

17 January 2025

**NOTE ON THE STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE
JOINT COORDINATING BOARD (JCB) AS AT 1 JANUARY 2026
AND MECHANISMS FOR SELECTION / RE-SELECTION OF MEMBERS**

I. COMPOSITION OF THE JCB

(Extracted from the TDR Memorandum of Understanding - Paragraph 2.2)

(a) MEMBERS

The JCB shall consist of 28 members from among the Cooperating Parties as follows:

- 2.2.1 Twelve representatives from the governments contributing to the Special Programme Resources, selected by the contributors to the Special Programme. Each such government representative shall serve as representative of his/her government and may also serve as representative of a constituency established by governments under this membership category. Each constituency will develop its own procedure to designate its representative to the Board. In the event a government intends to serve on the Board also as representative of a constituency, it shall indicate this in its application for membership, it being understood that each government participating in that constituency shall be entitled to rotate as the representative of that constituency at any session of the JCB.
- 2.2.2 Six government representatives selected by the WHO Regional Committees from among those countries directly affected by the diseases dealt with by the Special Programme, or from among those providing technical or scientific support to the Special Programme.
- 2.2.3 Six members, designated by the JCB itself, from among the remaining Cooperating Parties.
- 2.2.4 The four co-sponsors of the Special Programme.

Members of the JCB shall serve for a period of four years and may be reappointed.

(b) OBSERVERS

Other Cooperating Parties may, at their request, be represented as observers upon approval by the JCB.

II. STATUS AS AT 1 JANUARY 2026

(a) MEMBERS SELECTED BY THE CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SPECIAL PROGRAMME RESOURCES (under paragraph 2.2.1 of the Memorandum of Understanding)

(i) Procedures

Only governments which have made financial contributions to the Special Programme resources during 2024 and/or 2025 up to 60 days (19 April 2025) before the forty-eighth session of the JCB on 18 June 2025 are eligible for JCB membership from 1 January 2026 according to paragraph 2.2.1. Governments which have only indicated either verbally or in writing that they will make a financial contribution in 2024 or 2025 are not eligible for JCB membership from 1 January 2026 under paragraph 2.2.1.

Any government submitting its application as a representative of a constituency shall indicate this in its application, provide information on the constituency members and ensure that all such constituency members have met the eligibility criteria indicated above.

Any contributor government which submits its application for membership from 2026 under paragraph 2.2.1 of the Memorandum of Understanding, may either form a constituency with other governments applying for membership from 2026 under paragraph 2.2.1, or alternatively form a constituency with a contributor government or contributor constituency whose membership under 2.2.1 continues into 2026.

In the event it is desired to form a constituency with a contributor government or contributor constituency whose membership under 2.2.1 continues into 2026, this latter JCB contributor member government or constituency should agree. Such agreement should be conveyed in writing to the Special Programme Coordinator by the 60-day deadline referred to below.

In cases as described in the paragraph above, the term of office of the contributor government which joins with a serving JCB contributor member will coincide with the remaining term of office of the latter member, and thereafter it is understood that those contributors should re-apply for JCB membership as the same constituency.

In accordance with the constituency operating procedures, constituencies under paragraph 2.2.1 should ideally be voluntary long-term arrangements aimed at increasing the participation of disease endemic country contributors on the Board. Re-application for JCB membership upon expiry of the term of office of a constituency member is therefore, in principle, expected to be a re-application as part of the same constituency, and not as an individual government.

Applications for membership (or continuation of membership) under paragraph 2.2.1 must be submitted in writing by eligible governments to the Special Programme Coordinator¹ at WHO headquarters, Geneva, at least 60 days before the JCB session on 18 June 2025, i.e. by 19 April 2025 at the latest.

Applications for membership under paragraph 2.2.1 are valid for consideration by the resource contributors at one meeting only and cannot be carried over to subsequent meetings.

