidates who had contended for the role of Regional Director, and emphasized the demanding nature of the position. He underscored the importance of the day's deliberations and the need for competent, confident and collaborative leadership in the Region.

4. He further acknowledged the pledges from 19 Member States to support WHO's first investment round and encouraged others to join in the upcoming pledging event that was scheduled later that week. He concluded by thanking the Director-General for appointing him to serve as Acting Regional Director for Africa, and the Member States for the privilege of serving them.

5. The Director-General expressed gratitude to the Member States for convening the session following the demise of the previous Regional Director-elect. He affirmed his appreciation for Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu's leadership during the intervening period. He further acknowledged the candidates for the position of Regional Director, while emphasizing the importance of the role of the Regional Director in global health, which requires clear-eyed leadership, creativity, technical expertise, wisdom, and a steady hand. The Director-General thanked the Chairperson and all Member States for their commitment to promoting, providing and protecting the health of the people of Africa.

Adoption of the provisional agenda and the provisional programme of work

6. The Chairperson of the Second special session of the WHO Regional Committee and First Vice-chairperson of the Seventy-fourth Regional Committee, Honourable Louise Mapleh Kpoto from Liberia, tabled the provisional agenda (AFR/RCSS2-1) and the draft programme of work (AFR/RCSS2-1 Add.1). They were adopted without amendments.

Appointment of Committee on Credentials

7. The Regional Committee appointed the Committee on Credentials, in accordance with Rule 3(c) of the Rules of Procedure, consisting of the representatives of the following Member States: Benin, Gabon, Kenya, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa and Zambia. The Committee on Credentials met on 18 May 2025 and elected Dr Stephen Muleshe from the delegation of Kenya as its chairperson.

Report of the Committee on Credentials

8. The Regional Committee, acting on the report of the Committee on Credentials, decided to accept original and electronic credentials and recognized the credentials submitted by all 47 Member States to be in conformity with Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for Africa.

Nomination of the Regional Director

9. The nomination of the Regional Director by the Regional Committee was conducted in three stages: (i) interviews of the four candidates; (ii) voting to nominate a candidate in a private meeting; and (iii) announcement of the nominee in an open meeting. The Regional Committee first decided on the inclusion of the proposal of one candidate, which was received in hard copy a few hours beyond the deadline, although the electronic version was received within the stipulated time. The Regional Committee further decided on the modalities for the interviews. The interviews of all four candidates took place in the morning of the Special session, with the order of presentation drawn by lot. The vote to nominate the Regional Director took place by secret ballot in a private meeting of Member States, in accordance with Rule 52 of the Rules of Procedure.

10. Following the vote, Dr Mohamed Yakub Janabi from the United Republic of Tanzania, was nominated as the next Regional Director for Africa. His nomination will be submitted to the 157th Executive Board for appointment.

11. The Regional Committee also expressed its appreciation to Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu for his leadership as Acting Regional Director during the transition period, and wished him well in his new role.

Closure of the Second special session of the Regional Committee

12. In her concluding remarks, the Chairperson recalled the proposals from the African Region for the elective posts of the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly and of the 157th session of the Executive Board.

13. In his closing remarks, the Acting Regional Director acknowledged the leadership of the Chairperson, the unity and commitment of Member States, and the support of the WHO Secretariat for the Second special session of the Regional Committee. The Acting Regional Director congratulated the nominees who will represent the Region in key elective posts and highlighted the importance of these appointments in projecting the voice of the Region in global health. The Acting Regional Director also expressed gratitude for the opportunity that had been given him to serve, and emphasized his steadfast commitment to supporting the transition to the new leadership.

14. Lastly, the Chairperson declared the Regional Committee closed.

Part III

Annex

ANNEX

DRAFT LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Head of delegation

Mozambique

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Ministro da Saúde
Ministério da Saúde

Head of delegation

Sr. Geraldo Saranga
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Missão permanente de Moçambique
em Genebra

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Ministry of Health and Social Services
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Ministry of Health and Social Services

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Ministry of Health and Social Services

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Ministre de la santé publique, de la
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Ministère de la santé publique, de la
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Ministry of Health

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Ministry of Health
Head of Delegation

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National Department of Health
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Ministère de la santé et de l'hygiène
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Ministry of Health
Head of delegation

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Ministry of Health
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African
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Permanent Mission of the United Republic of
Tanzania in Geneva

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Ambassador and Deputy Representative to
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Tanzania Mission to the UN in New York

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President's private Office

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Cooperation

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African
Cooperation

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Ministry of Health

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Member of Parliament
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Ministry of Health

Mr Musa Konchela Leitura
Personal Assistant to Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Health - URT

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Doctors Plaza

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Muhimbili National Hospital

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Deputy Executive Director
Muhimbili National Hospital

Mr Donan Mmbando
Deputy Board Chairperson
Muhimbili National Hospital

Ms Faith Temba
Private Assistant to Executive Director
Muhimbili National Hospital

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Ministry of Health
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Ministry of Health

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Government of Zimbabwe
Ministry of Health and Child Care
Head of delegation

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Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Health and Child Care

Ms Ever Mlilo
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

2. Guests

Dr N'da Konan Michel Yao
Candidate for the post of WHO Regional
Director for Africa
Côte d'Ivoire

Dr Mohamed Lamine Dramé
Candidate for the post of WHO Regional
Director for Africa
Guinee

Professor Mohamed Yakub Janabi
Nominee for the post of WHO Regional
Director for Africa
United Republic of Tanzania

Dr Moustafa Mijiyawa
Candidate for the post of WHO Regional
Director for Africa
Togo

The WHO Regional Office for Africa

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations created in 1948 with the primary responsibility for international health matters and public health. The WHO Regional Office for Africa is one of the six regional offices throughout the world, each with its own programme geared to the particular health conditions of the Member States it serves.

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