



Membership of WHO bodies and committees

Executive Board members from the Eastern Mediterranean Region

1. The Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) is composed of 34 individuals, 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 designated individual serves on the Board for a period of three years.
2. 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 1.
3. The Member States currently representing the Eastern Mediterranean Region as Executive Board members are Afghanistan, Morocco, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.
4. Based on regional practice and previous designations, Afghanistan and the Syrian Arab Republic will complete their term as Executive Board members upon the closure of the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly in 2024. Lebanon and Somalia will be the incoming members and their term will continue until May 2027.
5. 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. Candidates for the Board should also demonstrate the ability to collaborate, coordinate and communicate within their country, between countries of the Region and with international partners.
6. The schedule of membership of Member States of the Eastern Mediterranean Region to the Executive Board is shown in Annex 2.
7. The regional distribution of elective posts for the 155th session of the Executive Board in June 2024 is as follows: Chair – Region of the Americas; Vice-Chairs – African Region, European Region, South-East Asia Region, Western Pacific Region; Rapporteur – Eastern Mediterranean Region.
8. According to the list of previous posts from the Eastern Mediterranean Region, it is suggested that Lebanon be proposed as Rapporteur for the 155th and 156th sessions of the Executive Board.
9. For the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee (PBAC) 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 PBAC and/or will be ending their term as Executive Board member in June 2024 with the closure of the Health Assembly.
10. Somalia would be eligible to be nominated as a PBAC member as from June 2024, together with Qatar which will be completing the first year of its two-year membership of the PBAC.

11. In addition to the above, the Eastern Mediterranean Region will also need to nominate one Executive Board member to be a member of the Selection Panel for the State of Kuwait Health Promotion Foundation's His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for Research in Health Care for the Elderly and in Health Promotion, to replace the Syrian Arab Republic (outgoing Executive Board member in May 2024). Lebanon will be proposed as a replacement.

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

12. 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.

13. The Presidency and other elected offices of the Health Assembly rotate among the WHO regions every year. In May 2023, Her Excellency the Minister of Health of the Kingdom of Bahrain was elected as the Chair of Committee A.

14. Annex 3 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.

15. According to the table in Annex 3, Somalia would be eligible to occupy the position of the Vice-President of the World Health Assembly, Jordan as Chair of Committee B, United Arab Emirates as a member of the General Committee, and the Islamic Republic of Iran as a member of the Committee on Credentials.

Programme Subcommittee membership

16. According to resolution EM/RC63/R.6, and as part of the process of harmonization 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.

17. The Programme Subcommittee conducts its business under the following terms of reference (proposed for amendment during the 70th session of the Regional Committee):

- Support the preparatory work of the Regional Committee by reviewing the agenda, the working documents, reports, and draft resolutions along with its financial implications submitted by the Regional Director.
- Monitor the implementation of the recommendations and decisions of the Regional Committee.
- Recommend to the Committee additional resources required by the Regional Office and propose a mechanism for Member States to contribute additional funding for the implementation of Committee's resolutions and decisions.
- Examine the reports on the implementation of the recommendation of internal and external auditors and advise the Committee on any remedial action needed.
- Consider any other programmatic, administrative, budgetary or financial matters that the Committee, including at the proposal of the Regional Director, refer to the Subcommittee.
- Submit reports on its deliberations to the Committee.

18. 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.

19. 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 2024.

20. According to membership grouping, as of January 2023 current members are Bahrain, Djibouti, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic. Djibouti, Libya, Palestine, and the Syrian Arab Republic will be outgoing on 31 December 2023, and will be replaced by Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon and Tunisia.

Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (SCHEPPR)

21. 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)).

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

23. According to decision EB152(2), the Executive Board decided “(1) to extend the current terms of the three members of the Standing Committee whose terms would otherwise expire in December 2024 until the closure of the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly (2025)”.

24. The current members from the Eastern Mediterranean Region, Morocco and Yemen, will serve on the Committee until the expiration of their terms as Executive Board members in 2025.

Annex 1
Subregional groupings of Member States of the Eastern Mediterranean Region for Executive Board membership

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

Annex 2
**Schedule of membership of Member States of the Eastern Mediterranean Region to
the Executive Board until 2026**

Year	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
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

Annex 3

Appointments of Member States of the Eastern Mediterranean Region to elected offices and committees of the World Health Assembly, until the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly in 2023

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

Annex 4
Projected membership of the Programme Subcommittee (2024)

Composition in 2023	Group 1: Libya, Morocco Group 2: Bahrain, Iraq, Palestine Group 3: Djibouti, Islamic Republic of Iran, Syrian Arab Republic
Outgoing in 2024	Group 1: Libya Group 2: Palestine Group 3: Djibouti, Syrian Arab Republic
Incoming in 2024	Group 1: Tunisia Group 2: Kuwait Group 3: Jordan, Lebanon
Composition in 2024	Group 1: Morocco, Tunisia Group 2: Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait Group 3: Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Lebanon