

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION

(of Unesco)

TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BIENNIAL ELECTIONS  
OF OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION AND OTHER MEMBERS  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. Introduction

1.1 During the course of each ordinary session, the Assembly, taking into account the principles of geographical distribution shall elect:

- (a) a Chairman and four Vice-Chairmen who shall be the officers of the Commission, its Assembly, and its Executive Council,<sup>2</sup>
- (b) Member States of the Commission which shall each designate a representative of that State to serve on the Executive Council (Statutes Article 5, paragraph 4).

1.2 The term of office of the members of the Executive Council shall commence at the end of the session of the Assembly during which they have been elected and expire at the end of the next ordinary session of the Assembly (Statutes Article 5, paragraph 6).

2. Elections of officers

2.1 The elections for new officers - the Chairman and four Vice-Chairmen, will be held successively in the order: the Chairman, followed by the First, Second, Third and Fourth Vice-Chairmen (Rule of Procedure no. 13). The five officers elected must be nationals of different Member States (Statutes, Article 5, paragraph 5d).

2.2 Each candidate for election to the posts of Chairman or the four Vice-Chairmen shall be correctly proposed and seconded (see paragraph 5.4 below). In signing the nomination form, the representative of the Member State is declaring the willingness of his government to allow the nominee to take on the obligations which would devolve upon him should he be elected.

2.3 The Chairman and each Vice-Chairman shall be eligible for re-election in their capacity as Chairman or Vice-Chairman, but only once for successive terms (Rule of Procedure no. 17).

2.4 Officers seeking re-election require nomination as for new candidates (see paragraph 5.4 below).

---

<sup>2</sup> Note that officers of the Commission represent their Member States on the Executive Council (Statutes, Article 5, paragraph 5(a)).

3. Election of the Executive Council

- 3.1 Elections for membership of the Executive Council will be held on completion of the elections for the officers of the Commission. All Member States are eligible with the exception of those five of which the Chairman and four Vice-Chairmen just elected are nationals (Statutes Article 5, paragraph 5d).
- 3.2 The number of Member States to be elected will depend on Rule of Procedure no. 18, in force at the time of the election, taking into account geographical distribution (Statutes Article 5, paragraph 4).
- 3.3 Member States wishing to be considered for election to the Executive Council shall inform the Secretary in writing, using the form attached hereto as Annex III.
- 3.4 State members of the Executive Council are eligible for re-election (Rule of Procedure no. 18).

4. Voting

- 4.1 Voting will be carried out by secret ballot using the procedures laid down in Rule of Procedure no. 47 (copy attached as Annex I to this document).

5. Nominations

- 5.1 A Nominations Committee will be appointed by the Steering Committee of the Assembly (Rule of Procedure no. 12, paragraph 2).
- 5.2 Under the terms of resolution EC-I.11, the Nominations Committee's function will be to accept nominations for:

- (a) the office of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen;
- (b) seats on the Executive Council;

and to forward all such nominations to the Assembly having ensured that each one is seconded and that the nominee is prepared to stand and to take part in the work of the Commission.

- 5.3 In order to carry out its mandate, the Nominations Committee must therefore receive the Member States' nominations which, in accordance with the Statutes of the Commission (Article 5, paragraph 4) may include:

- (a) nominations of individuals for the posts of Chairman and the four Vice-Chairmen, with a precise indication of the post(s) for which each person is nominated (the form attached hereto as Annex II should be used);
- (b) nominations of Member States for the remaining seats on the Executive Council (the form attached hereto as Annex III may be used).

- 5.4 Nominations for the posts of Chairman and the four Vice-Chairmen shall be submitted to the Secretary in writing using the standard form attached hereto as Annex II; each candidate must be correctly proposed and seconded; either the proposer or seconder must be a representative of the government of the Member State of which the nominee is a national (as shown on the standard form). Nominations will be called for in advance of each Assembly session and the closing time for acceptance of nominations will be two working days before the date of the elections.

