

NOTE FOR THE PRESS

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CHOICE NARROWS IN WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL RACE

The World Health Organization's Executive Board, meeting in Geneva, today narrowed the field of candidates for the post of WHO Director-General.

The short list of five candidates reads as follows:

- Dr Julio Frenk, Mexico
- Dr Jong Wook Lee, Republic of Korea
- Dr Pascoal Manuel Mocumbi, Mozambique
- Dr Peter Piot, Belgium
- Professor Ismail Sallam, Egypt

One of these five candidates will be nominated by the Board to head the Organization from July 2003 to July 2008. The nomination will take place early next week, at some time before the closure of the Board's 111th session scheduled for the end of the day on 28 January. The vote that will determine the nominee will be preceded by presentations to the Board by the candidates and time for questions and answers.

For further information on the selection process and the criteria that the Director-General should fulfill, please see:

http://www.who.int/gb/EB_WHA/PDF/EB111/eeb111id1.pdf