

WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



ORGANISATION MONDIALE  
DE LA SANTÉ

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC  
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DU PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL  
P. O. Box 2932, MANILA

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Thirteenth Session  
Manila  
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Agenda Item 15

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC

The Regional Director has the honour to inform the Committee that certain amendments have been made to the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly. It appears appropriate to reflect these changes in the corresponding Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee. The proposed amendments, which cover Rules 11, 25, 33, 35, 44 and 46, are contained in the Annex to this document.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

| ORIGINAL RULE   | AMENDMENTS   | COMMENTS   |
|---|--|--|
| <p><u>Rule 11</u></p> <p>In addition to exercising such powers as are conferred upon him elsewhere by these Rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Committee, shall direct the discussions, accord the right to speak, put questions, announce decisions and assure the application of these Rules. The Chairman shall accord to speakers the right to speak in the order of their requests. He may call to order any speaker whose remarks are irrelevant to the subject under discussion.</p> | <p><u>Rule 11.</u> Revise as follows:</p> <p>In addition to exercising the powers which are conferred upon him elsewhere by these Rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Committee, shall direct the discussions, <u>ensure observance of these Rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions.</u> He shall rule on <u>points of order, and, subject to these Rules, shall control the proceedings at any meeting and shall maintain order thereat.</u> The Chairman may, in the course of the <u>discussion of any item, propose to the Committee the limitation of the time to be allowed to each speaker or the closure of the list of speakers.</u></p> <p><u>Rule 25.</u> Immediately following this rule, insert a new rule as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Rule 25 (bis)</u></p> <p>No representative may address the Committee without having previously obtained the permission of the Chairman. The Chairman shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Chairman may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.</p> | <p>The revised rule sets out the duties and prerogatives of the Chairman in greater detail than the present rule. Provisions relating to the calling to order of speakers whose remarks are irrelevant are, as a result of the amendment, carried over to the new Rule 25 (bis) below.</p> |

| ORIGINAL RULE   | AMENDMENTS  | COMMENTS  |
|---|---|---|
| <p><u>Rule 35</u></p> <p>When an <b>amendment</b> to a proposal is moved, the amendment shall be voted on <b>first</b>. When two or more amendments to a proposal are moved, the Committee shall first vote on the amendment deemed by the Chairman to be furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next removed therefrom, and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon.</p> <p>A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal, if it merely adds to, deletes from, or revises part of that proposal. A motion which constitutes a substitution for a proposal shall be considered as a proposal.</p> | <p><u>Rule 33.</u> Immediately following this rule, insert a new rule as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Rule 33 (bis)</u></p> <p>Subject to Rule 33, any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Committee to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before a vote is taken on the proposal in question.</p> <p><u>Rule 35.</u> Revise as follows:</p> <p>When an amendment to a proposal is moved, the amendment shall be voted on <b>first</b>. When two or more amendments to a proposal are moved, the Committee shall first vote on the amendment deemed by the Chairman to be furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next removed therefrom, and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote. <u>Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter amendment shall not be put to the vote.</u> If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon.</p> <p>A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal, if it merely adds to, deletes from, or revises part of that proposal. A motion which constitutes a substitution for a proposal shall be considered as a proposal.</p> | <p>The existing rules contain no provision dealing with questions of competence. The addition is therefore suggested of a new rule to cover this point.</p> <p>The suggested amendment sets out in express terms the existing practice of the Regional Committee.</p> |

| ORIGINAL RULE   | AMENDMENTS  | COMMENTS  |
|---|---|---|
| <p><u>Rule 46</u><sup>1</sup></p> <p>In addition to the cases provided for elsewhere by these Rules, the Committee may vote on any matter by secret ballot if it has previously so decided by a majority of the representatives present and voting, provided that no secret ballot may be taken on budgetary questions.</p> <p><sup>1</sup>Resolution WHA8.27 adopted by the Eighth World Health Assembly gives the following interpretation as concerns the vote by secret ballot: "A decision under this Rule by the Health Assembly whether or not to vote by secret ballot, may be taken by a show of hands; if the Assembly has decided to vote on a particular question by secret ballot, no other mode of voting (show of hands or roll-call) may be requested or decided on."</p> | <p><u>Rule 44.</u> Immediately following this rule, insert a new rule as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Rule 44 (bis)</u></p> <p>After the Chairman has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connexion with the actual conduct of voting.</p> <p><u>Rule 46.</u> Delete the footnote and add a new second paragraph as follows:</p> <p>A decision under this rule by the Committee whether or not to vote by secret ballot may only be taken by a show of hands; if the Committee has decided to vote on a particular question by secret ballot, no other mode of voting may be requested or decided upon.</p> | <p>The existing rules contain no provision covering the interruption of the voting procedure. The addition is, therefore, suggested of a new rule to cover this point.</p> <p>The Executive Board considered that the original interpretative statement did not clearly settle a problem which has arisen from time to time. This problem is whether it is permissible under the general practice of meetings for a decision whether or not to vote by secret ballot to be taken by roll-call, it having been suggested on occasion that this practice tends to destroy the secrecy of the ballot. Since the vote on a decision whether or not to use the secret ballot is in the nature of a procedural decision, there would not appear to be any great object in recording the votes cast and, therefore, in the interests of finally settling this question, the Assembly decided to reword the text.</p> |