

Information on Elections

The Online Voting Platform

Voting for the cycle elections will take place at *Maison de la Chimie* on Tuesday 28 May 2024. With the exception of the Director General's election which will be conducted using paper ballots at the express request of the Council, all elections (Council, Bureaus of the Regional Commissions and Specialist Commissions members) will be exclusively conducted through an online voting platform. An individual QR code will be given to each Delegate when entering the voting room on that day. This QR code will give access to a secure and unique online voting platform. This system restricts the ability to vote solely to the Delegates physically present in the room.

As in previous General Sessions, the service provider, UK Engage, will be providing the online voting system. Throughout its two decades of experience, this service provider has accompanied several major clients in the private and public sectors, has obtained multiple ISO certifications and uses encryption systems which demonstrates state-of-the-art online voting service. All ends of the platform are secured by a cryptosystem guaranteeing the safety of the web interface and the authenticity of the votes casted.

Scrutineers have consistently played a crucial role in the election process. Their responsibilities are outlined in the WOAHA Basic Texts. The Council has designated Dr Juárez (Nicaragua) and Dr Yap (Singapore) as scrutineers. They have been actively involved in the understanding and oversight of the online voting system.

Finally, as an additional safeguard to the robustness of the process, an independent legal expert will be overseeing all the elections.

Eligibility to participate in the voting process

Based on the WOAHA Basic Texts and practices, Members have to fulfill some requirements in order to be eligible to vote.

First, Members will be barred from voting if they have more than five years of arrears with their financial contribution.

Members have until **Sunday 26 May 2024 at 6:00 pm (Paris time)** to sort out their financial contributions overdue in order to be able to vote for the elections. If this deadline is not met, the concerned Member will not be able to vote for the elections.

Second, in the absence of a Delegate, an alternate can be designated. The alternate must be formally designated in writing by the competent high level ministerial authority of the concerned Member.

The form to designate an alternate can be downloaded from the General Session registration platform (sent to each Delegate on March 19, 2024) during the registration phase.

The deadline for WOAHA to receive such designation is **Monday 20 May 2024 at 6:00 pm (Paris time)**. If this deadline is not met, the Organisation will not accept the designation.

Required majority for each election based on the Basic Texts and practices

Before proceeding to voting, the Assembly must reach the quorum, representing more than half of the Delegates. Given that the Organisation currently has 183 Members, the quorum is reached when at least 93 Members are connected to the online voting platform. Members without voting rights are strongly encouraged to attend the General Session, connect to the platform and stay connected throughout the elections as they will be able to witness the unfolding of the elections. These Members are counted towards the quorum calculation, despite not being able to vote.

Calculation of majority	The term “votes cast” shall not include abstentions ¹ .
Director General	<p>First Round: Voting will take place through a secret ballot. To secure election in the first round, a candidate must obtain a 2/3 majority of votes cast. Should no candidate obtain this majority, a second round will follow.</p> <p>Second Round: To be elected in the second round, a candidate must obtain an absolute majority, i.e. more than half of the votes cast. In the event that no candidate is elected, a third and final round will follow.</p> <p>Third Round: In the event of a third round, to be elected, a candidate must secure a relative majority, i.e. the highest number of votes.</p>
Members of the Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President - Vice-President - 6 members 	<p>President: The vote will be secret². A candidate must obtain an absolute majority, i.e. more than one half of the votes³(including abstentions).</p> <p>Vice-President: The vote will be secret. A candidate must obtain a simple majority, i.e. more than one half of the votes cast (excluding abstentions).</p> <p>Six members: The vote will be secret. Candidates must obtain a simple majority, i.e. more than one half of the votes cast (excluding abstentions).</p>
Regional Commissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President - 2 Vice-Presidents - Secretary-General 	<p>Voting is not secret⁴.</p> <p>Election is done through a simple majority, i.e. more than one half of the votes cast (excluding abstentions).</p> <p>Delegates of each Regional Commission will first establish during the Regional Commissions’ meetings a proposed composition of the Bureau. This composition will be introduced by the President of the Commission to the Assembly on the day of the elections.</p> <p>Delegates will vote through a single vote for the proposed list of Bureau (composed by the President, two Vice-Presidents and a Secretary-General). Delegates will have to either vote for the list, against the list, or abstain.</p>

¹ Art. 50 of the General Rules: “For the purpose of determining a majority, the phrase “votes cast” shall mean affirmative and negative votes and shall not include abstentions, null or defective votes”. For votes casted electronically, “null or defective votes” are not applicable - this rule applies whenever the term “votes cast” appears in this memorandum (in relation to elections for the Council, the Regional and Specialist Commissions).

² On the online voting platform: when the votes are casted, they are encrypted making it impossible to know the vote of individual Delegates. However, it is possible to know who has voted and who has not.

³ Art. 7 of the General Rules: “To be elected, the President must obtain an absolute majority, i.e., more than one half of the votes cast including abstentions, null and defective ballots.” As the votes will be casted electronically, “null or defective votes” are not applicable - this rule applies whenever the term “votes cast” appears in this memorandum (except for the Director General’s election for which paper ballots will be used).

⁴ When a vote is not secret, the voting slide will display that the vote is not anonymous. This means that the system administrators will know who has voted and for what (in relation to elections for the Regional and Specialist Commissions).

<p>Specialist Commissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President - 2 Vice-Presidents - 3 members 	<p>Voting is not secret.</p> <p>Election is done through a simple majority, i.e. more than one half of the votes cast (excluding abstentions).</p> <p>Each Regional Commission has the opportunity to examine the list of candidates before the General Session and express their preferences⁵.</p> <p>First, the Assembly elects individually the members of the Bureau (i.e. the President and two Vice-Presidents).</p> <p>Second, voting for the three non-bureau members of the relevant Commission will take place through a single vote.</p>
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⁵ Candidates for the Election of the Specialist Commission (91GS Adm-04)