¹ Dr Jeremy Farrar, WHO Chief Scientist

(ii) 2025 Meeting of Resource Contributors

The Special Programme will organize the 2025 meeting of resource contributors at a time to be confirmed, to enable them to select government representatives to fill the seven vacancies which will occur on 1 January 2026 under paragraph 2.2.1 of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Cooperating Parties which have made financial contributions to the Special Programme resources during 2024 and/or 2025 up to 60 days before the JCB session on 18 June 2025 will be invited to the 2025 meeting of resource contributors. Invitations will not be sent to Cooperating Parties which have only indicated either verbally or in writing that they will make a financial contribution in 2024 or 2025.

Voting rights are extended automatically to governments and other Cooperating Parties which are invited to and attend the meeting.

(iii) Vacancies on 1 January 2026

Seven vacancies will occur on 1 January 2026 when the terms of office of the Governments of Malaysia, Mexico and Switzerland, and the constituency of the Governments of Germany and Luxembourg, the constituency of the Governments of India and Thailand, the constituency of the Governments of Panama and Spain, and the constituency of the Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America will have expired. The Governments of Belgium, China, Japan, Nigeria and Sweden are members until 31 December 2026.

(iv) Eligible Governments

As at 17 January 2025, the following governments are eligible for selection/re-selection for membership under paragraph 2.2.1, provided that they submit an application by the deadline of 19 April 2025: the Governments of France, Germany, India, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Norway, Panama, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand and the United States of America. In addition, governments whose contribution is received between 17 January and 19 April 2025 (the 60-day deadline before the start of the JCB) will also be eligible to apply or re-apply for membership under paragraph 2.2.1.

(v) Minimum Number of Candidatures

There must always be at least seven candidatures to fill the seven vacancies. Should - with the submission of proposed constituency candidatures - less than seven applications remain, the members of all proposed constituency candidatures would be requested to revise their applications in order to ensure that seven candidatures are presented for selection.

(b) **MEMBERS SELECTED BY THE WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEES**
(under paragraph 2.2.2 of the Memorandum of Understanding)

No vacancies will occur on 1 January 2026.

(i) African Region

Equatorial Guinea is a member until 31 December 2026.

(ii) American Region

Guatemala is a member until 31 December 2026.

(iii) Eastern Mediterranean Region

Morocco is a member until 31 December 2026.

(iv) European Region

Kyrgyzstan is a member until 31 December 2026.

(v) South-East Asian Region

Bangladesh is a member until 31 December 2026.

(vi) Western Pacific Region

The Republic of Korea is a member until 31 December 2026.

(c) **MEMBERS SELECTED BY THE JCB ITSELF**
(under paragraph 2.2.3 of the Memorandum of Understanding)

(i) Vacancies on 1 January 2026

Four vacancies will occur on 1 January 2026 when the terms of office of the Governments of Burkina Faso and Zambia, and the Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* and Fiocruz will have expired. The Governments of Cuba and Sri Lanka are members until 31 December 2027.

(ii) Applications for Membership

Applications for membership (or continuation of membership) under paragraph 2.2.3 must be submitted by eligible Cooperating Parties in writing to the Special Programme Coordinator at WHO headquarters, Geneva, at least 60 days (19 April 2025) before the forty-eighth session of the JCB on 18 June 2026.

Applications for membership under paragraph 2.2.3 are valid for consideration by the JCB at one session only and cannot be carried over to subsequent sessions.

