



**DRAFT SPECIAL PROCEDURES TO REGULATE
THE CONDUCT OF HYBRID SESSIONS OF THE
REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC**

October 2021

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RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. The Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific shall continue to apply in full, except to the extent that they are inconsistent with these special procedures, in which case the Regional Committee's decision to adopt these special procedures shall operate as a decision to suspend the relevant Rules of Procedure to the extent necessary in accordance with Rule 52 of the Rules of Procedure of Regional Committee for the Western Pacific.¹

ATTENDANCE AND QUORUM

2. Attendance by Member States, Associate Members and areas participating pursuant to Article 47 of the WHO Constitution will, where possible, be in person for the purposes of the session. Attendance by Member States, Associate Members and areas participating pursuant to Article 47 of the WHO Constitution, or of members of their respective delegations, who, for any reason, cannot be physically present for the purposes of the session, invited representatives of the United Nations and of other participating intergovernmental organizations as well as non-state actors in official relations, and other observers shall be through a secured access to videoconference or other electronic means allowing representatives to hear other participants and, as appropriate, to address the session remotely.

3. For the avoidance of doubt, virtual attendance of representatives entitled to vote shall be taken into account when calculating the presence of a quorum.

ADDRESSING THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

4. Member States, Associate Members and areas participating pursuant to Article 47 of the WHO Constitution wishing to take the floor should signal their wish to speak². They shall also have the opportunity, if they so wish, to submit individual pre-recorded video statements of no more than three minutes in duration in advance of the opening of the session, by 18 October 2021 at 17:00 (Philippine time). The pre-recorded video statements so submitted will be broadcast at the hybrid session in lieu of a live intervention. In the event that, due to

¹ This will affect notably the relevant provisions of the following Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific:

- Rules 3 and 3 bis (Credentials and examination of credentials by the Officers of the Regional Committee);
- Rules 44, 48 through 50 (voting by show of hands and secret ballot);
- Rule 53 (amendments and additions to the Rules of Procedure) insofar as these Special Procedures may be regarded as additions to the Rules of Procedure and to the extent that Rule 53 requires receipt and consideration of a report thereon by an appropriate sub-committee.

² Modalities for taking the floor will depend on the platform used for the hybrid meeting and will be communicated in due course

time limitations or connectivity issues, oral statements cannot be delivered on one or more items on the agenda of the Regional Committee session, Member States, Associate Members and areas participating pursuant to Article 47 of the WHO Constitution may submit written statements in one of the official languages of the Committee (i.e. Chinese, English or French) for web-posting in the language of submission.³ Written statements so submitted by Member States, Associate Members and areas participating pursuant to Article 47 of the WHO Constitution will be reflected in the report of the Regional Committee session.

5. Invited representatives of the United Nations and of other participating intergovernmental organizations as well as non-state actors in official relations, and other observers shall have the opportunity to submit pre-recorded video statements of no more than two minutes in duration in advance of the opening of the session, by 18 October 2021 at 17:00 (Philippine time). The pre-recorded video statements submitted will be posted on the Regional Office's website and may be broadcast at the hybrid session at the discretion of the Chairperson.

6. Invited representatives of the United Nations and of other participating intergovernmental organizations as well as non-State actors in official relations, and other observers may submit written statements relating to one or more of the items on the agenda of the Regional Committee session in one of the official languages of the Committee (i.e. Chinese, English or French) for web-posting, in the language of submission in lieu of a pre-recorded video statement. Written statements so submitted will be listed in the report of the Regional Committee session.

7. Any representative wishing to raise a point of order or exercise a right of reply in relation to an oral or pre-recorded video statement made at the hybrid session of the Regional Committee should signal their intention to do so⁴. It is understood that, in accordance with well-established practice, any right of reply to an oral statement or a pre-recorded statement shall be exercised orally at the end of the day.

REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS

8. Online registration will follow normal practice. Additional information is provided in the related invitation letter.

9. In accordance with Rules 3 and 3 bis the names of representatives, which in the case of Members, Associate Members and areas participating pursuant to Article 47 of the WHO Constitution shall take the form of credentials, shall be communicated electronically to the Regional Director if possible no later than fifteen days before the opening of the Regional Committee. Given the need to facilitate access to the meeting, all credentials and lists of representatives should be submitted electronically.

³ Additional information about the modalities and timing to submit written statements will be provided

⁴ Modalities for raising points of order and exercising the right of reply will depend on the platform used for the hybrid meeting and will be communicated in due course.

10. The Chairperson of the seventy-first Regional Committee having assessed, before the opening of the seventy-second session, whether credentials of representatives are in conformity with the requirements of the Rules of Procedure, shall report to the Regional Committee accordingly during the opening with a view to the Regional Committee making a decision thereon.

11. The Chairperson of the seventy-second Regional Committee shall be invited, during the seventy-second session, to assess whether credentials submitted by representatives following the decision of the Regional Committee at the opening of its session are in conformity with the requirements of the Rules of Procedure and shall report to the Regional Committee accordingly with a view to the Regional Committee making a decision thereon.

DECISION-MAKING

12. All decisions of the Regional Committees taken in hybrid sessions should, as far as possible, be taken by consensus. In any event, given the hybrid nature of the session, no decision shall be taken by a show of hands vote or by secret ballot, unless a member of the delegation of each Member of the Regional Committee entitled to vote is physically present at the meeting at which the vote is taken.

13. In the event of a vote, it is understood that delegates physically present for the purposes of the session are deemed to be duly authorized to speak and vote on behalf of their respective delegations.

14. In the event of a roll-call vote, and in line with normal practice, should any delegate, whether physically present or virtually connected, fail to cast a vote for any reason during the roll-call, that delegate shall be called upon a second time after the conclusion of the initial roll-call. Should the delegate fail to cast a vote on the second roll-call, the delegation concerned shall be recorded as absent.

LANGUAGES

15. For the avoidance of doubt, Rule 22 continues to apply, whereby speeches in either of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working language and into Chinese; and speeches made in Chinese shall be interpreted into both working languages.