

STANDING ORDER 4: ELECTION PROCEDURES IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(Revised by the W-ExCo in April 2018. Last review April 2023)

General Norms 19)

In the General Assembly each National Community has one vote and decisions are taken in a spirit of discernment by a majority vote providing a quorum is present. A quorum consists of 50% of the national communities. In the Assembly, the Executive Council has one vote in the person of the President.

1. PROCEDURES FOR ELECTION

The Executive Council shall appoint an ***Election Committee*** for the General Assembly. **The *Election Committee*** shall consist of the following persons:

- a. Chairperson
- b. Recorder
- c. Scrutineers

The Committee's mandate shall begin on the day of the election and end at the conclusion of the election. The responsibility of the *Election Committee* shall be to facilitate the election process. The Chairperson shall guide the election procedures in such a manner that:

- a. the election be done in a process of prayerful discernment,
- b. the voting is conducted in an orderly fashion,
- c. the results of the election are properly recorded.

Prior to the General Assembly, a list of names of all the nominees that have consented to be candidates for the position(s) as nominated by the world Community, and information about each, will be sent to each National Community. Delegates will be tasked with acting on the discernment begun in the National Community. During the General Assembly, the Executive Council shall ensure that a time, place, and manner in which delegates may get acquainted with the candidates.

2. INITIATION OF ELECTION PROCEDURES BY CHAIRPERSON

- a. The Chairperson shall announce the start of the election process at the time indicated in the programme.
- b. The Chairperson shall instruct the delegation of each national community to sit together. The ExCo members shall be asked to sit in one group as they have one vote executed by the President. The total number of national communities eligible for voting shall be verified by the Scrutineers and will be noted by the Recorder in an election journal.

- c. The Chairperson shall instruct the delegations that they have one vote per member country.

3. ELECTION PROCESS

- a. The Chairperson shall begin the voting sequence commencing with the position of President, followed by that of the Vice-President, and then to the five positions of Consultor.
- b. In all instances, in succession, the names of the nominated candidates shall be displayed prominently for all delegates to see.
- c. A time for consultation and final decision-making shall be given to the delegations prior to the voting for each elected position. This will be followed by a time of silent prayer while the Scrutineers distribute the blank ballots to the delegations. The Scrutineers shall ensure the number of ballots that are distributed coincide with the total number of voting member countries.
- d. Following the casting of votes by the delegations, the Scrutineers shall gather the ballots.
- e. The Scrutineers shall count the ballots after each voting sequence. This is to be done in such a manner that the results are prominently displayed for all delegates to see. The Recorder shall note the results of the votes for each candidate in an election journal.
- f. At the conclusion of each voting sequence, the Chairperson shall present the elected member to the Assembly.

4. ELECTION POLICIES

- a. The candidate(s) nominated but not elected for President, shall subsequently be eligible as candidates for Vice-President. Their names shall be added to the existing list of nominated Vice-Presidents. The candidate(s) not elected to Vice-President shall subsequently be eligible for election as candidates to Consultor. Their names shall be added to the existing list of nominated Consultors.
- b. The five Consultors shall be elected one at a time. The Chairperson shall ensure that the same procedures as above (see #3 election process) are applied to voting, casting of ballots, and election of the five Consultors.
- c. In every case, the person having the majority of votes (> 50%) shall be elected to the position being voted on. Neither the abstentions, nor the invalid votes will change the voting quorum (>50% of the possible votes).
- d. In every voting sequence, if a majority (> 50%) is not reached, after the first, nor the second ballot, the two candidates attaining the highest number of votes in the second ballot shall go on to subsequent voting until a majority has been reached by one person. The tie breaker ballot(s) will include all tied candidates if

there are more than 2 in the first position. Ditto if it is necessary to include the tied candidates in second position.

- e. If there is only one candidate for any of the elective positions, the candidate must be given approval by a majority of the delegations (either by ballot or a show of hands).
- f. At the conclusion of the election the Chairperson will ensure that all ballots are destroyed, and the Recorders journal is handed over to the newly elected ExCo.