



## **Membership of WHO bodies and committees**

### **Nominations from the Eastern Mediterranean Region for elected officials of the World Health Assembly**

1. The elected officials of the World Health Assembly are composed of the President and the Vice-Presidents of the Health Assembly, the Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Rapporteurs of Committees A and B, and the members of the Committee on Credentials and the General Committee.
2. The Presidency and other elected offices of the Health Assembly rotate among the WHO regions every year. In May 2024, Somalia was nominated as Vice-President, Jordan as Chair of Committee B, United Arab Emirates as member of the General Committee, and the Islamic Republic of Iran as member of the Committee on Credentials.
3. Annex 1 shows the number of times each Member State of the Region has served as President of the World Health Assembly and as other elected officials.
4. According to the table in Annex 1, Bahrain would be eligible to be nominated for the position of Vice-President of the World Health Assembly, Iraq as Vice Chair of Committee A, Kuwait as Rapporteur of Committee B, Libya and Sudan as members of the General Committee, and Yemen as member of the Committee on Credentials.

### **Executive Board members from the Eastern Mediterranean Region**

5. The Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) is composed of 34 individuals designated as government representatives, each one designated by a Member State which is elected to do so by the World Health Assembly. In accordance with established and agreed practice, the Eastern Mediterranean Region designates five Member States to serve on the Executive Board. Each Member State serves on the Board for a period of three years.
6. Through resolution EM/RC63/R.6, Member States agreed to group countries of the Region into three subregional groups to ensure that countries in each subregion are represented at the Executive Board at all times. This approach allocates two seats to each of the larger subregional groups (2 and 3), while the smaller group (1) is allocated one seat, as shown in Annex 2.
7. The Member States currently representing the Eastern Mediterranean Region as Executive Board members are Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Somalia and Yemen.
8. Based on regional practice and previous designations, Morocco and Yemen will complete their term as Executive Board members upon the closure of the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly in 2025. Egypt and Saudi Arabia will be the incoming members and their term will continue until May 2028.
9. Member States are reminded that in accordance with Article 24 of the WHO Constitution and as reaffirmed by the Health Assembly in resolution WHA51.26, members designated to serve on the Executive Board must be technically qualified in the field of health. Consideration should be given to individuals with a broad mix of skills and practical experience in public health and national public administration at a senior position close to the political decision-making level. They should also demonstrate the ability to collaborate, coordinate and communicate within their country, between countries within and outside the Region, and with international partners.

10. The schedule of membership of Member States of the Eastern Mediterranean Region to the Executive Board is shown in Annex 3.

11. The regional distribution of elective posts for the 157th and 158th sessions of the Executive Board in May 2025 and February 2026, respectively, is as follows: Chair – Western Pacific Region; Vice-Chairs – African Region, South-East Asia Region, European Region, Eastern Mediterranean Region; Rapporteur – Region of the Americas.

12. According to the list of previous posts from the Eastern Mediterranean Region, it is suggested that Saudi Arabia be proposed as Vice-Chair for the 157th and 158th sessions of the Executive Board.

13. In addition to the above, the Eastern Mediterranean Region will also need to nominate one Executive Board member to be a member of the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize to replace Morocco (outgoing Executive Board member in May 2025). Saudi Arabia will be proposed as a replacement.

### **Programme, Budget and Administration Committee**

14. For the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board, each region will need to nominate at least one new member to replace members who have already served two years on the Committee and/or will be ending their term as Executive Board member in May 2025 with the closure of the Health Assembly.

15. Egypt would be eligible to be nominated as a member of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee as of May 2025, together with Somalia which will be completing the first year of its two-year membership of the Committee.

### **Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response**

16. At its May 2022 session, the WHO Executive Board agreed to establish a Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response, hereafter named “the Standing Committee” (Decision EB151(2)).

17. In accordance with the approved terms of reference, the Standing Committee is composed of 14 members: two from each WHO region in addition to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Executive Board. More information about the terms of reference of the Standing Committee is available in Decision EB151(2).

18. The term of the current members of the Committee from the Eastern Mediterranean Region, Morocco and Yemen, will end in May 2025 after completing two years of Executive Board membership.

19. Based on EB150(6), operative paragraph (1), the Standing Committee was constituted for a time-limited period, i.e. until May 2025. At its 156th session, the Executive Board will consider a report by the Director-General on the impact and functioning of the Standing Committee. The Executive Board will be requested, following consideration of the said report, whether or not to maintain the Standing Committee.

20. It is proposed from the current Executive Board membership that Egypt and Saudi Arabia can be nominated for membership of the Standing Committee, if it is decided to extend the mandate of the Committee. Nominated members may not come into office should the Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response be discontinued.

### **Programme Subcommittee membership**

21. According to resolution EM/RC63/R.6, and as part of the harmonization process and alignment of methods of work of the regional committees across the Organization, the Programme Subcommittee of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean was established in 2016 in accordance with Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee.

