



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

206th session of the Governing Council (Extraordinary virtual session) 1–4 November 2020

CL/206/C.1
Annex 3
7 September 2020

Note for IPU Members on remote voting during the November 2020 session of the Governing Council

The voting process described below has been prepared by the Working Group on the virtual session of the Governing Council for consideration and validation by the Executive Committee.

This voting process will be used for the election of the IPU President. In the case of a contested election for a seat on the Executive Committee, the same voting process will be used.

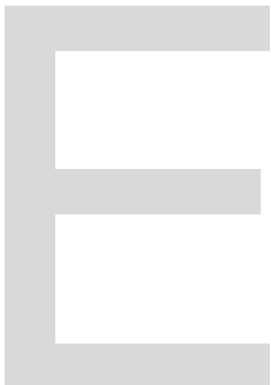
Key principles

1. **Participation:** All IPU Members must be able to participate in the remote voting.
 - a. No IPU Member should be excluded from participation in the election
 - b. Male and female voters must be able to participate equally.
 - c. Voters must have a reasonable opportunity to cast their vote, given the different time zones in which they are based.
2. **Secrecy of the ballot:** Procedures will be put in place to ensure secrecy in the primary and back-up voting methods – no-one (including IPU Members and Secretariat) will have access to information on how members of the Governing Council cast their vote.
3. **Confidence:** IPU Members must have confidence in the electoral process and its outcome.
 - a. Detailed information about the voting process is communicated to IPU Members at regular intervals.
 - b. Rules relating to gender balance among delegations to the Governing Council are observed.
 - c. The identity of members of the Governing Council is verified prior to and during the voting process.
 - d. Tellers are appointed to ascertain the results of the election, with support from an independent auditor.

Key milestones

15 days before the opening of the Governing Council

- Registration closes for candidates. The final list of candidates is announced. Registration closes for members of the Governing Council. After this deadline, no changes can be made to the list of members of the Governing Council, except in verified cases of force majeure. The existence of a case of force majeure must be certified by the Speaker of the parliament or the President of the IPU Group concerned through a written communication to the IPU Secretary General.



7–12 days before the opening of the Governing Council

- A test election takes place. All members of the Governing Council should take part in the test election, to check that they are able to connect successfully to the online voting platform. The exact timing and details of the test election will be communicated in due course.

During the Governing Council

- The quorum is announced. The number of members of the Governing Council at the moment when registration closed is used to calculate the quorum. Two tellers are appointed by the Governing Council. The candidates make their presentations to the Governing Council.
- The first round of voting is opened. Members of the Governing Council will receive an email containing details of how to connect to the online voting platform. They will have 24 hours to cast their vote.
- If no candidate obtains an absolute majority in the first round of voting, the top two candidates will go forward to a second round of voting. Members of the Governing Council will again have 24 hours to cast their vote. The candidate who obtains an absolute majority of votes cast will be elected.

How voting will take place

An online voting platform will be set up in advance. The names of the candidates will be entered into the system. The details of the members of the Governing Council provided at the time of registration (country, name, sex, personal email, personal mobile phone) will be entered into the system.

The primary method of voting will be to cast the vote via the online voting platform. A link will be sent to the personal email of each member of the Governing Council. After clicking on the link, members of the Governing Council will receive a message on their personal mobile phone containing a code. This is known as “two-factor authentication” of the voter’s identity.

When the member of the Governing Council enters the code received on their mobile phone, they will have access to the ballot on the online voting platform. When they submit their vote, the information is entered directly in the electronic system. The voter’s identity is stored separately from the candidate for whom they voted, in order to preserve the secrecy of the ballot.

If for some reason the member of the Governing Council is not able to use this primary online voting method, they will be able to vote using the secondary back-up method. Details of the back-up method will be communicated in due course. It is expected that it will be an automated system via telephone or SMS. Votes will be registered directly in the system, without human involvement, in order to preserve secrecy of the ballot.

Members of the Governing Council will only be able to vote once in each round of voting. After they have entered their vote, they will not be able to change it.

How the results of the elections will be verified

All votes will be automatically recorded in the online voting platform, including votes cast via the primary (online) and back-up (phone or SMS) voting methods.

The tellers appointed by the Governing Council will be able to observe the count of votes as they are cast. Once voting is finished, the tellers will have access to data on the voting process and outcomes. The tellers will be supported by an independent auditor who will monitor the technical aspects of the voting process and results.

Each candidate will be able to nominate a personal representative, who will be able to follow the voting as it takes place.

Important points for IPU Members

IPU Members should register three members of the Governing Council by the registration deadline. These three members should normally be two men and one woman, or two women and one man. Single-sex delegations will only be entitled to one vote. No changes to the members of the Governing Council can be made after the registration deadline, except in case of *force majeure*.

Members of the Governing Council vote on an individual basis. The personal email and personal mobile phone numbers entered at the time of registration will be used to distribute ballot papers to members of the Governing Council. It is imperative that these contact details are entered correctly in the registration system by each IPU Member.

IPU Members have a responsibility to ensure that the members of the Governing Council from their parliament are aware of, and take part in, the test election before the Governing Council, as well as all rounds of voting during the Governing Council.