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INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Fifty-seventh Session of the Executive Council

UNESCO, Paris, 25–28 June 2024

Item 5.3 of the Provisional Agenda

**DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION
OF MEMBER STATES IN THE BIENNIAL ELECTIONS FOR IOC CHAIRPERSON AND
VICE-CHAIRPERSONS (OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION) AND MEMBER STATES
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Summary

Pursuant to IOC Resolution A-32/4 Part III.A, this document responds to the invitation by the Assembly to prepare guidelines to assist Member States in preparing for and participating in IOC elections, in accordance with the *Technical arrangements for the elections of Officers of the Commission and other Members of the Executive Council* (Appendix I of the Rules of Procedure).

The proposed decision is referenced as EC-57/Dec.5.3 in the Action Paper for the session (document IOC/EC-57/AP Prov.Rev.).

Introduction

1. The IOC Rules of Procedure adopted by the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session in June 2023 (IOC Resolution A-32/4) and published as IOC Information document [IOC/INF-1166 Rev.](#), include the **Technical arrangements for the elections of Officers of the Commission and other Members of the Executive Council** ([Appendix I](#) of the Rules of Procedure) endorsed without changes, as drafted in 2000 following the adoption of new [Statutes](#) (1999). These arrangements for elections refer to Articles 6.B₆ (Functions of the Assembly) and 7.A₁ (Composition of the Executive Council) of the Statutes (St), and Rules 2.4 (Officers) and 51.1 (Membership of the Executive Council) in the IOC Rules of Procedure (R).

2. Given the status of the IOC '*as a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO*' (St 1.1), the schedule and the technical arrangements governing elections may vary from those governing elections of subsidiary bodies of the General Conference of UNESCO. The purpose of this document is to highlight some specificities of IOC elections and provide guidelines to assist Member States' preparations for and participation in IOC elections, while the full information is available in the above-mentioned documents, constituting the IOC regulatory framework.

3. Following the discussion at this session of the Executive Council and taking into account Member States' feedback, these guidelines will serve as a basis for the information session that the Secretariat will organise prior to the 33rd session of the Assembly in 2025, in line with IOC Resolution A-32/4 Parti III.A.

4. In accordance with established practice, the Secretariat will also set up an online information page on the elections prior to the Assembly, enabling Member States to follow the evolution of candidatures in each of the electoral groups and to refer to it for answers to the most frequently asked questions.

Highlights of IOC-specific election process

5. The IOC Assembly consists of all States members of the Commission (150 to date).

6. The Assembly is convened in ordinary session every two years. During the course of each ordinary session, the Assembly elects '*a Chairperson and, taking into account the principles of geographic distribution, ...five Vice-Chairpersons who shall be the officers of the Commission, its Assembly and its Executive Council*' and also elects a number of Member States to the Executive Council'. (St 6.5). '**The Executive council shall consist of up to 40 Member States, including those Member States represented by the Chairperson the five Vice-Chairpersons**'. (St 7.A₁)

7. **The call for candidatures** consists of the letter of invitation to the session of the IOC Assembly sent by the Secretariat not less than five months in advance of the session and indicating the date and the time of the elections. Nominations for IOC Chairperson and IOC Vice-Chairpersons and other seats on the Executive Council shall be submitted to the IOC Executive Secretary in writing using the mandatory nomination forms [I](#), [II](#) and [III](#), respectively, at least two full working days before the election day.

8. On the election day, the elections take place in the following order:

- (i) IOC Chairperson
- (ii) Five IOC Vice-chairpersons, and
- (iii) Membership of the Executive Council.

9. Once the elections of the IOC Chairperson and five Vice-chairpersons are completed, the maximum number of seats on the Executive Council remaining to be filled per electoral group will be announced, account being taken of the elections of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons.

10. As such, at the time of the election of the **remaining seats on the Executive Council, the number of seats per electoral group will be reduced** by one seat occupied by the country of which the Officer elected in this group is the national, or by two if the country of the Chairperson belongs to this group, with **the overall number of 34 seats** (of 40 in total) **remaining open for election.**

11. The countries of all failed candidates in the elections of Officers will automatically be included in the list of States candidates for election to the Executive Council unless the Heads of any delegation indicates that he does not wish his country to be considered in that election. Those Member States having submitted nominations for the post of Chairperson, or a post of Vice-Chairperson do not have therefore to submit a nomination for membership of the Executive Council.

12. **Members of the Executive Council are eligible for re-election.** (St 7.A.5)

13. **The Chairperson and each Vice-Chairperson are eligible for re-election in their capacity as Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, but only once for successive terms.**

14. IOC elections are held by **secret ballot**, by **roll call** and in *praesentia*. Voting by **proxy** is not provided for by the Rules of Procedure. 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.**

15. **Announcement of the election results.** The announcement is made in the room immediately after the final vote count. It includes the number of votes cast, the number of invalid ballots, the number of valid votes, the majority required for a candidate to be elected and the declaration of the persons and countries elected.