



ELECTIONS, NEGOTIATION AND DECISION-MAKING

General Assembly Affairs Branch

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Today's presentation

- **Elections at the United Nations**
 - Overview
 - Secret ballots
 - General Assembly: what and when?
 - Election parameters
- Decision-making
 - Submission of a proposal
 - Co-sponsorship of a proposal
 - Programme budget implications

Documentation

When we refer to a document, such as **A/77/251**, the document is available in the Official Document System.

<http://www.undocs.org/A/77/251>

Elections at the United Nations

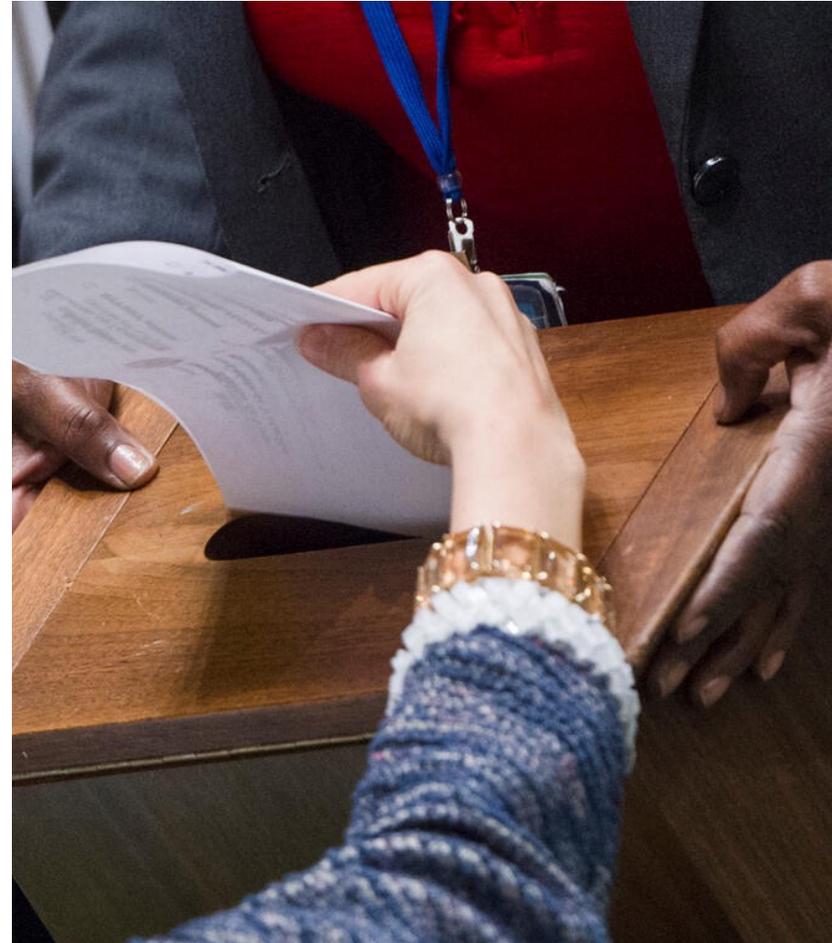
- There are five principal organs of the United Nations: three Councils, the International Court of Justice and the Secretariat.
- The General Assembly, the only body composed of all the Members of the Organization, elects some members of the Security Council (SC), also elects all the Members of the ECOSOC, participates in the election of the Judges of the International Court of Justice, and appoints the Secretary-General upon the recommendation of the SC.
- In turn, the General Assembly, the ECOSOC and the SC elect or appoint members of their subsidiary bodies. Certain subsidiary bodies elect or appoint members of yet other bodies.



Elections and secret ballots

In principle, all elections are held by secret ballot. In practice, the ballot is dispensed with.

- “All elections shall be held by secret ballot.”
- “The practice of dispensing with the secret ballot for elections to subsidiary organs when the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled should become standard.”
- Nevertheless, the right remains for a State member of the electing body to request for a secret ballot on a clean slate.



General Assembly elections: what?

List of elections taking place

In order to see all elections taking place at a certain session, start with the agenda of the General Assembly: A/77/251.

A reflects the Assembly, 77 reflects the session, 251 the agenda.

(A/77/251 will be issued on Friday)

115. Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs:

- (a) Election of non-permanent members of the Security Council;
- (b) Election of members of the Economic and Social Council;
- (c) Election of a member of the International Court of Justice.

116. Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections:

- (a) Election of members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination;
- (b) Election of the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;
- (c) Election of members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission;
- (d) Election of members of the Human Rights Council;
- (e) Election of members of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law;

General Assembly elections: what?

Details on a specific election

Detailed information is also available in the Candiweb module of the e-deleGATE platform.

CANDIDATE CHART - ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (item 116 (b))

(rule 145; ECOSOC res.2008 LX 14 May 1976; GA decision 75/419)

Total Membership: **54**

Election Date: [...] **June 2022**

Term of office: **3 years**

- ✓ *All data are in the English alphabetical order.*
- ✓ A retiring member of ECOSOC is **eligible** for immediate **re-election**.
- ✓ Endorsed candidates are indicated **with a footnote**.
- ✓ **Important Note:** The date of the election is subject to further review, including in the light of any decisions that the Assembly may take in of the situation concerning the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

CANDIDATES Term 2023-2025	CURRENT MEMBERS  TERM OF OFFICE EXPIRES 31 DECEMBER (of the years below)		
	Members retiring in 2022	Members retiring in 2023	Members retiring in 2024
African States (total: 14 seats)	(4 seats) Benin Botswana Congo Gabon	(5 seats) Liberia Libya Madagascar Nigeria Zimbabwe	(5 seats) Côte d'Ivoire Eswatini Mauritius Tunisia United Republic of Tanzania

Election of members of the Economic and Social Council

Background

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) consists of 54 members elected by the General Assembly (GA) for a for a term of three years Under rule 145 of the rules of procedure, the GA elects each year 18 members of the ECOSOC²⁴. At its twenty-sixth session, in 1971, the Assembly decided that the members of the ECOSOC should be elected according to the following pattern²⁵:

- Fourteen from African States
- Eleven from Asia-Pacific States
- Six from Eastern European States
- Ten from Latin American and Caribbean States
- Thirteen from Western European and other States



Term of office: The members of the ECOSOC shall serve for a **period of three years**. The membership cycle begins on 1 January.



Eligibility note: A **retiring member** of the ECOSOC shall be **eligible** for immediate re-election²⁶.

General Assembly elections: when?

When is the election scheduled?

In order to find out when an election is scheduled, visit the schedule of the Assembly.

<https://www.un.org/en/ga/info/meetings/77schedule.shtml>

76th session	
Date	Topic
Thursday, 31 March 2022 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. – Trusteeship Council Chamber	Informal interactive dialogue of the Assembly on commodity markets [Letters from the President of the General Assembly, dated 7 March 2022 and 28 February were sent to all permanent representatives and permanent observers.]
Friday, 1 April 2022 10:00 a.m. - General Assembly Hall	65th Plenary meeting 1. Prevention of armed conflict [item 35 (a)]: Note by the Secretary-General (A/76/690) <i>Debate on the item</i> 2. Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries [item 23 (a)]: draft resolution (A/76/L.47) <i>Action on the draft resolution</i>
	Informal briefing by the G20 Co-Sherpa of the Republic of Indonesia [A letter from the President of the General Assembly, dated 14 March 2022, was sent to all permanent representatives and permanent observers.]



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Schedule

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- Accessibility Centre

76th Sess

LAST UPDATE: 31 MARCH 2022

Different perspectives to keep in view

Each election is different but can be looked at from the following five perspectives.

Membership

Who are the members of a body: Member States, individuals, or a mix? How long is the term?

Decision-making

Which decision-making rule applies?
Simple majority, absolute majority,
two-thirds majority?

Presentation

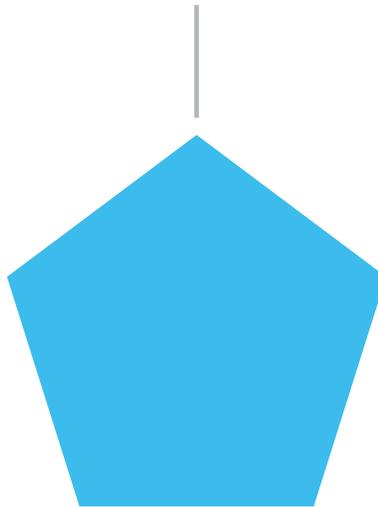
Who can present the candidature:
Member State, regional group?

