INTRODUCTION TO ELECTIONS

An overview of elections in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, their rules of procedure and the e-deleGATE portal

Tomoko Iwata, Jori Joergensen, Wannes Lint and Rommel Maranan

4 April 2022
Overview of today’s presentation
We will provide you an introduction of GA and ECOSOC elections in four segments.

- Economic and Social Council
  Jori Joergensen, Intergovernmental Affairs Officer, ECOSOC Affairs Branch

- e-deleGATE and Candiweb
  Rommel Maranan, Associate Intergovernmental Affairs Officer, General Assembly Affairs Branch

- General Assembly
  Wannes Lint, Intergovernmental Affairs Officer, General Assembly Affairs Branch

- Rules of procedure
  Tomoko Iwata, Senior Legal Officer, Office of Legal Affairs

Documentation
When we refer to a document, such as A/76/251, the document is available in the Official Document System.

http://www.un-docs.org/A/76/251
Macro perspective on 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.
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?

**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?

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

**Endorsement**
Are the candidatures endorsed by the regional group?
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments

Jori Joergensen
ECOSOC elections: what?

- Functional commissions
- Standing committees
- Ad hoc bodies
- Expert bodies composed of governmental experts
- Expert bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity
- Related bodies

- Regular vacancies
- Outstanding vacancies

- Elections
- Nominations
- Confirmations
- Appointments
ECOSOC elections: what?

ECOSOC agenda

• E/2022/ I: Economic and Social Council documentation
• 2022 reflects the session (July-to-July cycle)
• I: reflects the dedicated Council agenda symbol
• Standard item included annually on “Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments”.

2022 session
23 July 2021–22 July 2022
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

1. Election of the Bureau.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments.
5. High-level segment on building back better from the coronavirus disease
ECOSOC elections: what?

Details on a specific regular elections

In order to obtain detail on a specific election, switch to the addendum to the annotated agenda for the Council dedicated solely to elections: E/2022/100/Add.1.

2022 reflects the session, 100 the annotated agenda Add.1 the addendum number

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**2022 session**
23 July 2021–22 July 2022
Agenda item 2
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

**Annotated agenda for the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council**

**Addendum**

**II. Annotations**

4. **Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments**

The Council is to take action with regard to the following bodies:

**Commission on Population and Development (E/2022/9)**

Eight members are to be elected according to the following pattern:

Two members from African States;
Two members from Asia-Pacific States;
ECOSOC elections: what?

Details on a specific bodies

In order to obtain detail on a specific bodies, mandates, current members, vacancies review the Secretary-General’s notes on elections, issued as E/2022/9 and Addendums.

2022 reflects the session, the Add.1; Add.2; Add.3 .... the addendum number

Ten members from Western European and other States

Australia (2025), Belgium (2025), Canada (2024), Denmark (2025), Israel* (2023), Netherlands (2026), Portugal (2026), Turkey (2024), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2025), United States of America (2026)

* * *

Eight members are to be elected according to the following pattern:

Two members from African States;
Two members from Asia-Pacific States;
One member from Eastern European States;
Two members from Latin American and Caribbean States;
One member from Western European and other States.

* Retiring member.

2 In accordance with Council decisions 1995/320 and 2005/213, the Council will elect eight new members for a four-year term of office beginning at the first meeting of the Commission’s fifty-seventh session, in 2023, and expiring at the close of the Commission’s sixtieth session, in 2027.

3 There is one vacancy in this group for a term of office beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission’s fifty-fifth session, in 2022 (see Council decision 2021/201 B).

4 There is one vacancy in this group for a four-year term of office beginning at the first meeting of the Commission’s fifty-sixth session, in 2022, and expiring at the close of the Commission’s fifty-ninth session, in 2026 (see Council decision 2022/202).