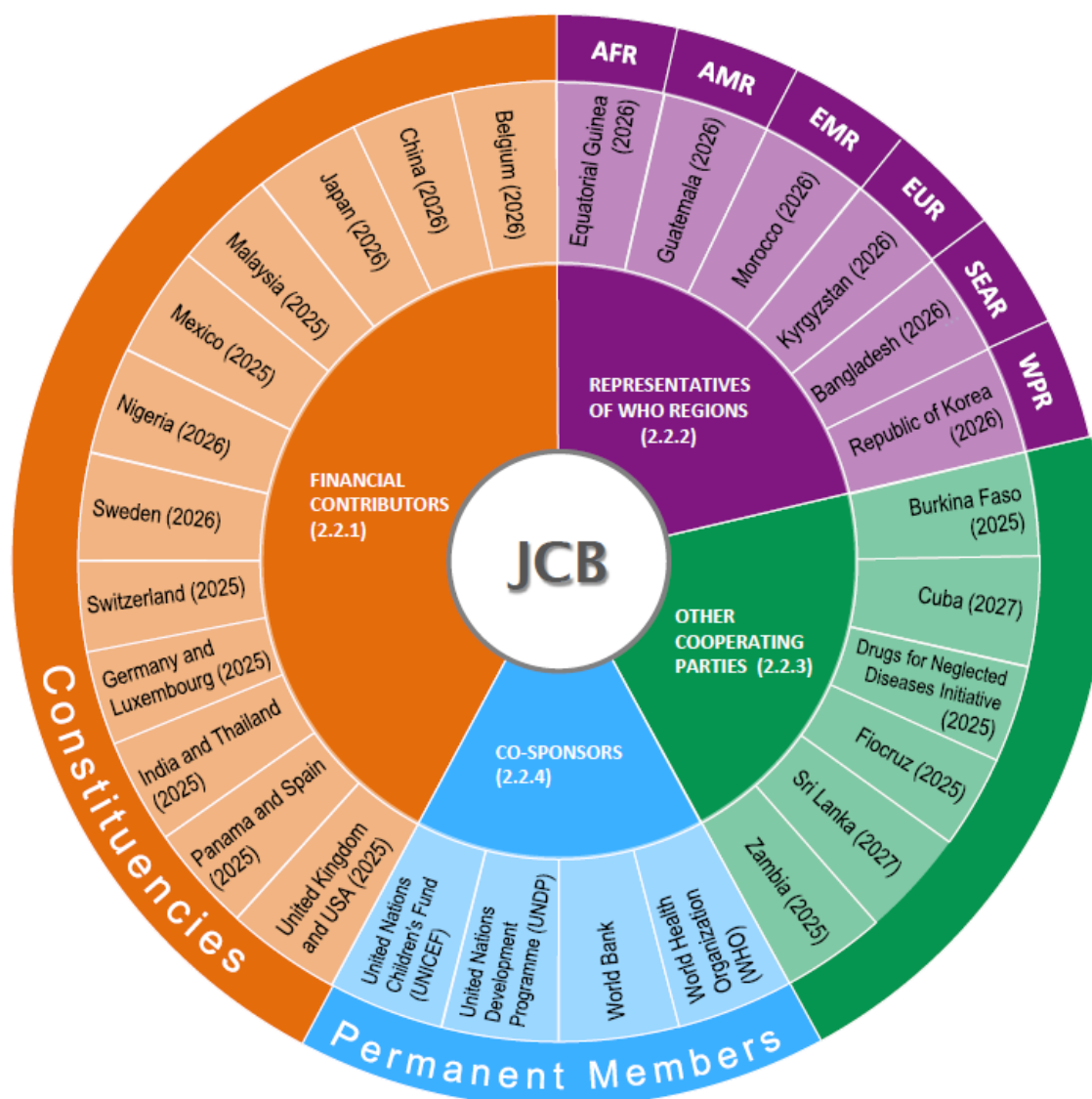
(iii) Selections

The selections under paragraph 2.2.3 will be made by the JCB at its forty-eighth session.

III. MECHANISMS FOR OBTAINING OBSERVER STATUS AT JCB SESSIONS

Requests for observer status should be sent to the Special Programme Coordinator¹, World Health Organization, Geneva, at least 30 days (19 May 2025) before the JCB session. (Observers attend sessions of the JCB at their own expense.)

Membership of the TDR Joint Coordinating Board (as of 1 January 2025)



¹ Dr Jeremy Farrar, WHO Chief Scientist