



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

21/06/2017

Ref.: CL/4211

Subject: **Candidates for election to the UNESCO Executive Board**

Sir/Madam,

In accordance with Rule 1 of the provisions governing the procedure for the election of Member States to the Executive Board, which are set out in Appendix 2 (part II) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, the Part A (submission of the names of candidate States) of which is reproduced in Annex I to this letter, I have the honour to ask you to inform me, if possible by **22 September 2017**, on whether your country intends to stand for election to the Executive Board at the 39th session of the UNESCO General Conference.*

I believe it would be appropriate to draw your attention to Article V of the Organization's Constitution, reproduced in Annex II to this letter, which defines the composition and functions of the UNESCO Executive Board. You also will find, in Annex III, the Member States currently on the Executive Board, listed by electoral group, together with the year of expiry of their term of office.

A provisional list of candidate Member States will be sent to you at the end of September. Subsequently, a revised list will be given to the Chairperson of the General Conference Nominations Committee, and to the heads of delegation at the opening of the 39th session of the General Conference.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Irina Bokova
Director-General

cc: Permanent Delegations to UNESCO
National Commissions for UNESCO

* To date, the following Member States have announced that they are candidates for election: Albania, Argentina, Colombia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Madagascar, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Turkey, Venezuela, and Zambia.

ANNEX I

PROVISIONS GOVERNING THE PROCEDURE FOR THE ELECTION OF MEMBER STATES TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD: SUBMISSION OF THE NAMES OF CANDIDATE STATES

(Appendix 2 (Part II.A) of the Rules of procedure of the General Conference)

Rule 1

The Director-General shall ask each Member State, at least three months prior to the opening of any ordinary session of the General Conference, whether it intends to stand for election to the Executive Board. If so, its candidature must be sent to him or her at least six weeks, as far as possible, prior to the opening of the session, it being understood that candidate Member States may at the same time communicate to the other Member States and to the Director-General any information they consider relevant, including the name and curriculum vitae of the person they intend, if elected, to designate as their representative on the Board.

Rule 2

At least four weeks prior to the opening of the ordinary session of the General Conference the Director-General shall send Member States the provisional list of Member States candidates.

Rule 3

At the opening of the ordinary session of the General Conference the Director-General shall have drawn up and delivered to the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee and to each head of delegation a list of the Member States' candidatures that have been transmitted to him or her by that date.

Rule 4

Subsequent candidatures shall be admissible only if they reach the Secretariat of the General Conference at least forty-eight hours before the beginning of the ballot.

Rule 5

The Nominations Committee shall submit to the General Conference a list of all the Member States candidates, indicating the electoral group to which they belong and the number of seats to be filled in each electoral group.

ANNEX II

ARTICLE V OF THE CONSTITUTION OF UNESCO

Executive Board

A. Composition

1. (a) The Executive Board shall be elected by the General Conference and it shall consist of fifty-eight Member States. The President of the General Conference shall sit *ex officio* in an advisory capacity on the Executive Board.
- (b) Elected States Members of the Executive Board are hereinafter referred to as "Members" of the Executive Board.
2. (a) Each Member of the Executive Board shall appoint one representative. It may also appoint alternates.
- (b) In selecting its representative on the Executive Board, the Member of the Executive Board shall endeavour to appoint a person qualified in one or more of the fields of competence of UNESCO and with the necessary experience and capacity to fulfil the administrative and executive duties of the Board. Bearing in mind the importance of continuity, each representative shall be appointed for the duration of the term of the Member of the Executive Board, unless exceptional circumstances warrant his replacement. The alternates appointed by each Member of the Executive Board shall act in the absence of its representative in all his functions.
3. In electing Members to the Executive Board, the General Conference shall have regard to the diversity of cultures and a balanced geographical distribution.
4. (a) Members of the Executive Board shall serve from the close of the session of the General Conference which elected them until the close of the second ordinary session of the General Conference following their election. The General Conference shall, at each of its ordinary sessions, elect the number of Members of the Executive Board required to fill vacancies occurring at the end of the session.
- (b) Members of the Executive Board are eligible for re-election. Re-elected Members of the Executive Board shall endeavour to change their representatives on the Board.
5. In the event of the withdrawal from the Organization of a Member of the Executive Board, its term of office shall be terminated on the date when the withdrawal becomes effective.