5 There are three vacancies in this group for a four-year term of office beginning at the first
ECOSOC elections: what?

Details on ECOSOC subsidiaries and related bodies

E/2019/INF/3

2019: reflects the session
INF: reflects its an “information note” issued in English only

A/76/3
Report of the Economic and Social Council – extensive annex III on Composition of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary and related bodies

I. Introduction ............................................................................................................................................. 4
II. Subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council ................................................................. 5
   A. Functional commissions .................................................................................................................... 5
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      2. Commission on Population and Development ........................................................................... 7
      3. Commission for Social Development ....................................................................................... 10
      4. Commission on the Status of Women ....................................................................................... 14
      5. Commission on Narcotic Drugs ............................................................................................... 18
      6. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice ............................................................ 23
      7. Commission on Science and Technology for Development .................................................... 26
      8. Commission on Sustainable Development (discontinued) ....................................................... 30
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      1. Economic Commission for Africa .............................................................................................. 36
      2. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ..................................................... 38
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ECOSOC elections: when?

When is the election scheduled?

Mandated to hold annual election meetings (A/RES/72/305, as reconfirmed in A/RES/75/290 A)

E/RES/2022/1 ‘Working arrangements for the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council’

RES: refers to a resolution 2022: reflects the session 1: assigned number to the resolution

26. Dedicated management meetings will also be held to conduct elections to fill regular and outstanding vacancies in subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and related bodies, normally in the first half and last quarter of the year. In preparing for elections by the Council, Member States should present candidates at least three working days in advance of elections. The provisions of paragraphs 47 and 48 of resolution 71/323 of 8 September 2017 should be followed, as applicable to the Council.

(d) Dedicated management meetings will be held on Wednesday, 13 April 2022, to conduct elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary bodies of the Council and related bodies;
## ECOSOC elections: who?

### Voters
- Members of the Economic and Social Council (54 States Members of the UN, elected by the General Assembly)
- ECOSOC Rules of Procedure: Rules 68-70

### Candidates
- National capacity
- Personal capacity
- Mandates on terms and distribution of seats, specific requirements
- Memberships based on equitable geographical distribution
ECOSOC elections: who?

Candidates for 13 April 2022 elections

List of candidates for election

- Regularly updated and circulated through the e-delegate portal and posted in Candiweb.

- Candidates should be submitted by official communication to the ECOSOC Secretariat. Notes verbales that are circulated within regional groups only do not constitute a submission of candidature.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGULAR VACANCIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT: 8 members to be elected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission’s fifty-seventh session in 2023 and expiring at the close of the Commission’s sixtieth session in 2027) [See E/2022/9]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENDORSED</th>
<th>NON-ENDORSED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN STATES</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(2 members to be elected)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ASIA-PACIFIC STATES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2 members to be elected)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Iran (Islamic Republic of)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Tajikistan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(1 member to be elected)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2 members to be elected)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
E-DELEGATE

Rommel Maranan
e-deleGATE

- The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management has centralized the digital services made available to delegates through the e-deleGATE portal

  https://edelegate.un.int/

- This password-protected portal contains links to general information (e.g. official documents, the Journal) and houses specific delegate-facing services:

  - **e-Registration**: online registration of delegates participating in meetings
  - **e-Speakers**: inscription on the list of speakers
  - **e-Proposals**: sponsorship and submission of draft resolutions and decisions
  - **CandiWeb**: information on elections and candidatures
CandiWeb

- e-deleGATE service platform that allows for sharing of information on elections and candidatures within the bodies of the United Nations
Candidature Charts

- The list of candidates which contains the latest information on candidates, updated upon submission and/or endorsement of candidature by Member States and regional groups

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**List of Candidates for the 76th session of the General Assembly**

- Election of the President of the General Assembly
- Election of the officers of the Main Committees
- Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly
- Election of members of the Economic and Social Council
- Election of non-permanent members of the Security Council
- Election of Members of the Human Rights Council
- Election of Members of the Committee on Programme and Coordination
- Appointment of Members of the Committee on Conferences
- Appointment Members of the Joint Inspection Unit
- Election of Members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission
- Election of members of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
- Election of the members of the International Law Commission
- Appointment of members of the Board of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns
- Election of Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- Approval of the appointment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

