

“Voting procedures under Rule XII, paragraph 10 of the General Rules of the Organization”: Comparative Study on the rules and best practices of UN and other relevant entities

Text in italics reflects non-legally binding guidance. All other text reflects formal rules of the concerned Organization. Unless otherwise indicated, references are to the established rules of procedures of the organization concerned, which are identified in the endnotes to this table.

	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)¹	Universal Postal Union (UPU)²	World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)³	World Health Organization (WHO)⁴	World Meteorological Organization (*WMO)⁵	World Tourism Organization of the United Nations (UNWTO)⁶
Invitation for candidatures						<p>Rules adopted by the Council for the selection of a nominee for the post of Secretary-General at its twenty-third session in May 1984 (Decision 17(XXIII5))</p> <p>The Executive Council decides that the following rules and procedures shall govern the selection of a nominee for the post of Secretary-General by the Council at its twenty-fifth session:⁷</p> <p>...</p> <p>(b) candidates shall be formally proposed to the Council, through the Secretariat, by the governments of the States of which they are nationals, and these proposals should be received not later than (date to be determined), the postmark providing proof thereof;</p>
Conduct during campaign				<p>1. This code applies to electoral campaign activities related to the election of the Director-General whenever they take place until the appointment by the Health Assembly.</p> <p>2. All Member States and candidates should encourage and promote communication and cooperation among one another during the entire election process. Member States and candidates should act in good faith bearing in mind the shared objectives of promoting equity, openness, transparency and fairness throughout the election process.</p> <p>3. All Member States and candidates should consider disclosing their campaign activities (for example, hosting of meetings, workshops and visits) and communicate them to the</p>		

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				<p>Secretariat. Information so disclosed will be posted on a dedicated page of the WHO web site.</p> <p>4. Member States and candidates should refer to one another with respect; no Member State or candidate should at any time disrupt or impede the campaign activities of other candidates. Nor should any Member State or any candidate make any oral or written statement or other representation that could be deemed slanderous or libellous.</p> <p>5. Member States and candidates should refrain from improperly influencing the election process, by, for example, granting or accepting financial or other benefits as a quid pro quo for the support of a candidate, or by promising such benefits.</p> <p>6. Member States and candidates should not make promises or commitments in favour of, or accept instructions from, any person or entity, public or private, and should avoid any other similar action, when that could undermine, or be perceived as undermining, the integrity of the election process.</p> <p>7. Member States proposing persons for the post of Director-General should consider disclosing grants or aid funding to other Member States during the previous two years in order to ensure full transparency and mutual confidence among Member States.</p> <p>8. Member States that have proposed persons for the post of Director-General should facilitate meetings between their candidate and other Member States, if so requested. Wherever possible, meetings between candidates and Member States should be arranged on the occasion of conferences or other events involving different</p>		

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				<p>Member States rather than through bilateral visits.</p> <p>9. Travel by candidates to Member States to promote their candidature should be limited in order to avoid excessive expenditure that could lead to inequality among Member States and candidates. In this connection, Member States and candidates should consider using as much as possible existing mechanisms (sessions of the regional committees, Executive Board and Health Assembly) for meetings and other promotional activities linked to the electoral campaign.</p> <p>10. Candidates, whether internal or external, should not combine their official travel with campaigning activities. Electoral promotion or propaganda under the guise of technical meetings or similar events should be avoided.</p> <p>11. After the Director-General has dispatched all proposals, curricula vitae and supporting information to Member States in accordance with Rule 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Secretariat will open on the WHO web site a password-protected forum for questions and answers, open to all Member States and candidates who request to participate in such a forum. The Secretariat will also post on the WHO web site information on all candidates who so request including their curricula vitae and other particulars of their qualifications and experience as received from Member States, as well as their contact information. The web site will also provide links to individual web sites of candidates upon request. Each candidate is responsible for setting up and financing his or her own web site.</p> <p>12. The Secretariat will also post on WHO's web site, at the time</p>		

