

Aide-mémoire on the election to the membership of the PBC Organizational Committee

Background

According to paragraphs 4 and 5 of the PBC founding resolutions (A/RES/60/180-S/RES/1645(2005), members of the Organizational Committee are to be selected under five categories:

- * Seven members from the Security Council;
- * Five members from top providers of assessed contributions to UN budgets, voluntary contributions;
- * Five members from top providers of military personnel and civilian police to United Nations missions;
- * Seven members from the Economic and Social Council;
- * Seven members from the General Assembly.

The resolutions further stipulate a regional balance across the five categories. In order to maintain a fair regional balance, an informal understanding¹ was reached by the Organizational Committee in 2008 establishing minimum and maximum numbers of seats for each regional group in the overall composition of the membership of the Organizational Committee. This informal understanding stipulates a maximum of 8 seats for WEOG, a minimum of 7 seats for Africa and Asia, a minimum of 5 seats for GRULAC and a minimum of 3 seats for EEG. The custodian for this understanding has been PBSO.

The General Assembly plays an important role in ensuring that the regional balance is respected. Its membership was originally introduced with a view to providing balanced representation from all regional groups in the overall composition of the Organizational Committee. It was thus intended to allow for some flexibility in determining the allocation of its seven seats among the various regional groups.

The General Assembly would, therefore, be expected to determine the distribution of the seats allocated to its members once all other categories have concluded their election/selection processes, in order to ensure an overall balance among the regional groups within the previously agreed maximum and minimum number of seats for each regional group².

¹ See annex.

² In view of the allocation of seven seats to each of the three principal organs, the two additional floating seats will be allocated with a view to ensuring a regional balance as stipulated in annex 1 on the established number of seats for each regional group

Process and timeline for the election to the membership of the Organizational Committee

In order to ensure that the election to the membership of the Organizational Committee is completed by the beginning of each session, the following process is to be initiated **no later than 30 June** of each election year:

- The Chair of the PBC shall address letters to:
 - the President of ECOSOC, inviting him/her to announce to all regional groupings the upcoming vacancies in the membership of the OC from the ECOSOC categories and to request these groupings to identify no later than mid-November, the countries which shall fill the respective vacant seats on the OC for a two year term
 - the President of the General Assembly, inviting him/her to:
 - request the Secretary-General to provide, no later than mid-October, a list of the top ten financial contributors and the top ten troop and police contributors³.
 - indicate, **no later than 30 November**, and on the basis of the outcome of the selection/election processes which took place both within ECOSOC and within the groups of top financial, troop/police contributors, the five⁴ countries from the General Assembly's membership category that shall fill the vacant seats on the OC for a two-year term.
 - the President of the Security Council, inviting him to communicate, by early January, the two⁵ rotating seats which, as per its resolution 1646 (2005), will serve on the OC for a one-year term.
- The Chair of each regional group shall facilitate consultations within the respective groups in order to ensure that the election/selection processes for each of the five membership categories agree completed **no later than 30 November** of the election year and that seats are allocated according to the agreement on regional distribution as described in the annex to this note.

³ On behalf of the Secretary-General, the Peacebuilding Support Office will coordinate and prepare both lists upon which the top ten troop and police contributing countries and the top ten financial contributors determine among themselves, no later than the end of October, the five members from each group who should serve on the OC for a two-year term.

⁴ Two of the seven countries elected from the General Assembly category, belonging to EEG and GRULAC, serve on staggered terms for a two-year term during even years.

⁵ According to the SCR 1646 (2005), the Permanent Members of the Security Council are also permanent members of the OC.