B. Functions

6. (a) The Executive Board shall prepare the agenda for the General Conference. It shall examine the programme of work for the Organization and corresponding budget estimates submitted to it by the Director-General in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article VI and shall submit them with such recommendations, as it considers desirable to the General Conference.
- (b) The Executive Board, acting under the authority of the General Conference, shall be responsible for the execution of the programme adopted by the Conference. In accordance with the decisions of the General Conference and having regard to circumstances arising between two ordinary sessions, the Executive Board shall take all

necessary measures to ensure the effective and rational execution of the programme by the Director-General.

- (c) Between ordinary sessions of the General Conference, the Board may discharge the functions of adviser to the United Nations, set forth in Article IV, paragraph 5, whenever the problem upon which advice is sought has already been dealt with in principle by the Conference, or when the solution is implicit in decisions of the Conference.
7. The Executive Board shall recommend to the General Conference the admission of new Members to the Organization.
 8. Subject to decisions of the General Conference, the Executive Board shall adopt its own rules of procedure. It shall elect its officers from among its Members.
 9. The Executive Board shall meet in regular session at least four times during a biennium and may meet in special session if convoked by the Chairman on his initiative or upon the request of six Members of the Executive Board.
 10. The Chairman of the Executive Board shall present, on behalf of the Board, to the General Conference at each ordinary session, with or without comments, the reports on the activities of the Organization which the Director-General is required to prepare in accordance with the provisions of Article VI.3(b).
 11. The Executive Board shall make all necessary arrangements to consult the representatives of international organizations or qualified persons concerned with questions within its competence.
 12. Between sessions of the General Conference, the Executive Board may request advisory opinions from the International Court of Justice on legal questions arising within the field of the Organization's activities.
 13. The Executive Board shall also exercise the powers delegated to it by the General Conference on behalf of the Conference as a whole.

ANNEX III

**CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
BY ELECTORAL GROUP**

Member State **Term of office expires**

GROUP I (27 Member States: 9 seats, **of which 3 are to be filled** at the 39th session of the General Conference)

1.	France	2019
2.	Germany	2017
3.	Greece	2019
4.	Italy	2019
5.	Netherlands	2017
6.	Spain	2019
7.	Sweden	2017
8.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2019
9.	United States of America	2019

GROUP II (25 Member States: 7 seats, **of which 3 are to be filled** at the 39th session of the General Conference)

1.	Albania	2017
2.	Estonia	2017
3.	Lithuania	2019
4.	Russian Federation	2019
5.	Serbia	2019
6.	Slovenia	2019
7.	Ukraine	2017

GROUP III (33 Member States: 10 seats, **of which 5 are to be filled** at the 39th session of the General Conference)

1.	Argentina	2017
2.	Brazil	2019
3.	Dominican Republic	2017
4.	El Salvador	2017
5.	Haiti Republic	2019
6.	Mexico	2019
7.	Nicaragua	2019
8.	Paraguay	2019
9.	Saint Kitts and Nevis	2017
10.	Trinidad and Tobago	2017

Member State **Term of office expires**

GROUP IV (44 Member States: 12 seats, **of which 6 are to be filled** at the 39th session of the General Conference)

1.	Bangladesh	2017
2.	China	2017
3.	India	2017
4.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2019
5.	Japan	2017
6.	Malaysia	2019
7.	Nepal	2017
8.	Pakistan	2019
9.	Republic of Korea	2019
10.	Sri Lanka	2019
11.	Turkmenistan	2017
12.	Viet Nam	2019

GROUP V (64 Member States: 20 seats, **of which 9 are to be filled** at the 39th session of the General Conference)(*)

1.	Algeria	2017
2.	Cameroon	2019
3.	Chad	2017
4.	Côte d'Ivoire	2019
5.	Egypt	2017
6.	Ghana	2019
7.	Guinea	2017
8.	Kenya	2019
9.	Lebanon	2019
10.	Mauritius	2017
11.	Morocco	2017
12.	Mozambique	2017
13.	Nigeria	2019
14.	Oman	2019
15.	Qatar	2019
16.	Senegal	2019
17.	South Africa	2019
18.	Sudan	2019
19.	Togo	2017
20.	Uganda	2017

(*) The rotating seat, which alternates every four years between Group V(a) and Group V(b) in accordance with their standing agreement within Group V, will go to Group V(b) at these elections.