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				<p>referred to in the first paragraph of Rule 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, information on the election process and the applicable rules and decisions, as well as the text of this code.</p> <p>...</p> <p>1. WHO staff members, including the Director-General in office, who are proposed for the post of Director-General, are subject to the obligations contained in the WHO Constitution, Staff Regulations and Staff Rules as well as to the guidance that may be issued from time to time by the Director-General.</p> <p>2. WHO staff members who are proposed for the post of Director-General must observe the highest standard of ethical conduct and strive to avoid any appearance of impropriety. WHO staff members must clearly separate their WHO functions from their candidacy and avoid any overlap, or perception of overlap, between campaign activities and their work for WHO. They also have to avoid any perception of conflict of interest.</p> <p>3. WHO staff members are subject to the authority of the Director-General, in accordance with the applicable regulations and rules, in case of allegations of breach of their duties with regard to their campaign activities.</p> <p>4. The Health Assembly or the Executive Board may call upon the Director-General to apply Staff Rule 650 concerning special leave to staff members who have been proposed for the post of Director-General.</p>		
Hearings						
Election procedure	<p>Rule 100(1)</p> <p>All elections shall be held by secret ballot unless, in the absence of any objection, the Conference decides to proceed without taking</p>	<p>Article 18(2)</p> <p>Votes shall be taken by the traditional system or by the electronic voting system. They shall normally be</p>	<p>Rule 3</p> <p>The Secretariat shall distribute ballot papers and envelopes to the delegations. Ballot papers and</p>	<p>Rule 108</p> <p>The Health Assembly shall consider the Board's nomination at a private meeting and shall come to a decision by secret ballot</p>		<p>General Assembly</p> <p>Rule 43</p> <p>All elections as well as the appointment of the Secretary-</p>

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	<p>a ballot on an agreed candidate or list of candidates.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Rule 103(3)</p> <p>When the Board has submitted its recommendation on the appointment of the Director-General, the Conference shall consider the recommendation at a private meeting and vote upon it by secret ballot</p> <p>Rule 104</p> <p>(1) Except as otherwise provided herein, the rules covering elections in the Conference, as appropriate, shall apply.</p> <p>(2) The Conference shall consider any candidate recommended to it by the Board, and shall decide thereon by a secret ballot. A decision to appoint shall require a simple majority of those present and voting, but no fewer than two fifths of the Members participating in the current session of the Conference.</p> <p>(3) If a candidate recommended by the Board does not obtain the majority specified in paragraph 2 above, the Board shall reconsider the matter and present a new recommendation to the Conference.</p> <p>Rule 103(3)</p> <p>When the Board has submitted its recommendation on the appointment of the Director-General, the Conference shall consider the recommendation at a private meeting and vote upon it by secret ballot</p> <p>Rule 104 – Procedure for the appointment of the Director-General</p> <p>(1) Except as otherwise provided herein, the rules covering elections in the Conference, as appropriate, shall apply.</p>	<p>taken by the electronic system when that system is available to the assembly. However, in the case of a secret ballot, the traditional system may be used if one delegation, supported by a majority of the delegations present and voting, so requests.</p> <p>Article 18(3)</p> <p>For the traditional system, the method of voting shall be as follows:</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>(c) by secret ballot, using ballot papers, if requested by two delegations; in this case, the Chairman of the meeting shall appoint three tellers, having regard to equitable geographical representation and the level of economic development of the member countries, and make the necessary arrangements for the holding of a secret ballot.</p> <p>Article 18(4)</p> <p>For the electronic system, the methods of voting shall be as follows:</p> <p>(a) non-recorded vote: it replaces a vote by show of hands;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · recorded vote: it replaces a roll-call vote; however, the names of the countries shall not be called unless one delegation, supported by a majority of the delegations present and voting, so requests; · secret ballot: it replaces the secret ballot by ballot papers. <p>Article 18(5)</p> <p>Regardless of the system of voting used, the secret</p>	<p>envelopes shall be of white paper without distinguishing marks.</p> <p>Rule 28</p> <p>(1) All elections and decisions concerning States or individuals shall be voted on by secret ballot if at least two delegations so request.</p> <p>(2) Voting by secret ballot is governed by special regulations, which form the annex to the present General Rules of Procedure and are an integral part thereof.</p>			<p>General shall be made by secret ballot.</p> <p>Council</p> <p>Rules adopted by the Council for the selection of a nominee for the post of Secretary-General at its twenty-third session in May 1984 (Decision 17(XXIII5))</p> <p>The Executive Council decides that the following rules and procedures shall govern the selection of a nominee for the post of Secretary-General by the Council at its twenty-fifth session:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(c) voting shall be conducted by secret ballot in accordance with the Guiding Principles for the Conduct of Elections by Secret Ballot attached to the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly;</p>

