



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Two hundred and second session

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PARIS, 21 September 2017  
English & French only

Item 26 of the provisional agenda

## NOMINATION OF A CANDIDATE FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO

### VOTING PROCEDURES

#### SUMMARY

The Director-General is nominated by the Executive Board and appointed by the General Conference.

This information document provides additional information on the voting process for the nomination of the Director-General during the 202nd session of the Executive Board.



Job: 201701883

### **Practical arrangements**

- Voting will take place during a Private Session of the Board at the end of each day's work until the conditions of Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board are met.
- The vote shall be conducted in accordance with Rule 55 of the Rules of Procedure.
- The use of mobile telephones will not be permitted during the voting process.
- At the beginning of the Private Session, two voting booths will be installed in the centre of Room X and a ballot box will be installed in front of the Chairperson.
- Two Tellers shall be chosen from amongst the Members of the Board, who shall scrutinize the votes cast.
- Voting shall take place according to the French alphabetic order of the name of each of the 58 Members.
- Each Member, once called upon by the Chairperson, shall proceed to the voting booth with an envelope and a ballot sheet provided by the Secretariat.
- When calling upon a Member, the Chairperson will announce the next Member to vote and request that they prepare themselves.
- Inside the voting booth, the Member shall clearly indicate their vote by ticking the box corresponding to the candidate of choice.
- The ballot is folded and placed inside the envelope whilst in the voting booth.
- The Member proceeds to the ballot box and casts their vote by placing the envelope into it.
- Once all Members have duly cast their vote, the Chairperson will call upon the Tellers to scrutinize the votes cast.
- The Tellers shall record the outcome of the vote and present the result to the Chairperson.
- With a view to ensuring the fullest transparency, every bulletin will be opened under camera and projected onto the screen in Room X.
- If the conditions in Rule 55 are met, the Chairperson shall announce the outcome.
- If the conditions of Rule 56 are not met, the Chairperson will announce the need to proceed to a second round of voting that will take place the following day.
- Additional voting in private session will continue until the conditions of Rule 56 are met.
- Once the conditions of Rule 56 are met, the Chairperson, during a public session of the plenary, shall announce the results of the vote.
- This person will then be considered as the Board's nomination for the position of Director-General of the Organization.
- The Chairperson conveys the recommendation of the Executive Board at the private session during the 39th session of the General Conference, on item 12.I of its agenda.

### **PROPOSED DATES FOR THE BALLOTS FOR THE NOMINATION OF A CANDIDATE FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL:**

1. **The first ballot – Monday 9 October 2017 – end of afternoon plenary**  
***If** the required majority is not obtained by a candidate, **then***
2. **The second ballot – Tuesday 10 October 2017 – end of afternoon plenary**  
***If** the required majority is not obtained by a candidate, **then***

**3. The third ballot – Wednesday 11 October 2017 – 6.30 p.m.**

*If the required majority is not obtained by a candidate, then*

**4. The fourth ballot – Thursday 12 October 2017 – 6.30 p.m.**

*If the required majority is not obtained by a candidate, then a final ballot shall be taken, restricted to the two candidates who obtained the most votes in the fourth ballot.*

**5. The fifth ballot – Friday 13 October 2017 – 6.30 p.m.**

During this round, a final ballot shall be taken, restricted to the two candidates who obtained the most votes in the fourth ballot. The candidate obtaining a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.

*Rule 56, para. 5 provides that “if, in the final ballot or an eliminating ballot, two or more candidates obtain the same number of votes, the Chairman shall decide between them by drawing lots”.*

**EXCERPTS FROM THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

**XI. Special procedures**

**Rule 58 – Nomination of Director-General**

1. At least six months before the expiry of the term of office of the Director-General or in case of vacancy at any other time, the Executive Board shall, as soon as possible, invite Member States to suggest the names of persons who might be considered for the post of Director-General, requesting them at the same time to provide full biographical details regarding these persons.
2. The Executive Board shall consider in private meeting all the names so suggested, together with any proposed by Members of the Board, provided that no candidature shall be considered unless biographical details are available.
3. The person to be nominated by the Executive Board shall be chosen by secret ballot.
4. The Chairman of the Board shall inform the General Conference of the candidate nominated by the Board.

**X. Voting**

**Rule 54 – Secret ballot**

1. The nomination of a candidate for the post of Director-General shall be decided by secret ballot.

**Rule 55 – Conduct of voting by secret ballot**

1. Before the vote begins, the Chairman shall appoint two tellers to scrutinize the votes cast.
2. When the counting of the votes is completed and the tellers have reported to the Chairman, he shall announce the results of the ballot bearing in mind that the voting will be recorded as follows:

- (a) From the total number of the Members of the Board will be deducted:
  - the number of Members absent, if any;
  - the number of blank ballot papers, if any;
  - the number of invalid ballot papers, if any.
- (b) The remaining number will constitute the number of votes recorded. The majority required will be more than half that number.
- (c) Those receiving a number of votes in favour, equal or superior to the majority required shall be declared elected.

**Rule 56 – Voting in elections**

1. When a single elective place is to be filled, any candidate obtaining in the first ballot an absolute majority (i.e. more than half) of the votes cast shall be declared elected.
  2. If no candidate obtains an absolute majority in the first ballot, further ballots shall be taken. Any candidate obtaining an absolute majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected. If, after four ballots have been taken, no candidate has obtained an absolute majority, a final ballot shall be taken, restricted to the two candidates who obtained the most votes in the fourth ballot. The candidate obtaining a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.
- .....
5. If, in the final ballot or an eliminating ballot, two or more candidates obtain the same number of votes, the Chairman shall decide between them by drawing lots.