The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations and has the honour to advise on the new provisions pertaining to the conduct of elections in the General Assembly and its Main Committees arising from General Assembly resolution 71/323 of 8 September 2017 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

Specifically, the Assembly decided that “the names of candidates for election by the General Assembly or by the Main Committees shall be communicated to the Secretariat, where possible, at least 48 hours prior to an election unless otherwise required by specific rules governing the elections concerned, and that those names shall be printed on the ballot papers, while additional space shall be provided on the ballot paper for inscribing other names, where applicable.”

Consequently, the ballot papers to be used in elections where this provision is applicable will be revised accordingly (sample copies of the election for the Human Rights Council are annexed to this Note Verbale). Voters should identify for whom they are voting by checking the boxes next to the names of candidates that are printed on the ballot paper and/or by writing other eligible names on the blank lines. The total number of checked boxes and handwritten names may not exceed the number of vacant seats to be filled as indicated on the ballot. In instances where a nomination process is specifically and separately stipulated, this newly revised format will not be applicable (e.g. in the election of members of the International Court of Justice).

To familiarize delegations with the new procedure, a briefing on any changes to the method of filling out ballot papers will be provided by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management on Monday, 16 October 2017, immediately preceding the first elections scheduled to take place during the seventy-second session (Election of fifteen members of the Human Rights Council). In the meantime, any questions may be addressed to Ms. Mary Muturi in the General Assembly Affairs Branch (muturi@un.org).
The attention of Permanent Missions is also drawn to the Assembly’s decision that “on the day of election in the General Assembly or in the Main Committees the campaign materials distributed in the General Assembly Hall or in the Committee meeting room shall be limited to a single page of information regarding the candidates, with a view to preserving the decorum of the Assembly.”

The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

5 October 2017

Annex enclosed
Election of 15 members of the Human Rights Council
Élection des 15 membres du Conseil des droits de l'homme
Выборы 15 членов Совета по правам человека
Elección de 15 miembros del Consejo de Derechos Humanos

- [ ] Country A
- [ ] Country B
- [X] Country C
- [ ] Country D
Election of 15 members of the Human Rights Council

Asia-Pacific States

☐ Country E
☐ Country F
☐ Country G
☐ Country H
Electoral District C

(2 seats)

Eastern European States
Etats d'Europe orientale
Государства Восточной Европы
Estados de Europa Oriental

☐ Country J

☐ Country K
Election of 15 members of the Human Rights Council
Élection des 15 membres du Conseil des droits de l’homme
Выборы 15 членов Совета по правам человека
Elección de 15 miembros del Consejo de Derechos Humanos

D
(3 seats)

Latin American and Caribbean States
Etats d’Amérique latine et des Caraïbes
Государства Латинской Америки и Карибского бассейна
Estados de América Latina y el Caribe

☐ Country L
☐ Country M
☐ Country N
Election of 15 members of the Human Rights Council
Élection des 15 membres du Conseil des droits de l’homme
Выборы 15 членов Совета по правам человека
Elección de 15 miembros del Consejo de Derechos Humanos

Western European and other States
États d'Europe occidentale et autres États
Западноевропейские и другие государства
Estados de Europa Occidental y otros Estados

☐ Country P
☐ Country Q