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		<p>ballot shall take precedence over any other voting procedure.</p> <p>Article 21</p> <p>(1) The elections of the Director General of the International Bureau and of the Deputy Director General shall take place by secret ballot successively at one or more meetings held on the same day. The candidate who obtains a majority of the votes cast by the member countries present and voting shall be elected. As many ballots shall be held as are necessary for a candidate to obtain this majority.</p>				
Required majority and process in absence of majority	See above	<p>Article 21</p> <p>(1) The elections of the Director General of the International Bureau and of the Deputy Director General shall take place by secret ballot successively at one or more meetings held on the same day. The candidate who obtains a majority of the votes cast by the member countries present and voting shall be elected. As many ballots shall be held as are necessary for a candidate to obtain this majority.</p>			<p>Regulation 199</p> <p>When in the appointment of the Secretary-General it is necessary to choose between two or more persons the following procedures shall be used:</p> <p>(a) Each principal delegate, or his alternate, of the Members represented in Congress shall be asked to indicate the candidate he prefers by writing the candidate's name on the voting slip. All candidates who fail to receive a vote and the candidate who receives the smallest number of votes shall be struck from the list of candidates. In the event of two or more candidates receiving the smallest number of votes, a separate vote of preference shall be taken and the candidate who receives the least number of votes shall be eliminated from the list and the other(s) retained. If in this separate vote of preference more than one candidate receives the smallest number of votes, all these candidates shall be eliminated from the list.</p>	<p>Rules adopted by the Council for the selection of a nominee for the post of Secretary-General at its twenty-third session in May 1984 (Decision 17(XXIII))</p> <p>The Executive Council decides that the following rules and procedures shall govern the selection of a nominee for the post of Secretary-General by the Council at its twenty-fifth session:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(d) the vote shall be decided in accordance with Article 30 of the Statutes and Rule 28 of the Council's Rules of Procedure, by simple majority, defined as fifty per cent plus one of the valid ballots cast;</p> <p>(e) the selection of one nominee by the Council shall be conducted, in accordance with Article 29 of the Council's rules of Procedure, during a private meeting, part of which shall be a restrictive meeting, as follows:</p> <p>(i) discussion of candidates shall be conducted during a restrictive private meeting at which only voting delegations and interpreters shall be present; there shall be no written record and no tape recording of the discussions;</p>

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					<p>(b) The procedures described in paragraph (a) shall then be repeated with the reduced list of candidates.</p> <p>(c) This procedure shall continue until one candidate (the “preferred candidate”) remains on the list.</p> <p>(d) A proposal shall then be submitted to Congress that the preferred candidate be declared appointed. Such a proposal shall be supported by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast for and against in order to be adopted.</p> <p>(e) If, at any stage during the voting procedure described in paragraphs (a) to (c) above, a candidate receives a two-thirds majority of the votes cast for and against, he shall be declared appointed and no further votes shall be taken.</p> <p>(f) In the event of the two final candidates in the indication-of-preference procedure receive the same number of votes, a further vote shall take place.</p> <p>(g) In the event that the proposal described in paragraph (d) is not supported by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast for and against, a further vote shall take place.</p> <p>(h) In the event of the further votes described in paragraphs (f) and (g) being indecisive, Congress shall decide whether further voting shall take place, whether a new procedure shall be followed, or whether its decision shall be withheld.</p>	<p>(ii) during the balloting Secretariat staff necessary to assist with the voting shall be admitted;</p> <p>(f) the Council shall elect only one nominee to recommend to the Assembly.</p>
<p>Conduct of the ballot, including measures to preserve secrecy</p>	<p>Rules of Procedure of the General Conference – Appendix B Rules for the Conduct of Voting by Secret Ballot Rule 1 Before the ballot begins, the President after consultation with the General Committee shall</p>		<p>Annex to the General Rules of Procedure of WIPO Rules for Voting by Secret Ballot Rule 1. - In order to vote, delegations must be properly accredited. Rule 2. - Before the ballot begins, the Chairman shall appoint two</p>	<p>Guiding Principles for the Conduct of Elections by Secret Ballot Principle 1 Before voting begins, the President shall hand to the two tellers appointed by him the list of Members entitled to vote and the list of candidates. For the elections</p>		<p>Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly Guiding Principles for the Conduct of Elections by Secret Ballot Principle 1 Before voting begins, the President shall hand to the two tellers appointed by him the list of</p>

