



Meeting of States Parties

Distr.: General
7 September 2023

Original: English

Thirty-third Meeting (resumed)

New York, 28 November 2023

Election of members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

Note by the Secretary-General

I. Vacancies in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

1. On 6 July 2023, pursuant to article 2, paragraph 2, of annex II to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Secretary-General addressed a communication to the States parties to the Convention, in which he invited them to submit, between 7 July and 6 October 2023, nominations with respect to two vacancies in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf allocated to the Eastern European States. In this connection, it is recalled that the Meeting of States Parties had taken note of the need to resume the thirty-third Meeting at a future date, to hold a by-election for the two vacancies (see [SPLOS/33/15](#), para. 75).

2. The list of nominated candidates, with information on their nominating States, is contained in document [SPLOS/33/18](#). The curricula vitae of the candidates will be available on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.¹

II. By-elections

3. Rule 72 of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of States Parties ([SPLOS/2/Rev.5](#)) provides that, if the office of a member of the Commission becomes vacant, the Meeting of States Parties shall, in accordance with rule 71, elect a member for the remainder of the predecessor's term. Rule 71 provides that the elections of the members of the Commission shall take place in accordance with article 76 and annex II to the Convention.

4. Article 2, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention provides that elections of the members of the Commission shall be held at a Meeting of States Parties convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters.

¹ See www.un.org/Depts/los/index.htm.



5. Article 2, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention also provides that not less than three members of the Commission shall be elected from each geographical region. In this regard, it is recalled that the nineteenth Meeting of States Parties, held in June 2009, approved the arrangement for the allocation of seats on the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (see [SPLOS/201](#); and [SPLOS/203](#), paras. 96–102). It is also recalled that, for the purpose of conducting the most recent election of 21 members of the Commission, held at the thirty-second Meeting of States Parties (13–17 June 2022), the arrangement for the allocation of seats contained in document [SPLOS/201](#) applied (see [SPLOS/32/15](#), para. 67).

III. Election procedures

6. In accordance with the practice of the Meeting of States Parties, the election will be held by secret ballot, subject to the agreement of the Meeting. Pursuant to article 2, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention, two thirds of the States parties shall constitute a quorum for that Meeting, and the persons elected to the Commission shall be those nominees who obtain a two-thirds majority of the votes of the representatives of States parties present and voting.

7. In accordance with rule 72 of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of States Parties, members of the Commission thus elected will serve for the remainder of the term, until 15 June 2028.

8. In keeping with the practice of the Meeting of States Parties, ballot papers will be distributed only to States parties for which credentials have been accepted by the thirty-third Meeting of States Parties, including credentials that might be accepted by the resumed thirty-third Meeting of States Parties. The conference officers will note if a State party is absent and will not leave any ballot paper on the desk of that State party. If a delegation arrives after voting has begun, it may approach the podium in order to receive ballot papers.

9. There will be a single ballot paper for the region for which the election is being held, namely the Eastern European States.² In accordance with the established practice, ballot papers will include the name and nationality of the candidates.

10. Representatives may vote only for a candidate whose name appears on the ballot paper. Voting for a candidate is done by placing a cross in the box to the left of the name. Blank ballot papers will be considered abstentions. Ballot papers marked for more candidates than the number of seats indicated, or that contain a vote for a candidate other than those listed on the ballot papers, will be considered invalid.

11. After the President has announced that voting has begun, no representative may interrupt the voting, except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting.

12. The conference officers, accompanied by the tellers, will collect the ballot papers. All representatives should remain in their seats and wait for their turn to cast their ballots in the ballot box. They should remain seated until all ballots have been collected. Once the collection is complete, the President of the Meeting will provide an opportunity to any delegation of a State party that was absent at the time of the distribution of the ballots to approach the podium and cast its ballot in the ballot box.

² In accordance with the arrangement for the allocation of seats (see para. 3), three members of the Commission shall be from the Eastern European States. It is recalled that one of those seats is occupied by Ivan F. Glumov (see [SPLOS/32/15](#), para. 72).

13. Once all ballots have been collected, the conference officers, accompanied by the tellers, will proceed to a designated room. After the votes have been counted, the President of the Meeting will announce the outcome.
 14. In the event that further balloting becomes necessary, the President will provide information on the election procedure before the voting process continues.
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