5.5 Each nomination shall contain a declaration from the candidate that he is prepared to stand for the post for which he has been nominated and is willing to take on the obligations which would devolve upon him should he be elected (resolution EC-I.11).

5.6 Nominations for the posts of Chairman and First, Second or Third Vice-Chairman may be accompanied by a statement that should the nominee not be elected to the post in question, he will be a candidate for a post in subsequent elections. This information will be kept confidential until after the previous election has been completed.

5.7 The countries of all failed candidates in the elections for officers will be automatically included in the list of States candidates for election to the Executive Council, unless the head of any delegation indicates that he does not wish his country to be considered for election.

## 6. Election Procedure

6.1 The Chairman will introduce this document and a short debate will be held for the sole purpose of clarifying any procedural arrangements.

6.2 The Chairman will announce the title of the post (or the Executive Council) under election.

6.3 Ballot Forms (blue for election of officers, orange for election of other members of the Executive Council) will be distributed. Additional copies (white) will be made available in order to allow delegates to follow the voting trends as the votes are called out and to check the final totals announced.

6.4 The Secretary of the Nominations Committee will announce the names of the candidates whose nominations for the post under election have been found to be in order by the Nominations Committee.

6.5 If the number of the candidates equals the number of elective places to be filled (i.e. one only in the case of the elections for officers, but see paragraph 6.20 in the case of elections for the Executive Council), the Chairman shall declare the candidate (or Member States) elected.

6.6 If there are more candidates than elective places, the Chairman will invite one speaker to introduce each candidate (for Chairman and Vice-Chairmen posts only). Selection of these speakers will be the responsibility of the head of each nominating delegation. In the interests of time, no other statements will be permitted either from other supporters or from the candidates themselves.

6.7 On completion of the introductory speeches, the Chairman will announce that the election is open and that votes should be cast.

6.8 A representative of each Member State "present and voting" should mark (a) cross(es) (X) against the candidate(s) of his choice on the ballot paper. No other markings should be made on the paper. The name of the Member State voting should NOT be recorded on the ballot paper.

- 6.9 For a ballot paper to be valid, it will contain a cross against only one of the names shown thereon in the case of elections for officers and no more than the maximum number of places open to election (see paragraph 6.20 below) in the case of elections for other members of the Executive Council. The Chairman will decide on the validity of any ballot paper.
- 6.10 The ballot box will be opened, held up to show clearly to the Assembly that it is empty; it is then closed and locked and the key handed to the Chairman.
- 6.11 The Secretary will then read through the full list of Member States of the Commission and, as each name is read out, one member of the delegation called will come forward and place one ballot paper in the ballot box. The names of Member States that do not respond at the first call will be read out again at the end of the list.
- 6.12 The Secretary will announce the number of votes cast.
- 6.13 The ballot box will be opened and the number of ballot papers counted. If this does not correspond to the number of votes cast, the Chairman will declare the vote void and the procedure will be repeated.
- 6.14 The Secretary will open each ballot paper and call out the name of the candidate for whom the vote has been cast.
- 6.15 The Secretary will announce the number of valid ballot papers received. The Chairman will then declare the majority needed by any candidate for election in the first ballot (Rule of Procedure no. 47, paragraphs 2 and 4).
- 6.16 The votes cast for each candidate will be totalled and the Chairman will announce the result of the ballot, i.e., whether one of the candidates has been elected or whether a further ballot is needed.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen only

- 6.17 In the event of a further ballot being needed as no candidate has obtained the necessary majority, the second ballot will be restricted to the two candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the first ballot (Rule of Procedure no. 47, paragraph 2).

Election of Vice-Chairmen only

- 6.18 The list of candidates for each Vice-Chairman's post read out by the Secretary of the Nominations Committee (paragraph 6.4 above) will consist of the names of those candidates whose nominations for the post under election have been found to be in order by the Nominations Committee, plus the names of any candidates who have failed to get elected in earlier ballots but whose names are held by the Chairman of the Nominations Committee as wishing to be considered for election to another post, in the event of non-election in earlier ballots.

