

31 January 2026

**NOTE ON THE STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE  
JOINT COORDINATING BOARD (JCB) AS AT 1 JANUARY 2027  
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 2027

### (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 2025 and/or 2026 up to 60 days (18 April 2026) before the forty-ninth session of the JCB on 17 June 2026 are eligible for JCB membership from 1 January 2027 according to paragraph 2.2.1. Governments which have only indicated either verbally or in writing that they will make a financial contribution in 2025 or 2026 are not eligible for JCB membership from 1 January 2027 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 2027 under paragraph 2.2.1 of the Memorandum of Understanding, may either form a constituency with other governments applying for membership from 2027 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 2027.

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 2027, 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 Coordinator<sup>1</sup> at WHO headquarters, Geneva, at least 60 days before the JCB session on 17 June 2026, i.e. by 18 April 2026 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Dr Sylvie Briand, WHO Chief Scientist

(ii) 2026 Meeting of Resource Contributors

The Special Programme will organize the 2026 meeting of resource contributors at a time to be confirmed, to enable them to select government representatives to fill the six vacancies which will occur on 1 January 2027 under paragraph 2.2.1 of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Cooperating Parties which have made financial contributions to the Special Programme resources during 2025 and/or 2026 up to 60 days before the JCB session on 17 June 2026 will be invited to the 2026 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 2025 or 2026.

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

(iii) Vacancies on 1 January 2027

Six vacancies will occur on 1 January 2027 when the terms of office of the Governments of Belgium, China, Japan, Nigeria and Sweden will have expired. The Governments of Mexico, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the constituency of the Governments of Germany and Luxembourg, the constituency of the Governments of India and Thailand and the constituency of the Governments of Panama and Spain are members until 31 December 2029.

(iv) Eligible Governments

As at 19 January 2026, 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 18 April 2026: the Governments of Belgium, China, France, Japan, Nigeria, Norway and Sweden. In addition, governments whose contribution is received between 19 January and 18 April 2026 (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 six candidatures to fill the seven vacancies. Should - with the submission of proposed constituency candidatures - less than six 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)

One vacancy will occur in each of the WHO Regions as follows:

(i) African Region

The term of office of Equatorial Guinea will expire on 31 December 2026.

(ii) American Region

The term of office of Guatemala will expire on 31 December 2026.

(iii) Eastern Mediterranean Region

The term of office of Morocco will expire on 31 December 2026.

(iv) European Region

The term of office of Kyrgyzstan will expire on 31 December 2026.

(v) South-East Asian Region

The term of office of Bangladesh will expire on 31 December 2026.

(vi) Western Pacific Region

The term of office of the Republic of Korea will expire on 31 December 2026.

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

No vacancies will occur on 1 January 2027.

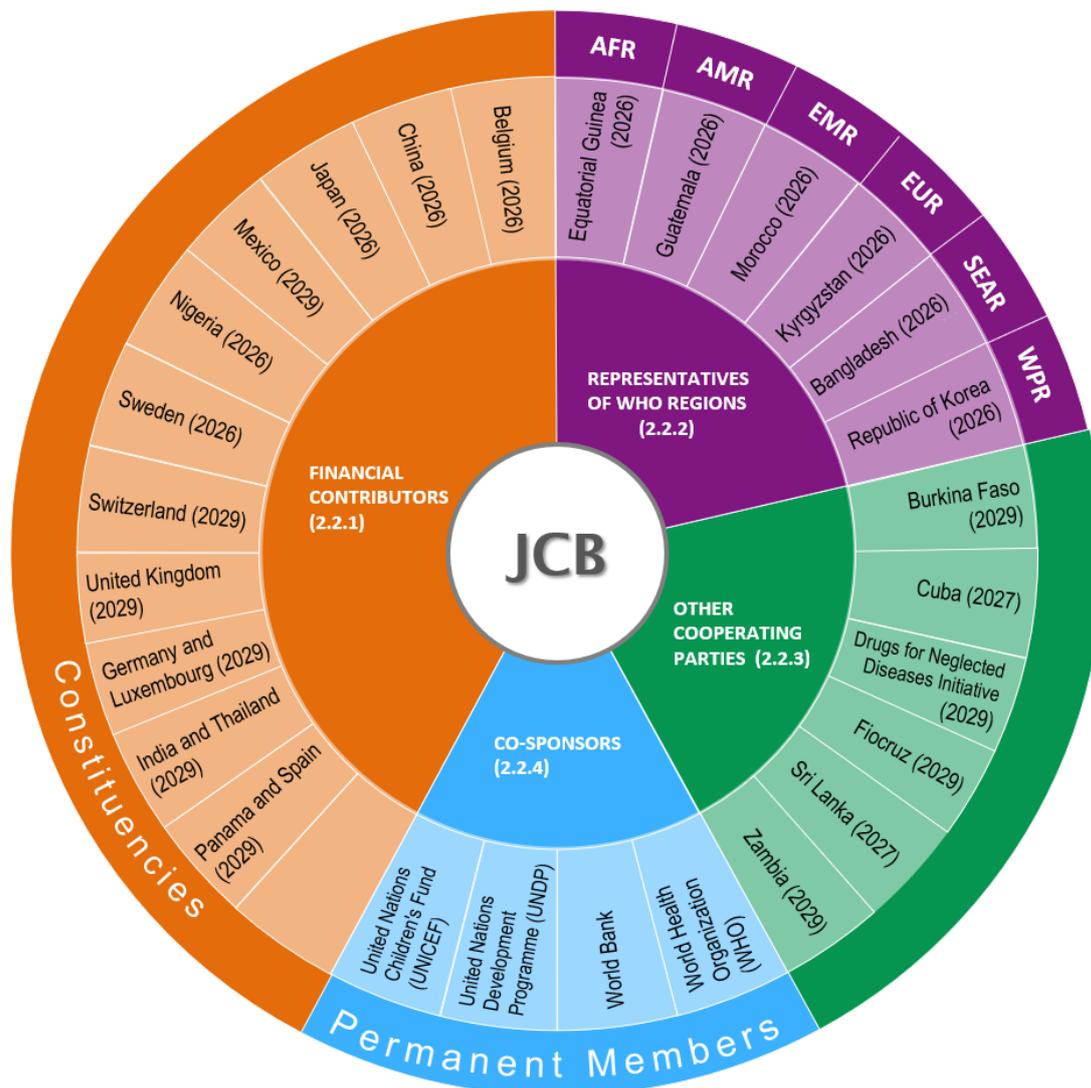
The Governments of Cuba and Sri Lanka are members until 31 December 2027. The Governments of Burkina Faso and Zambia, and the Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* and Fiocruz are members until 2029.

As no vacancies will occur from 1 January 2027 under paragraph 2.2.3 of the Memorandum of Understanding, it will not be necessary for the JCB to select any new members under this category at its forty-ninth session.

### III. MECHANISMS FOR OBTAINING OBSERVER STATUS AT JCB SESSIONS

Requests for observer status should be sent to the Special Programme Coordinator<sup>1</sup>, World Health Organization, Geneva, at least 30 days (18 May 2026) 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 2026)



<sup>1</sup> Dr Sylvie Briand, WHO Chief Scientist