



International Oil Pollution
Compensation Funds

Agenda Item 7	IOPC/JUL21/7/1/1	
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1992 Fund Assembly	92AES25	●
1992 Fund Executive Committee	92EC76	
Supplementary Fund Assembly	SAES9	●

APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR

VOTING EXPERIENCE OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Note by the Director

Summary:	<p>At their March 2021 meeting, the governing bodies considered ballot procedures for the appointment of the next Director that could be organised in the event that the November 2021 meeting is held remotely. The 1992 Fund Assembly decided that it should continue its discussions at an extraordinary session in July 2021 and instructed the Director to provide background information on the experience of the UN and other international organisations when they conduct an election for similar senior official positions.</p> <p>This document, therefore, sets out the voting practices of a number of UN organisations and other organisations since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
Action to be taken:	<p><u>1992 Fund Assembly and Supplementary Fund Assembly</u></p> <p>Information to be noted.</p>

1 Introduction

- 1.1 At their March 2021 meeting, the governing bodies considered ballot procedures for the appointment of the next Director that could be organised in the event that the November 2021 meeting is held remotely. The 1992 Fund Assembly decided that it should continue its discussions at an extraordinary session in July 2021 and instructed the Director to provide background information on the experience of the UN and other international organisations when they conduct an election for similar senior official positions.
- 1.2 Since the meeting in March, the IMO Secretariat has also issued a document setting out the voting experiences of other UN organisations (see document C 125/16(b)/2). Given the relevance of that information to the IOPC Funds' discussions, the Secretariat has included a large part of the information provided by IMO in this document.
- 1.3 Taking into account the experience and practices of other UN organisations, the IMO Secretariat has proposed that the appointment of members of the IMO Council be carried out by voting in person, by appointment. At the time of issuing this document, the outcome of the Council discussions of this proposal was not known. However, the 1992 Fund Assembly may wish to consider the proposal by the IMO Secretariat, as well as the experience of other UN bodies using this ballot procedure, given that it is close to the IOPC Funds established practice.

2 Voting experience of other organisations

2.1 As instructed, the Secretariat has looked into the experiences of the UN and other international organisations when conducting an election for similar senior official positions during the pandemic. It has also noted the information provided by IMO in that regard. The summary of the findings of the IOPC Funds and IMO, focusing on the conduct of elections by secret ballot, under the current circumstances, is provided below.

2.2

Organisation	Position appointed	Ballot procedure	Other details
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)	For essential matters	In person	ICAO has followed UN General Assembly practice and has only held in-person votes for essential matters. These votes follow local health guidelines and timeframes to ensure safety and feature a limited presence of voters and Secretariat staff. The President and the three Vice-Presidents physically preside over the votes to ensure validity.
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	President of the IFAD Governing Council	Online voting system	In 2017, before the pandemic, the IFAD Governing Council reviewed its practice and process for appointing a President and recommended an exploration of electronic and automated voting processes. IFAD chose a certified elections provider as the vendor for the remote, automated voting system. The approved system requires each delegate to sign in to the platform with a username and password. Before each round of voting, a randomly generated code is released and must be entered in order to vote. The Secretariat further deters potential cyberattacks with a short time frame for voting, and forced logout and re-authentication after each election round. The IFAD Governing Council adopted a resolution to allow the conduct of the election of its President using the online voting system in 2021 and for any future secret ballot elections. For the purposes of the appointment of the President using the online voting system, IFAD developed guidelines that specify the requirements for computers and web browsers. They also regulate registration of credentials and access to the voting portal. Furthermore, they provide step-by-step information on how to select a candidate, cast a vote and receive a receipt. IFAD also provides preparatory training sessions.
International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)	Director	Postal or online	Member States were offered a choice of electing the Director by both postal and digital voting options. Due to the postal voting, the process took three months to complete. The IHO Secretariat informed the Member States that should a second round of voting be necessary, it would be conducted online.

Organisation	Position appointed	Ballot procedure	Other details
Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	Seats on the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea	In person, in meeting	States Parties to UNCLOS held a secret ballot election for seats on the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea in August of 2020, the first meeting held in the General Assembly Hall at UN Headquarters in New York since March 2020. The Secretariat and President worked under New York City and State requirements to allow for an in-person meeting and election. Delegations were required to register in advance, send only one representative, wear face coverings and social distance throughout the meeting. Registration and careful recording ensured that proper contact tracing could be conducted if an attendee fell ill afterwards. The secret ballots were counted as usual, with tellers and Office of Legal Affairs staff, but with extra precautions and social distancing.
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Various	In person, by appointment	A number of UNESCO bodies have conducted secret ballots during online sessions. Voting booths were installed at the UNESCO Headquarters, and one member of each delegation was given an appointment to physically cast a vote while maintaining the necessary sanitary precautions. Because the vote was physical, no suspension or amendment to the rules of procedure was needed, and the results were announced in the virtual meeting.
United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)	Economic and Social Council and non-permanent members of the Security Council	In person, by appointment	In May 2020, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) decided to hold the secret ballots for the Economic and Social Council and non-permanent members of the Security Council simultaneously in person and without a plenary hearing (General Assembly decision 74/557 "Procedure for holding elections by secret ballot without a plenary meeting during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic"). One representative for each Member State was allowed to vote in person at a designated venue during a specific time slot. In this same decision, the Assembly resolved that other elections would be held in the same fashion. In October of 2020, the General Assembly voted by secret ballot to elect 15 members to the Human Rights Council.

Organisation	Position appointed	Ballot procedure	Other details
United Nations Security Council and General Assembly	UN Secretary-General	In person, by acclamation	<p>The current serving Secretary-General was the sole candidate. He was nominated by his homeland, Portugal, and appointed by acclamation by the General Assembly, following prior endorsement by the UN Security Council, for a second term that runs from January 2022 to December 2026.</p> <p>The recommendation of the Security Council was made in a resolution adopted by acclamation in a private meeting.</p>
United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)	Secretary-General	In person, in meeting	The 113th session of the Executive Council held in mid-January 2021 was in a hybrid format. Here, the discussion around the nominee for the post of Secretary-General for the period 2022–2025 was held physically and by secret ballot.

3 Director's considerations

From the information collected by the IMO Secretariat and the IOPC Funds Secretariat in respect of the voting experiences of other organisations during the pandemic, it is clear that while most organisations have endeavoured to adopt decisions by consensus as far as possible, for essential items such as the appointment of senior official positions, many UN bodies, including the UN General Assembly have continued to follow established practice by organising for elections to take place in person, by secret ballot, either at a meeting or by appointment at a designated location. Other organisations have successfully used online voting systems or a combination of postal and online voting.

4 Action to be taken

1992 Fund Assembly and Supplementary Fund Assembly

The governing bodies are invited to take note of the information provided in this document.
