

CD61/17

Provisional Agenda Item 6.1

16 August 2024

Original: Spanish

**SELECTION OF TWO MEMBER STATES FROM THE REGION OF THE AMERICAS
ENTITLED TO DESIGNATE A PERSON TO SERVE ON THE POLICY AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE
OF THE UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO/WORLD BANK SPECIAL PROGRAM OF RESEARCH,
DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH TRAINING IN HUMAN REPRODUCTION**

Background

1. The Special Program of Research, Development, and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP) is a global program of international technical cooperation established to promote, coordinate, support, conduct, and evaluate research in human reproduction with particular reference to the needs of developing countries. The Special Program was established in 1972 by the World Health Organization (WHO), its implementing agency. It operates within a broad framework of intergovernmental and interagency cooperation and participation.
2. Since 1988, the Special Program has been structured on cosponsorship by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization, and the World Bank. The 41st World Health Assembly adopted Resolution WHA41.9 (1988) (1) by which cosponsorship of the Special Program was approved. Cosponsorship provides a number of advantages to the Special Program, among them the benefits derived from the expertise of the other cosponsoring agencies and their interaction with Member States, and from having a more secure funding base.
3. As stated in the memorandum which outlines the administrative structure (2), the Special Program has: a Policy and Coordination Committee (PCC); a Standing Committee; and a Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG). Only the PCC, which is the governing body of the Special Program, is addressed in this document.

Functions

4. The PCC shall, for the purpose of coordinating the interests and responsibilities of the parties cooperating in the Special Program, have the following functions.
 - a) Review and decide upon the planning and execution of the Special Program. For this purpose, it will keep itself informed of all aspects of the development of the Special Program and consider reports and recommendations submitted to it by the Standing Committee, the Executing Agency, and the STAG.
 - b) Review and approve the plan of action and budget for the coming financial period prepared by the Executing Agency and reviewed by STAG and the Standing Committee.

- c) Review the proposals of the Standing Committee and approve arrangements for the financing of the Special Program, as well as longer-term proposed plans of action and their financial repercussions.
- d) Review the annual financial statements submitted by the Executing Agency and the audit report thereon submitted by the External Auditor of the Executing Agency, as well as review periodic reports that will evaluate the progress of the Special Program toward the achievement of its objectives.
- e) Review and endorse the selection of members of STAG by the Executing Agency in consultation with the Standing Committee.
- f) Consider such other matters relating to the Special Program as may be referred to it by any Cooperating Party.

Membership

5. The PCC consists of 34 members (Table 1) elected from among the Cooperating Parties as follows:

- a) **Largest financial contributors (Category 1):** 11 government representatives from the countries that were the largest financial contributors to the Special Program in the previous biennium (2022–2023). The United States of America, Canada and two PAHO Participating States (the Netherlands and the United Kingdom) are the sole contributors related to the Region of the Americas.
- b) **Countries elected by WHO regional committees (Category 2):** 14 government representatives from Member States elected by the WHO regional committees for three-year terms according to population distribution and regional needs, distributed as follows:

Africa	4
Americas	2
Eastern Mediterranean	1
Europe	1
South-east Asia	3
Western Pacific	3
- c) **Other interested Cooperating Parties (Category 3):** two members elected by the PCC for three-year terms from the remaining Cooperating Parties. Armenia and Chile are currently in office.
- d) **Permanent Members (Category 4):** cosponsors of the Special Program, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

6. In the elections for Category 2, due account should be taken of a country's financial and/or technical support to the Special Program and its interest in the fields of family planning, research and development, and in human reproduction and fertility regulation, as demonstrated by national policies and programs. Members of the PCC in Categories 2 and 3 may be re-elected.

Table 1. Policy and Coordination Committee Membership (2024)

Category 1. Largest financial contributors in the previous biennium (countries)
Australia Canada China Government of Flanders (Belgium) The Netherlands Norway Sweden Switzerland Thailand United Kingdom United States of America
Category 2. Countries elected by each Regional Committee of WHO
China East Timor India Indonesia Italy Mongolia Morocco Nicaragua Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone South Africa Tonga Uruguay
Category 3. Other Interested Cooperating Parties
Armenia Chile
Category 4. Permanent Members*
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)* World Bank* United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)* United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)* World Health Organization (WHO)* Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

* Cosponsors of the Special Program.

7. Table 2 shows those Member States of the Region of the Americas which are current members of the PCC and those which have been part of the PCC since 1998.

Table 2. Former and current members of the Policy and Coordination Committee of the HRP representing the Region of the Americas

Members of PCC/HRP (December 1998–December 2024)		
Country	Category 1	Category 2
Argentina	-	2007-2009 2019-2021
Canada	1998-2009 2022-2023	-
Chile	-	2001-2003
Colombia	-	2004-2006
Costa Rica	-	1998-2000
Ecuador	-	2004-2006 2013-2015
El Salvador	-	2013-2015
France	2009-2011 2018-2019	-
Guatemala	-	2010-2012
Jamaica	-	1998-2000
Mexico	2004	2007-2009
Netherlands	1998-2011 2018-2019	-
Nicaragua	-	2022-2024
Panama	-	2001-2003
Paraguay	-	2010-2012
Peru	-	2016-2018
Spain	2000-2011	
Trinidad and Tobago	-	2019-2021
United Kingdom	1998-2011 2018-2019	-
United States of America	1998-2003 2016-2017 2018-2019 2022-2023	-
Uruguay	-	2022-2024
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	-	2016-2018

Observers

8. Other Cooperating Parties may be represented as observers with approval of the Executing Agency after consultation with the Standing Committee. Observers attend sessions of the PCC at their own expense.

Operation

9. The PCC meets at least once a year, and in extraordinary sessions if required, subject to the agreement of the majority of its members. The Executing Agency acts as the secretariat.

10. The PCC elects each year from among its members a chair, a vice-chair, and a rapporteur. The chair convenes and presides over meetings of the PCC and undertakes such additional duties as may be assigned by the PCC.

11. Subject to any special arrangements that may be decided upon by the PCC, members of the PCC make their own arrangements to cover the expenses incurred in attending sessions of the PCC.

Proposal

12. The PCC has recommended that the Regional Committees of WHO be responsible for the election of 14 members constituting Category 2 for three-year terms of office. The Region of the Americas is entitled to elect two government representatives. Nicaragua and Uruguay are ending their terms of office effective 31 December 2024.

13. In view of the above, the 61st Directing Council, in its capacity as the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas, is requested to elect two Member States from the Region for the Category 2 of the PCC for terms of office extending from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2027. The elected members will be responsible for ensuring the full participation of the Region of the Americas in the decision-making process and for promoting a major role for the Region in the Special Program.

14. Countries and organizations which have not been elected members of the PCC may, subject to prior approval, attend its meetings as observers at their own expense. The Director of PAHO will be pleased to communicate the name of any such country or organization to the PCC.

Action by the Directing Council

15. The Directing Council is invited to take note of this report and elect two Member States from the Region for Category 2 of the Policy and Coordination Committee, for terms of office extending from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2027.

References

1. World Health Organization. Special programme of research, development and research training in human reproduction [Resolution WHA41.9]. 41st World Health Assembly; 2–13 May 1988. Geneva: WHO; 1988. Available from: <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/164346>.

2. World Health Organization. Memorandum on the Administrative Structure of the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP). Geneva: WHO; 2012. Available from: <https://www.who.int/en/publications/m/item/memorandum-on-the-administrative-structure>.
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