Seats and eligibility

How many seats are available?
Is there a regional distribution?
Are retiring members eligible?
Are certain seats dedicated to certain
categories of States?

Endorsement

Are the candidatures endorsed by the
regional group?



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 - **Co-sponsorship of a proposal**
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From submission to action on a proposal

Below the process for the General Assembly plenary. Minor variation from body to body

1. Submission of proposal

- Submit proposal via e-deleGATE
- Indicate original proponents of proposal

2. Co-sponsorship of proposal

- Submit your proposal on e-delegate
- Open your proposal for e-Sponsorship
- Holy See and the State of Palestine

6. Meeting on proposal

- Will your delegation introduce?
- Votes? Amendments? Motions?

3. Editing of proposal

After submission, the assigned editor will reach out with suggestions on the language.

5. Review of PBI

Upon submission, proposal is sent to PPBD for review of programme budget implications (PBI)

4. Scheduling of meeting

Upon submission, Secretariat will consult OPGA and suggest a consideration date



1. Submission of a proposal

Proposals are submitted via e-deleGATE only

Takeaways

- Written notice required five working days before consideration
- Takes into account Rule 78 of the Rules of Procedure of the GA
- Consider the “base text”. If no “base text” is available, an agenda item is needed.
- Submission via e-deleGATE

Rule 78

Proposals and amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General, who shall circulate copies to the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the General Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, or of motions as to procedure, even though such amendments and motions have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day.

Submission guidelines

https://www.un.org/en/ga/pdf/guidelines_preparation_co-sponsorship_proposals_submission_GA76.pdf



2. Co-sponsorship of a proposal

Proposals can be opened for co-sponsorship, both via e-deleGATE and during the meeting

Takeaways

- Not required.
- Two places sponsorship is reflected: the original proposal (the “L” document) and the addendum
- Two ways of expressing sponsorship: via e-delegate and in the room by pressing the microphone button
- Only Member States can co-sponsor, unless the delegation confirms the provisions of resolutions 52/250 or 58/314 apply.

Resolution 52/250

The State of Palestine has the “right to co-sponsor draft resolutions and decisions on Palestinian and Middle East issues.”

Resolution 58/314

The Holy See has the “the right to co-sponsor draft resolutions and decisions that make reference to the Holy See”.

Sponsorship guidelines

https://www.un.org/en/ga/pdf/guidelines_preparation_co-sponsorship_proposals_submission_GA76.pdf



5. Review of programme budget implications

General Assembly adopts recommendations from the General Committee

GC recommendations adopted by the General Assembly

- Para 68 – Centrality of Rule 153
- Para 69 – Secretariat not in a position to offer (formal) advice until a proposal is (formally) submitted
- Para 74 – Minimum of 48 hours required to review PBI
- Para 79 – “within existing resources” does not rule out PBI

Rule 153

No resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General. No resolution in respect of which expenditures are anticipated by the Secretary-General shall be voted by the General Assembly until the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee) has had an opportunity of stating the effect of the proposal upon the budget estimates of the United Nations.

General Committee recommendations

<https://undocs.org/A/76/250>



5. Review of programme budget implications

Language with or without PBI “potential” and the related regulatory framework

Examples of language that might trigger PBI

- Requests the SG to submit a (new) report...
- Requests the SG to establish a dedicated (new) capacity to support...
- Requests the SG to carry out xxx (new) activity...
- Requests the SG to expand/increase the scope/scale of an activity or strengthen the Secretariat’s role...
- Decides to convene an open-ended working group/conference/meeting...
- “Within existing resources” does not preclude budgetary implications.

Examples of language that in principle would not trigger a PBI

- Requests the SG to: continue to report...; maintain the capacity to support...; make efforts to carry out new activities; explore options to...;
- Calls upon the SG to ...;
- Invites ...; encourages ...;

Regulatory framework

- GA Rules of procedure, rules 153 and 154
- GA resolutions 45/248 B section VI, 69/321 (para.25), 69/262 (Sect. XII, para.5) and 70/247 (paras. 1-5)
- GA decision 34/401 (paras. 12 and 13)
- Financial Regulations and Rules (ST/SGB/2013/4 and Amend 1), regulations 2.10 and 2.11, and rule 102.6
- Programme planning Regulations and Rules (ST/SGB/2018/3), regulation 5.9 and rule 105.8



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