

UK drafting proposal Rules 22 and 32

Rule 22

Election of officers

1. At the commencement of the first ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a President and [five] [nine] [12] [15] Vice-Presidents, ~~one of whom shall act as Rapporteur~~, shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting. These officers shall serve as the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties. Each of the five United Nations regional groups shall be represented by [one] [two] [three] Bureau member[s]. One Bureau member shall represent the small island developing States and one shall represent least developed countries. These officers shall be elected taking into account gender balance[,] [and] equitable geographical representation [and adequate representation of developing countries]. They shall remain in office until the closure of the second ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including for any intervening extraordinary meeting.

2. At the second and subsequent ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties, a President and [...] Vice-Presidents, ~~one of whom shall act as Rapporteur~~, shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting. These officers shall serve as the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties. Each of the five United Nations regional groups shall be represented by [...] Bureau member[s]. These officers shall be elected taking into account gender balance[,] [and] equitable geographical representation [and adequate representation of developing countries]. They shall commence their term of office at the closure of the meeting at which they are elected and remain in office until the closure of the following ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including for any intervening extraordinary meeting.

2bis. No representative of any Party whose contributions are in arrears for two or more years shall be eligible to become a member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, provided, however, that this shall not apply to Parties that are least developed countries or small island developing States or to Parties that have agreed on and are respecting a schedule of payments in accordance with the financial rules.

3. The offices of the President ~~and Rapporteur~~ shall be subject to equitable rotation among the United Nations regional groups. No elected officer may serve on the Bureau for more than two [consecutive] terms.

4. The President shall participate in meetings of the Conference of the Parties in that capacity and shall not at the same time exercise the rights of a representative of a Party. The Party concerned shall designate another representative, who shall be entitled to represent the Party in the meetings and to exercise the right to vote.

~~5. The Rapporteur shall, in addition to serving as Vice-President of the Conference of the Parties, be responsible for the preparation of the report of any meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which shall be published, distributed and circulated by the secretariat as an official document of the meeting.~~

Rule 32

Functions of the secretariat

In addition to the functions specified in the Agreement, in particular in article 50, the secretariat shall, in accordance with the present rules:

- (a) Arrange for interpretation at the meeting;
- (b) Collect, translate, reproduce, distribute and circulate the documents of the meeting;
- (c) Publish, distribute and circulate the official documents of the meeting, which shall include decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties;
- (d) Make and arrange for the keeping of audio recordings of the meeting;
- (e) Prepare, publish, distribute and circulate a record of the meeting;
- (e) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the meeting;
- (f) Perform all other work that the Conference of the Parties may require.

Rationale

Amendments to Rule 22 and addition of Rule 32(e): In the UK's view, it is appropriate for the Secretariat to assume the function of preparing a record of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties. We note the precedent for this in the Rules of Procedure of for Meetings of State Parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea at Rule 26.

Amendment of Rule 32(c): This reflects the requirements of the second sentence of Article 48(2) of the BBNJ Agreement.