6.19 Candidates standing in subsequent ballots for "second choice" posts are not entitled to a further introductory statement, i.e. each candidate may have one introductory statement only made on his behalf, irrespective of the number of ballots in which he stands as a candidate (see paragraph 6.6 above).

#### Election of Executive Council only

6.20 Before each ballot, the Chairman will announce the number of places open to election (taking into account Rule of Procedure no. 18 in force at the time of the election); this number will be the maximum number of crosses that may be marked on a ballot paper to ensure its validity (see paragraph 6.9 above).

6.21 After each ballot, the Chairman will announce the majority (i.e. the minimum number of votes) required by each candidate (Member State) to qualify for election without further ballots (Rule of Procedure no. 47, paragraphs 3 and 4).

6.22 In the event for a further ballot being needed as insufficient candidates (Member States) have obtained the necessary majority. The second and subsequent ballots will be restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled (Rule of Procedure no. 47, paragraph 3).

#### 7. Objections

7.1 Objections may be made only on a "point of order" immediately after the result of a ballot has been announced.

#### 8. State-Member Representatives on the Executive Council

8.1 On completion of the elections, heads of delegations from Member States elected to the Executive Council (paragraph 3.1 above) should inform the Secretary of the name of their State-Member Representative to serve on the Executive Council (Statutes Article 5, paragraph 4).

ANNEX I

EXTRACT FROM THE IOC RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 47

1. Unless, in the absence of objections, it is decided otherwise, elections shall be by secret ballot.
2. When a single elective place is to be filled and no candidate obtains in the first ballot the majority required, a second ballot shall be taken which shall be restricted to the two candidates obtaining the larger number of votes. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the decision shall be taken by drawing lots.
3. When two or more places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates obtaining a majority shall be elected who receive the greatest number of votes in the first ballot up to the number of places subject to election. If all such places are not filled there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled. If, for the last place, candidates obtain the same number of votes, the decision between them shall be taken by drawing lots.
4. For elections, a majority shall be the next integer immediately above half the number of ballot papers, excluding blank or invalid ballot papers. A ballot paper shall be invalid if it contains more names than the number of places to be filled.

ANNEX II

N O M I N A T I O N   F O R M

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION

BIENNIAL ELECTIONS

for

- \* 1. Chairman
- \* 2. First Vice-Chairman
- \* 3. Second Vice-Chairman
- \* 4. Third Vice-Chairman
- \* 5. Fourth Vice-Chairman

(\* Delete as necessary)

NAME OF NOMINEE . . . . .

I declare that I am prepared to stand for election to the above post(s)  
and if elected, to take part in the work of the Commission.

Signature of Nominee . . . . .

Proposer

Seconder

MEMBER STATE OF IOC*	. . . . .	. . . . .
SIGNATURE	. . . . .	. . . . .
NAME IN CAPITALS (or typescript)	. . . . .	. . . . .
POSITION	. . . . .	. . . . .

Date sent to  
IOC Secretariat .....

Date and time received  
by IOC Secretariat .....

\* Either the proposer or the seconder should be a person authorized to act on behalf of the government of the Member State of which the nominee is a representative. In so signing, he is declaring the willingness of that Member State to allow the nominee to take on the obligations which would devolve upon him should he be elected.

ANNEX III

N O M I N A T I O N   F O R M

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION

BIENNIAL ELECTIONS

for

STATE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- Notes: i) All Member States are eligible for election to the Executive Council, with the exception of those of which the Officers of the Commission are nationals;
- ii) State Members of the Executive Council are eligible for re-election.

NAME OF MEMBER STATE . . . . .

I declare that, if elected, a representative will be designated who will take part in the work of the Commission.

Signature of Proposer <sup>\*</sup> . . . . .

NAME IN CAPITALS . . . . .  
(or typescript)

POSITION . . . . .

Date sent to  
IOC Secretariat .....

Date and time received  
by IOC Secretariat .....

---

<sup>\*</sup> Person authorized to act on behalf of the Member State being proposed for election.