INFORMAL WORKING COPY
Guidelines and references

- Detailed information and guidelines for submission and endorsements of candidatures for elections and appointments of the different bodies.
Election Officers and Secretariat focal points

- Names and contact information of Election Officers and UN Secretariat election focal points.
- Changes to Election Officers should be communicated to the Secretariat focal points.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Election Officers Contact List</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>File</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-11-19 List of Secretariat election focal points with list of elections and appointments.pdf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022-03-31 - Contact_List_Election_Officers.xlsx</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Information from Regional Groups

- The regional group chair of the month may share with the Secretariat their respective chart for posting on CandiWeb
- Information is maintained by the regional groups
Access to e-deleGATE

• Access to e-deleGATE is managed by access administrators in each permanent mission. They can grant access to various modules of the portal to delegates in their respective missions.

• New delegates should contact their access administrators to gain access.

• Technical questions can be directed to missions-support@un.int.
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Wannes Lint
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/76/251.

A reflects the Assembly, 76 reflects the session, 251 the agenda.

(Information is presented at the end of the agenda, after other agenda items)

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?

In order to obtain detail on a specific election, switch to the annotated preliminary list of agenda items: A/76/100.

76 reflects the session, 100 the annotated preliminary list for that session.

(b) **Election of members of the Economic and Social Council**

In accordance with Article 61 of the Charter, as amended, the Economic and Social Council consists of 54 members elected for a term of three years. Under rule 145 of the rules of procedure, the General Assembly shall elect each year 18 members of the Economic and Social Council. At its twenty-sixth session, in 1971, the Assembly decided that the members of the Council should be elected according to the following pattern (resolution 2847 (XXVI)):

(a) Fourteen members from African States;
(b) Eleven members from Asia-Pacific States;
(c) Ten members from Latin American and Caribbean States;
(d) Thirteen members from Western European and other States;
(e) Six members from Eastern European States.

At its seventy-sixth session, the Assembly will need to fill the seats being vacated by the following States: Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, China, Colombia, Congo, Denmark, Gabon, Greece, Latvia, Montenegro, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and Thailand.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election is held by secret ballot. Under rule 83 of the rules of procedure, the members of the Economic and Social Council are elected by a two-thirds majority.
General Assembly elections: what?

Details on a specific election

Detailed information is also available on the Candiweb platform.

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**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).

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### CANDIDATES

**Term 2023-2025**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>African States (total: 14 seats)</th>
<th>CURRENT MEMBERS TERM OF OFFICE EXPIRES 31 DECEMBER (of the years below)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term 2023-2025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members retiring in 2022</td>
<td>Members retiring in 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Members retiring in 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4 seats)</td>
<td>(5 seats)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>Liberia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>Libya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo</td>
<td>Madagascar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabon</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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 term of three years. Under rule 145 of the rules of procedure, the GA elects each year 18 members of the ECOSOC. At its twenty-sixth session, in 1971, the Assembly decided that the members of the ECOSOC should be elected according to the following pattern:

- 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-election.
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.

### General Assembly elections: who?

#### Voters
- Members of the General Assembly, subject to Article 19:

A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years. The General Assembly may, nevertheless, permit such a member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member.

- Countries in arrears? See the UN website.


#### Candidates
- National capacity
- Personal capacity

- Resolution 71/323:

47. Further decides that the names of candidates for election by the General Assembly or by the Main Committees shall be communicated to the Secretariat, where possible, at least 48 hours prior to an election unless otherwise required by specific rules governing the elections concerned, and that those names shall be printed on the ballot papers, while additional space shall be provided on the ballot paper for inscribing other names, where applicable.

48. Decides that on the day of election in the General Assembly or in the Main Committees the campaign materials distributed in the General Assembly Hall or in the Committee meeting room shall be limited to a single page of information regarding the candidates, with a view to preserving the decorum of the Assembly.
General Assembly elections: how?

