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## **Nomination of a Member State to the Policy and Coordination Committee of the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction**

### **Introduction**

1. The Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction was established in 1972 as the main instrument within WHO for the promotion, coordination and support of international research and development of technology relating to human reproduction and family planning for health.

2. The objectives of the Special Programme are to promote, coordinate, support, conduct and evaluate research in human reproduction, with particular reference to the needs of developing countries, by:

- promoting and supporting research aimed at finding and developing safe and effective methods of fertility regulation, and identifying and eliminating obstacles to such research and development;
- identifying and evaluating health and safety problems associated with fertility regulation technology, analysing the behavioural and social determinants of fertility regulation, and testing cost-effective interventions to develop improved approaches to fertility regulation within the context of reproductive health services;
- strengthening the training and research capabilities of developing countries in the field of human reproduction; and
- establishing a basis for collaboration with other programmes engaged in research and development in human reproduction, which will include the identification of priorities across the field and the coordination of activities in the light of such priorities.

3. The Special Programme is structured on the basis of cosponsorship by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank, and operates within a broad framework of intergovernmental and interagency cooperation and participation.

4. The Policy and Coordination Committee is the governing body of the Special Programme. It consists of 32 members from among the cooperating parties, as follows.

- Category 1, largest financial contributors: 11 government representatives from the countries that were the largest financial contributors to the Special Programme in the previous biennium;
- Category 2, countries elected by the WHO regional committees: 14 government representatives from Member States elected by the WHO regional committees for a three-year term, according to population distribution and regional needs, of whom one representative will be elected from the Eastern Mediterranean Region;
- Category 3, other interested cooperating parties: two members elected by the Policy and Coordination Committee for a three-year term from the remaining cooperating parties; and
- Category 4, permanent members: cosponsors of the Special Programme and the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

5. The 11 major donors (category 1) to the Special Programme in the last biennium were: Belgium, Canada, China, India, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

6. The existing Policy and Coordination Committee members in categories 2 and 3 may be re-elected.
7. The following Member States were previously elected by the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean as members of the Policy and Coordination Committee (terms of office shown in brackets):
  - Syrian Arab Republic (January 2006–December 2008)
  - Iraq (January 2009–December 2011)
  - Tunisia (January 2012–December 2014)
  - Afghanistan (January 2015–December 2017)
  - Islamic Republic of Iran (January 2018–December 2020).
8. As the term of office of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be coming to an end on 31 December 2020, the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean is requested to nominate from among the Member States of the Region one member for category 2 of the Policy and Coordination Committee to serve for a three-year period commencing 1 January 2021.
9. The country selected should be one that demonstrates, through its national policies and programmes, interest in the field of reproductive, maternal and newborn health, family planning for health, research and development in human reproduction, and fertility regulation.