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	<p>appoint three tellers from among Member delegations present. He shall hand them the list of Members entitled to vote and, where applicable, the list of candidates.</p> <p>Rule 2 At the request of the President, conference officers shall distribute ballot papers and envelopes to all Members according to name cards on the tables (including tables of Members who are not present at the time of distribution). Ballot-papers, which should be in different colours for different purposes of election, and the envelopes shall be without distinguishing marks.</p> <p>Rule 3 The tellers shall satisfy themselves that the ballot-box is empty.</p> <p>Rule 4 Member delegations will be called in turn by the Secretary of the meeting, in the alphabetical order of the names of Member States in English, beginning with the Member State sitting at the far right of the front row in the conference room as seen from the rostrum.</p> <p>Rule 5 When their names are called, delegations shall come to the rostrum and place the envelopes containing their ballot-papers in the ballot-box.</p> <p>Rule 7 After the last Member State called has voted, the President shall declare the ballot closed and announce that the envelopes are to be counted. The teller referred to in paragraph 6 above shall then read from his list the names of those Member delegations who did not place their ballot-papers in the ballot-box. Conference officers shall collect the ballot-papers and the envelopes from the tables of</p>		<p>tellers from among the delegates present. He shall hand them the list of delegations entitled to vote and, where applicable, the list of candidates.</p> <p>Rule 3. - The Secretariat shall distribute ballot papers and envelopes to the delegations. Ballot papers and envelopes shall be of white paper without distinguishing marks.</p> <p>Rule 4. - The tellers shall satisfy themselves that the ballot box is empty, and, having locked it, shall hand the key to the Chairman.</p> <p>Rule 5. - Delegations shall be called in turn by the Secretary of the meeting, in the alphabetical order of the names of the member States in French, beginning with the member State whose name shall have been drawn by lot.</p> <p>Rule 6. - When their names are called, delegations shall hand their ballot papers, in the envelopes, to a teller, who shall place them in the ballot box.</p> <p>Rule 7. - To indicate the recording of each member State's vote, the Secretary of the meeting and one of the tellers shall sign or initial the list in the margin opposite the name of the member State in question.</p> <p>Rule 8. - At the conclusion of the calling, the Chairman shall declare the ballot closed and announce that the votes are to be counted.</p> <p>Rule 9.- When the Chairman has opened the ballot box, the tellers shall check the number of envelopes. If the number is greater or less than that of the voters, the Chairman shall be informed, and shall then declare the vote invalid and announce that it is necessary to re-open the ballot.</p>	<p>of Members entitled to designate persons to serve on the Executive Board or of the Director-General, the list of candidates shall include only those nominations submitted to the World Health Assembly in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rules 100 and 108 respectively of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly.</p> <p>Principle 2 The Secretariat shall distribute a ballot paper to each delegation. Every ballot paper shall be of the same size and colour without distinguishing marks.</p> <p>Principle 3 The tellers shall satisfy themselves that the ballot box is empty and, having locked it, shall hand the key to the President.</p> <p>Principle 4 Members shall be called in turn to vote in the required alphabetical order of their names, beginning with the name of a Member which shall have been drawn by lot. The call shall be made in English, French, Russian and Spanish.</p> <p>Principle 5 The secretary of the meeting and the tellers shall record each Member's vote by marking the margin of the list of Members entitled to vote opposite to the name of the Member in question.</p> <p>Principle 6 At the conclusion of the calling of Members, the President shall ensure that all the Members present and entitled to vote have been called. He shall then declare the voting closed and announce that the votes are to be counted.</p> <p>Principle 7 When the ballot box has been opened, the tellers shall count the number of ballot papers. If the number is not equal to that of the voters, the President shall declare</p>		<p>Members entitled to vote and the list of candidates. For the election of Members of the Council, the list of candidates shall include only those nominations submitted in accordance with rules 54 and 55 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.</p> <p>Principle 2 The Secretariat shall distribute a ballot paper to each delegation entitled to vote. Every ballot paper shall be of the same size and colour without distinguishing marks.</p> <p>Principle 3 The tellers, after having satisfied themselves that the ballot-box is empty, shall lock it and hand the keys to the President</p> <p>Principle 4 The Members entitled to vote shall be called in turn in the required alphabetical order of their names, beginning with the name of a Member which shall be drawn by lot.</p> <p>Principle 5 The Secretary of the meeting and the tellers shall record each Member's vote when its representative has deposited its ballot paper in the ballot-box, by marking the margin of the list of Members entitled to vote opposite to the name of the Member in question.</p> <p>Principle 6 6. At the conclusion of the calling of Members, the President shall ensure that all the Members present and entitled to vote have been called. He shall then declare the voting closed and announce that the votes are to be counted.</p> <p>Principle 7 When the ballot-box has been opened, the tellers shall count the number of ballot papers. If the number is not equal to that of the voters recorded, the President shall declare the vote invalid and another ballot shall be held.</p> <p>Principle 8</p>

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	<p>those delegations and hand them to the teller who shall mark the ballot-papers “absent”.</p> <p>Rule 8 The tellers shall open the ballot-box and check the number of envelopes. If the number is greater or less than that of the voters checked off the list, the President shall be informed and shall then declare the vote invalid and announce that it is necessary to re-open the ballot.</p> <p>Rule 9 After the number of envelopes has been verified against the number of voters, the President shall ask the tellers to count the votes and to report to him on the matter of the election as soon as they conveniently can.</p> <p>Rule 10 The three tellers shall count the votes in a separate room with the assistance of the legal adviser, as well as three recorders and two secretaries of the Secretariat. However, in the case of the appointment of the Director-General by the Conference, the counting shall be held in the conference room in the presence of representatives of Members participating in the Conference.</p> <p>Rule 12 The following shall be considered invalid: [...] (b) Ballot-papers in which the voters have revealed their identity, in particular, by apposing their signature or mentioning the name of the Member State they represent;</p> <p>Rule 17 Immediately after the announcement of the results of the ballot, the ballot papers shall be destroyed in the presence of the tellers.</p>		<p>Rule 12. - The following shall be considered invalid: [...] (b) ballot papers in which the voters have revealed their identity, in particular, by apposing their signature or mentioning the name of the member State they represent;</p> <p>Rule 16. - Immediately after the announcement of the results of the ballot, the ballot papers shall be burnt in the presence of the tellers.</p> <p>Rule 17. -The lists on which the tellers have recorded the results of the vote shall, after signature by the Chairman and by the tellers, constitute the official record of the ballot, and shall be deposited in the archives of the Organization.</p> <p>Rule 18. - The Chairman of the meeting shall draw the attention of delegations to these Rules whenever a vote is taken by secret ballot.</p> <p>Rule 19. - (1) These Rules shall in no way affect the provisions according to which a quorum may, in certain conditions, be attained after the session. (2) Votes expressed by correspondence shall not be secret</p>	<p>the vote invalid and another ballot shall be held.</p> <p>Principle 8 Where the counting of votes takes place outside the Assembly Hall, the ballot papers shall be returned to the ballot box which shall be taken by the tellers to the room where the votes are to be counted.</p> <p>Principle 11 The following shall be considered null and void: [...] (b) ballot papers in which the voters have revealed their identity, in particular by apposing their signature or mentioning the name of the Member they represent.</p> <p>Principle 15 15. The list signed by the tellers and on which the results of the vote have been recorded shall constitute the official record of the count of the ballot and shall be retained in the Organization's files. The ballot papers shall be destroyed immediately after the declaration of the results of the ballot.</p> <p>Annex 1 Code of Conduct for the Election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization</p> <p>B. Requirements for the different steps of the election process</p> <p>III. Nomination and Appointment 1. The nomination and appointment of the Director-General is conducted by the Executive Board and the Health Assembly, respectively, in accordance with their Rules of Procedure and relevant resolutions and decisions. As a matter of principle in order to preserve the serenity of the proceedings, candidates should not attend those meetings even if they form part of the delegation of a Member State.</p>		<p>Where the counting of votes takes place outside the Assembly Hall, the ballot papers shall be returned by the tellers to the ballot-box, which shall be taken by them to the room where the votes are to be counted.</p> <p>Principle 11 The following shall be considered null and void: [...] (b) ballot papers in which the voters have revealed their identity in particular by apposing their signature or mentioning the name of the Member they represent;</p> <p>Principle 15 The list signed by the tellers and on which the results of the vote have been recorded shall constitute the official record of the count of the ballot and shall be retained in the Organization’s files. The ballot papers shall be destroyed immediately after the declaration of the results of the ballot.</p>

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	<p>Rule 18</p> <p>The lists on which the tellers have recorded the results of the vote shall, after signature by the tellers, constitute the official record of the ballot, and shall be deposited in the archives of the Organization.</p>			<p>2. Member States should abide strictly by the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board and of the World Health Assembly and other applicable resolutions and decisions and respect the integrity, legitimacy and dignity of the proceedings. As such, they should avoid behaviours and actions, both inside and outside the conference room where the nomination and appointment take place, that could be perceived as aiming at influencing its outcome.</p> <p>3. Member States should respect the confidentiality of the proceedings and the secrecy of the votes. In particular, they should refrain from communicating or broadcasting the proceedings during the private meetings through electronic devices.</p> <p>In view of the secret nature of the vote for the nomination and appointment of the Director-General, Member States should refrain from publicly announcing in advance their intention to vote for a particular candidate.</p>		

¹ UNIDO, [Rules of Procedure of the General Conference](#)

² UPU, [Rules of Procedure of Congresses](#)

³ WIPO, [General Rules of Procedure of WIPO](#)

⁴ WHO, [Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly](#)

⁵ WMO, [General Regulations of the World Meteorological Organization](#)

⁶ UNWTO, [Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly](#) and [Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council](#)

⁷ Practice consistently followed in subsequent elections since the adoption of these rules.