



CNMF 24th Biennial Meeting 2020

Royal College of Nursing 20 Cavendish Square London W1G 0RN
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hosted by the CNMF and the Royal College of Nursing UK



PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

The CNMF Board reviews the CNMF Constitution every two years prior to the CNMF Biennial Meeting of Members to make sure it reflects the current needs of the CNMF membership. The following Constitutional changes are being submitted to the membership at the 24th Biennial Meeting of Members for endorsement.

The rationale for the changes is outlined below. The changes are shown in red in the attached Constitution.

1. A minor amendment has been made to article 2.1 to more accurately reflect CNMF's expanded membership categories.
 - 2.1 The CNMF is primarily a federation of Commonwealth national nursing and midwifery associations which have been formally admitted into membership and which have objects in accord with those of the CNMF. **CNMF members may also include affiliate, associate and individual members who have been formally admitted into membership.**
2. There has been a major change to articles 7.3 and 7.4. The recommendation is to keep the option for the President and Deputy President to be eligible to serve 2 x four year consecutive terms if elected. This provides consistency in the leadership of the CNMF. However, it is being recommended that Regional Board members are only eligible to serve for one four year term at a time. That is, they will not be eligible for two four year consecutive terms. They would be eligible to serve another four year term after a break from their original term. There are a number of reasons for this recommended change as a result of Board Member experience over the past 11 years:

Eight years is a very long time for one Regional Board member from one country to hold the position of CNMF Board member for a region. The CNMF experience is that other CNMF members in a region are reluctant to nominate against an incumbent Regional Board member. This means that one country in a region is the dominant influence for eight years and there is little opportunity for other countries in the region to be represented on the CNMF Board. In the CNMF Europe region, there is an agreement amongst members that the CNMF Board member position is only held by one country for one term (ie four years). This allows for other countries to nominate to this position. As a consequence, there has been current and dynamic representation by the Regional Board member.

7.3 The President and Deputy President shall each serve for a period of four years and shall be eligible to serve for two consecutive terms.

7.4 Regional Board Members shall each serve for a period of four years however shall not be eligible to serve for a further consecutive term.

A requirement has also been added that the CNMF Regional Board member is a member of their nominating association management committee both at time of nomination and throughout their term as CNMF Regional Board member. After their first term, it has been CNMF experience that Regional Board members are very likely to no longer be members of their nominating association management committee. This means they are not in a position to fulfil their function as Regional Board member as outlined in the CNMF constitution and that the link between the CNMF and national nursing and midwifery associations is not as strong and responsive as it needs to be. It is critically important that

the CNMF Regional Board member is a member of their nominating association management committee because (a) it maintains the link between the CNMF and the nominating committee; (b) it maintains the link between the Regional Board member and their nominating association; and (c) it gives the Regional Board member credibility and authority in the region. It may well be that a nominating association may make a special position on their management committee for CNMF Regional Board member or international representative or something similar (see article 8.2.3 and article 9.5.2).

8.2.3 Nominees for the position of Regional Board member shall hold a position on the management committee of their nominating association and maintain that position throughout their term of office. In the event that a Regional Board member ceases to hold a position on the management committee of their nominating association during their term of office, a casual vacancy will be declared and the position filled according to clause 7.5.3.

9.5.2 Nominees for the position of Regional Board member shall hold a position on the management committee of their nominating association and maintain that position throughout their term of office.

3. The process for filling a casual vacancy has been clarified by changes to article 7.5.3.

7.5.3 In the case of Regional Board members, the candidate from the same region who received the second highest number of votes shall normally be appointed by the Board. In the event of there being no one in this position **and the unexpired period of the term is less than one year**, the Board shall fill the vacancy following consultation with full member associations in the region. **If the unexpired period of the term is greater than one year, an election will be called to fill the vacancy.**

4. It has been recommended that article 14 Regional Organisation is deleted. There are three major reasons for this: Firstly the article has never been actioned although an attempt was made to establish a CNMF Regional Organisation in the Atlantic region some years ago which failed. Secondly, there are already regional organisations in most regions and the CNMF should not be setting itself up on competition with them (eg: West African College of Nursing; East, Central and Southern Africa College of Nursing; South Pacific Nurses Forum; Caribbean Nurses Organisation etc). Thirdly, the nursing and midwifery leadership in countries and in regions are too busy to add yet another organisation to their responsibilities.

ARTICLE 14: REGIONAL ORGANISATION

~~14.1 Each Region of the CNF is entitled to establish a Regional council, composed of representatives of each member association in the Region. The purpose of the council will be to determine activities and initiate projects within the Region.~~

~~14.2 Regional councils shall report on their activities, through their Board member, to the Secretariat.~~

~~14.3 Regional councils are encouraged to cooperate with other health disciplines in the development of health care programmes.~~