How to submit a candidature

Detailed information is provided on Candiweb for each election on how to submit a candidature:

• Can the candidature be communicated directly by the Member State or only through a regional group?
• Does the candidature require an endorsement by the regional group?
• When can the candidature be submitted?
• May additional documentation be submitted in support of a candidature?

Candidatures must be submitted to the Secretariat. Candidatures are not reflected if they are only submitted to the regional group.

Submitting candidature for the election of members of the ECOSOC

Candidature(s) should be communicated directly by the concerned delegation(s) or, if there is an endorsement, by the Chair of the Regional Group to the Secretariat (gaab@un.org) with a copy to the focal points for GA plenary elections at the UN Secretariat in the form of a Note Verbale (a scanned PDF copy). The submission is accepted after the issuance of the preliminary list of agenda items in mid-February (A/XX [session number]/50) of the corresponding session, and if possible, 48 hours before the election is expected to take place (resolution 71/323, para.47).
General Assembly elections: how?

Rule 94

"When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates obtaining in the first ballot the majority required shall be elected.

If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons or Members to be elected, 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;

provided that, after the third inconclusive ballot, votes may be cast for any eligible person or Member.

If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots shall be restricted to the candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled,

and the following three ballots thereafter shall be unrestricted, and so on until all the places have been filled."
**It’s election day in the General Assembly!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>193</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>97</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ballots</th>
<th>192</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>69</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>81</td>
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<td></td>
<td>82</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parameters**
- Full membership
- Simple majority
- No regional distribution
- No clean slate:
  - Three seats
  - Seven candidates

**Rule 94**
“When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates obtaining in the first ballot the majority required shall be elected. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons or Members to be elected, 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[.]”
RULES OF PROCEDURE

Tomoko Iwata
How elections are conducted

- Quorum: the presence of a majority of members
  - Rule 67 of the General Assembly Rules of Procedure
  - Rule 41 of the ECOSOC Rules of Procedure

- Conduct of elections
  - Rules 92 to 94 of the General Assembly Rules of Procedure
  - Rules 68 to 70 of the ECOSOC Rules of Procedure

- Tellers are there to oversee the overall election process, in particular the counting.
What is a clean slate?

- **Clean Slate**
  - Rule 68 of ECOSOC Rules of Procedure
  - Paragraph 16 of Annex V of the General Assembly Rules of Procedure

- For certain elections, even if there is a clean slate, there is still a need to conduct the elections by secret ballot. Examples.
  - Security Council
  - ECOSOC
  - Human Rights Council

- If there is an objection or a request for a vote, even if there is a clean slate, proceed to elections by secret ballot on the slate.
# The telling process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members present and voting</th>
<th>Invalid ballots</th>
<th>Abstentions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| *For the purposes of these rules, the phrase "members present and voting" means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.* | • Examples:  
  - More votes than the number of seats  
  - Voting only for non-eligible candidates (where write-in is possible) | • When the ballot is empty  
  • (Notations will be disregarded.) |

- Rule 86 of the General Assembly Rules of Procedure  
- Rule 60 of the ECOSOC Rules of Procedure
Who gets elected?

- Candidates who obtain the highest number votes and the required majority are elected
  - How do you calculate the required majority?
  - What about a tie vote?

- If vacancies remain after the first round:
  - Second round (first restricted)
  - Third round (second restricted)
  - Fourth round (open to all eligible)

- If further rounds are required: 3 unrestricted (including fourth round); 3 restricted (until all seats are filled).
Elections in the GA

ECOSOC

(A/75/PV.73 (by-elections and regular elections) and A/76/PV.52(by-election))

International Law Commission

(A/76/PV.32 )
Elections in ECOSOC

Only members can vote

Recent Summary Record of Elections in ECOSOC see: E/2021/SR.6 and SR.7