



59th DIRECTING COUNCIL

73rd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

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Provisional Agenda Item 6.1

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

Background

1. Established in 1972 by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Special Program of Research, Development, and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP) has been structured since 1988 on the basis of 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, and operates within a broad framework of intergovernmental and interagency cooperation and participation. The Executing Agency is WHO.
2. The Special Program 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.
3. The Forty-first World Health Assembly adopted Resolution WHA41.9 (1988) by which cosponsorship of the Special Program was approved. A number of advantages have accrued to the Special Program as a result of the cosponsorship, 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.
4. As stated in the memorandum which outlines the administrative structure,¹ the Special Program has: a Policy and Coordination Committee (PCC); a Standing Committee; and a Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG). In this document only the Policy

¹ World Health Organization. Memorandum on the Administrative Structure of the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP). 2012. Available from: <https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/hrp/hrp-mou-admin-structure-rev-2012.pdf>.

and Coordination Committee is addressed. The PCC is the governing body of the Special Program. The terms of reference for the PCC are as follows:

Functions

5. 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 Scientific and Technical Advisory Group.
 - 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.
 - e) Review periodic reports that will evaluate the progress of the Special Program toward the achievement of its objectives.
 - f) Review and endorse the selection of members of STAG by the Executing Agency in consultation with the Standing Committee.
 - g) Consider such other matters relating to the Special Program as may be referred to it by any Cooperating Party.

Membership

6. The PCC shall consist of 34 members (Table 1) 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 (2018-2019). The United States of America and the three PAHO Participating States (France, 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

7. 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.

- a) *Other interested Cooperating Parties* (Category 3): two members elected by the PCC for three-year terms from the remaining Cooperating Parties. Burkina Faso and Uruguay are currently in office.
- b) *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).

8. Members of the PCC in Categories 2 and 3 may be re-elected.

9. Table 2 shows the Member States of the Region of the Americas that were part of the PCC in previous years.

Table 1. Policy and Coordination Committee Membership (2021)

<i>Category 1. Largest financial contributors in the previous biennium (countries)</i>		
China		
France		
Government of Flanders (Belgium)		
India		
Netherlands		
Norway		
Sweden		
Switzerland		
Thailand		
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland		
United States of America		
<i>Category 2. Countries elected by each Regional Committee of WHO</i>		
Argentina		
Bangladesh		
Czech Republic		
Japan		
Malaysia		
Maldives		
Nepal		
Niger		
Nigeria		
Qatar		
Rwanda		
São Tomé and Príncipe		
Solomon Islands		
Trinidad and Tobago		
<i>Category 3. Other Interested Cooperating Parties</i>		
Burkina Faso		
Uruguay		
<i>Category 4. Permanent Members</i>		
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	}	
World Bank	}	
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	}	cosponsors
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	}	
World Health Organization (WHO)	}	
Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)	}	
International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)	}	

Table 2. Former and current members of the Policy and Coordination Committee of the HRP that belong to the Region of the Americas

Members of PCC/HRP (December 1998–December 2021)		
Country	Category 1	Category 2
Argentina	-	2007-2009 2019-2021
Canada	1998-2009	-
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	-
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	-
Venezuela	-	2016-2018

Observers

10. 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

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

Action by the Directing Council

14. The PCC has recommended that the Regional Committees 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 governments. Argentina and Trinidad-and-Tobago are ending their terms of office under Category 2, effective 31 December 2021.

15. In view of the above, the 59th 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 2022 to 31 December 2024. 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.

16. Governments 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 will be pleased to communicate the name of any such government or organization to the PCC.

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