22. The Programme Subcommittee conducts its business under the following terms of reference:
- a. Support the preparatory work of the Regional Committee by reviewing the provisional agenda of the Regional Committee, working documents, reports, and draft resolutions and/or decisions submitted by the Regional Director.
  - b. Monitor the implementation of the recommendations and decisions of the Regional Committee and advise the Regional Director on sunseting resolutions adopted by the Regional Committee.
  - c. Advise the Regional Director on proposals for designation of Member States on committees of governing bodies of the World Health Organization (WHO) that require representation from the Eastern Mediterranean Region.
  - d. Review and make recommendations on matters related to the WHO General Programme of Work, Programme Budget, regional vision and other regional public health strategies before they are considered by the Regional Committee. Additionally, the Programme Subcommittee shall:
    - advise as to whether proposed budget and cost implications for draft resolutions and/or decisions are realizable within the time frame proposed; and
    - advise as to whether an appropriate monitoring and evaluation system for draft resolutions and/or decisions has been established.
  - e. Recommend to the Regional Committee additional resources required by the Regional Office and propose mechanisms for Members to contribute additional funding for the implementation of Regional Committee resolutions and decisions.
  - f. Examine reports on implementation of the recommendations of internal and external auditors and advise the Regional Committee on any remedial action needed.
  - g. Consider and make recommendations on any other programmatic, administrative, budgetary or financial matters that the Regional Committee may deem appropriate.
  - h. Submit reports on its deliberations to the Regional Committee.
23. The Programme Subcommittee consists of eight members, three each from among Group 2 and Group 3 countries and territories, and two from among Group 1 countries. Group 1 comprises Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia; Group 2 comprises Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen; and Group 3 comprises Afghanistan, Djibouti, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic.
24. Members of the Programme Subcommittee are appointed by the Regional Committee and serve for a period of two years. In order to maintain some institutional memory within the Subcommittee, it is proposed to replace four of the eight members each year, following the English alphabetical order in each group. Annex 4 indicates the projected membership in 2025.
25. According to membership grouping, as of January 2024 the current members are: Bahrain, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. Bahrain, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, and Morocco will be outgoing on 31 December 2024, and will be replaced by Egypt, Oman, Pakistan and Qatar.
- Action by the Regional Committee**
26. The Regional Committee is invited to note the proposed nominations.




**Annex 1**  
**Appointments of Member States of the Eastern Mediterranean Region to elected offices and committees of the World Health Assembly, until the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly in 2024**

Country	President		Vice- President	Committee A			Committee B			Committee on Credentials	General Committee
				Chair	Vice- Chair	Rapporteur	Chair	Vice- Chair	Rapporteur		
Afghanistan	-	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	4	2
Bahrain	1	2	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	6	6
Djibouti	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6
Egypt	-	7	7	-	2	-	1	2	1	7	8
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1	5	5	1	1	-	1	2	-	5	6
Iraq	2	4	4	-	-	2	1	1	-	5	9
Jordan	1	2	2	1	1	-	1	1	-	5	7
Kuwait	1	3	3	3	1	-	-	2	-	4	6
Lebanon	-	5	5	1	-	-	1	1	1	6	6
Libya	-	2	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	5	6
Morocco	-	3	3	-	2	-	-	1	1	5	6
Oman	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	-	-	8	6
Pakistan	2	5	5	-	2	2	1	3	-	6	9
Qatar	-	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	4	6
Saudi Arabia	-	2	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	6	6
Somalia	-	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	6
Sudan	-	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	6	5
Syrian Arab Republic	1	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	8
Tunisia	1	2	2	2	1	-	-	1	1	10	8
United Arab Emirates	1	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	6	6
Yemen	-	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	6

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**Annex 2**  
**Subregional groupings of Member States of the Eastern Mediterranean Region**  
**for Executive Board membership**

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<b>Group 1</b>	<b>Group 2</b>	<b>Group 3</b>
Egypt Morocco Tunisia Libya	Saudi Arabia Qatar Yemen Oman United Arab Emirates Iraq Bahrain Kuwait	Lebanon Somalia Syrian Arab Republic Afghanistan Djibouti Sudan Pakistan Jordan Islamic Republic of Iran
		
<b>One member</b>	<b>Two members</b>	<b>Two members</b>

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**Annex 3**  
**Schedule of membership of Member States of the Eastern Mediterranean  
Region to the Executive Board until 2026**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Group 1</b>	<b>Group 2</b>	<b>Group 3</b>
2021	Tunisia	United Arab Emirates, Oman	Afghanistan, Syrian Arab Republic
2022	Morocco	Yemen, Oman	Afghanistan, Syrian Arab Republic
2023	Morocco	Yemen, Qatar	Afghanistan, Syrian Arab Republic
2024	Morocco	Yemen, Qatar	Somalia, Lebanon
2025	Egypt	Saudi Arabia, Qatar	Somalia, Lebanon
2026	Egypt	Saudi Arabia, Kuwait	Somalia, Lebanon

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**Annex 4**  
**Projected membership of the Programme Subcommittee (2025)**

<b>Composition in 2024</b>	Group 1: Morocco, Tunisia Group 2: Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait Group 3: Lebanon, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan
<b>Outgoing in 2025</b>	Group 1: Morocco Group 2: Bahrain, Iraq Group 3: Islamic Republic of Iran
<b>Incoming in 2025</b>	Group 1: Egypt Group 2: Oman, Qatar Group 3: Pakistan
<b>Composition in 2025</b>	Group 1: Egypt, Tunisia Group 2: Kuwait, Oman, Qatar Group 3: Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan