

Information note on election procedures

The note aims to assist Parties in preparing for a vote on the elections as provided for in the draft Rules of Procedure of the COP as being applied and describes the steps involved in election procedure.

- The voting procedure for elections is set out in rules 51 to 53 of the draft Rules of Procedure.
- Rule 51 of the draft Rules of Procedure provides that *“All elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties.”*
- The presiding officer will read out the nominations for the positions to be filled.
- The presiding officer will ascertain the number of Parties present in the room for voting¹.
- The presiding officer will announce the commencement of the voting process. In accordance with Rule 50, after the President has announced the beginning of the voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Parties may make any statement regarding their vote after the vote has been concluded.
- The conference officers will distribute a ballot paper to each Party.
- Ballot papers will be issued with respect to each electoral position being contested.
- Upon receipt of the ballot, delegations will be requested to mark the appropriate box indicating their choice of candidate.
- Ballot papers with no mark will be deemed to be abstentions. Ballot papers with more than one mark will be deemed to be invalid.
- The presiding officer will call for volunteers from regions that have not nominated a candidate for a position to be filled to assist as tellers. The names of the tellers will be read out.

¹ In accordance with Article 18, paragraph 2, of the Convention and Rule 41, paragraph 2, of the draft rules of procedure, the presiding officer will then request the European Union to confirm whether the European Union, as a regional economic integration organization Party to the Convention, will exercise its right to vote with a number equal to the number of their member States that are Parties to the Convention or whether its 27 member States will individually exercise their right to vote

- After demonstrating to Parties that the ballot box is empty, a conference officer will lock the box and retain the key until the end of the voting.
- The presiding officer will request Parties to deposit their ballot paper in the box. When doing so, they will be requested by the Conference Officer to show their conference badge and that Party will be marked as having voted on the list of Parties present at the session.
- Once voting is complete, the tellers will proceed to the count.
- After the count, the presiding officer will announce the results of the election.
- In accordance with Rule 52, paragraph 1 of the draft Rules of Procedure, if, when one person or delegation is to be elected, no candidate obtains in the first ballot a majority of those present and voting, a second ballot restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes shall be taken. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the presiding officer shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.
- Furthermore Rule 52, paragraph 2, provides that in the case of a tie in the first ballot among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held. If a tie results among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot and the balloting, restricted to them, shall continue in accordance with the procedure set forth in paragraph 1 of this rule.