



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

**World Health
Organization**

Africa

AFR/RC72/Decision 1

22 August 2022

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Seventy-second session

Lomé, Republic of Togo, 22–26 August 2022

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

The Regional Committee for Africa,

- 1 ADOPTED the special procedures to regulate the conduct of the hybrid session of the Regional Committee for Africa as set out in Annex 1 to this decision; and
- 2 DECIDED that the said special procedures should apply to the Seventy-second session of the Regional Committee for Africa held from 22 to 26 August 2022.

Annex 1

Special procedures to regulate the conduct of the hybrid session of the Seventy-second 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 taken into account when calculating 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.

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, insofar as Rule 10 concerns the Chairperson);
- 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.

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 Wednesday, 17 August 2022. 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 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.

OFFICERS

7. For the purpose of the Seventy-second session of the Regional Committee, the Chairperson of the Seventy-first Regional Committee may be re-elected as Chairperson of the Seventy-second session of the Regional Committee.

REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS

8. Online registration is required for all participants, whether attending in person or virtually.
9. Consistent with Rule 3, credentials of representatives, including all alternates, advisers and secretaries, shall be communicated electronically to the Regional Director if possible by 19 August 2022; 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.
10. 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

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

DECISION-MAKING

12. 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

13. 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

14. 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 Rapporteurs and the Chairperson of the Regional Committee, shall finalize the final report and publish it on the Regional Office website.