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Excellency,

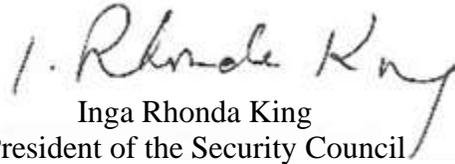
The General Assembly and the Security Council are provisionally scheduled to hold elections of five members of the International Court of Justice on Wednesday, 11 November 2020, at 3 p.m. If a second ballot becomes necessary in either organ or both, it will be held on Thursday, 12 November 2020 at 11 a.m.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the way in which the secret ballots will be held in the two organs would have to be adjusted in order to safeguard public health. The note annexed to this letter outlines the adjusted modalities for the above-mentioned elections.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Volkan BOZKIR  
President of the General Assembly



Inga Rhonda King  
President of the Security Council

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

**Annex**  
**Modalities for the secret ballots to be held to elect five members of  
the International Court of Justice**

Background

1. The General Assembly and the Security Council will be holding secret ballots to elect five members of the International Court of Justice whose terms will begin on 6 February 2021. In this regard, reference is made to the note by the Secretary-General (A/75/129-S/2020/615) and the memorandum of the Secretary-General (A/75/130-S/2020/618) outlining the procedure for the above-mentioned elections.

Dates

2. The first ballot will be held at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly and a meeting of the Security Council scheduled to open simultaneously at 3 p.m., on Wednesday, 11 November 2020.

3. If a second ballot becomes necessary, it will be held at 11 a.m., on Thursday, 12 November 2020.

4. If additional ballots become necessary, the date and the time of the ballot will be announced by the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council.

Venue

5. **General Assembly:** The General Assembly will hold its secret ballots in the General Assembly Hall.

6. **Security Council:** The Security Council will hold its secret ballots in the Security Council Chamber.

Mitigation measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus disease

7. Delegates are requested to observe the mitigation measures set out in the attached document at all times during the elections in order to contain the spread of coronavirus disease.

Distribution of ballot papers

8. **General Assembly:** Once delegates have arrived at the General Assembly Hall, before taking their seats, delegates will proceed to the East Documents Counter in the General Assembly Hall to receive a ballot paper. Delegates will then proceed to their respective seats. Delegates are requested to remain in their seats until they are asked by the President of the General Assembly to cast their ballots.

9. **Security Council:** Once delegates have arrived at the Security Council Chamber, delegates will receive a ballot paper from a Secretariat official at the south entrance of the Chamber. Delegates will then proceed to their respective seats. Delegates are requested to remain in their seats until they are asked by the President of the Security Council to cast their ballots.

Opening of the meeting

10. At 3 p.m., on Wednesday, 11 November 2020, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council will simultaneously open the respective meetings of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

11. Each President will outline the election procedure and announce any withdrawal of candidates, if applicable, before commencing the casting of ballots.

Tellers

12. **General Assembly:** Prior to the plenary meeting on 11 November 2020, the Secretariat will identify five tellers who will supervise the secret ballots in the General Assembly and certify the results of the secret ballots.

13. **Security Council:** At the start of the meeting of the Security Council on 11 November 2020, the President of the Security Council will draw lots to select two tellers who will supervise the secret ballots in the Security Council and certify the results of the secret ballots.

Casting of ballots

14. The President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council will simultaneously announce the commencement of the casting of ballots.

15. **General Assembly:** The President of the General Assembly will read out the name of each Member State to cast the ballot. Delegates are requested not to leave their seats to cast their ballots until the President or the Secretary has read out the name of the Member State concerned. The delegate of the relevant Member State will proceed to the ballot box located at the front of the General Assembly Hall. Once the delegate has cast the ballot in a ballot box, he or she will promptly leave the General Assembly Hall. A map of the General Assembly Hall is attached to this note which depicts the paths which the delegates are requested to take when casting ballots.

16. **Security Council:** The President of the Security Council will read out the name of each member of the Council. Delegates are requested not to leave their seats to cast their ballots until the President has read out the name of the member concerned. The delegate of the relevant member will proceed to the ballot box located at the table by the south entrance to the Council Chamber. Once the delegate has cast the ballot in the ballot box, he or she will directly return to his or her seat at the Council table. A map of the Security Council Chamber is attached to this note which depicts the paths which the delegates are requested to take when casting ballots.

Suspension of the meeting

17. After the members of the General Assembly and the members of the Security Council have cast their ballots, the President of the General Assembly will announce the suspension of the plenary meeting and the President of the Security Council will

announce the suspension of the meeting simultaneously. The delegates in the Security Council will be requested to leave the Security Council Chamber after the suspension.

Counting of votes

18. After the suspension of the respective meetings, the tellers and Secretariat officials will proceed to designated rooms, respectively, to count the votes.

Announcement of the results

19. If the General Assembly and the Security Council both succeed in procuring exactly five candidates, not more or not fewer, obtaining an absolute majority of votes in the respective organs, the following steps will be taken:

- 1) The President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council will inform each other of the five names and identify those candidates who obtained an absolute majority of votes in the General Assembly and in the Security Council.
- 2) The President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council will resume the respective meetings, which will be webcast, and simultaneously announce the results of the secret ballot and indicate those candidates who obtained an absolute majority of votes in the General Assembly and in the Security Council and thereafter, declare those candidates elected to the Court. Those results will also be included in the letters from the respective Presidents to all Member States. Once the results have been announced, the respective meetings will adjourn.
- 3) If there are still seats remaining to be filled after comparing the results in the General Assembly and in the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council will hold a second ballot, which will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday, 12 November 2020. In this scenario, the holding of the second ballot will be announced at the same time as the results of the secret ballot mentioned above as well as in the letters from the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council mentioned above.

20. If, in the first ballot, both the General Assembly and the Security Council procure more than five candidates or fewer than five candidates obtaining an absolute majority of votes in the respective organs, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council will, after the counting of the votes, resume the respective meetings, which will be webcast, and announce the results of the secret ballot simultaneously and announce that a second ballot will be held at 11 a.m., 12 November 2020. The respective meetings will adjourn. The results and the holding of the second ballot will also be announced in the letters from the respective Presidents to all Member States.

21. If, in the first ballot, the General Assembly procures more than five candidates or fewer than five candidates obtaining an absolute majority of votes, and the Security Council procures exactly five candidates, not more or not fewer, obtaining an absolute majority of votes, the following steps will be taken (see para.24 below):

- 1) The President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council will, after the counting of the votes, resume the respective meetings simultaneously.
  - 2) Only the President of the General Assembly will announce the results of the secret ballot. He will also announce that a second ballot will be held in the General Assembly at 11 a.m., on 12 November 2020. The results and the holding of the secret ballot will also be communicated by a letter from the President to all Member States.
  - 3) At the same time, the President of the Security Council will announce that the secret ballot in the Council was conclusive but that, as the secret ballot in the General Assembly was not conclusive, the President will wait for the General Assembly to procure exactly five candidates before the President announces the results of the first ballot in the Council. The meeting will then be suspended. This announcement will also be communicated by a letter from the President to all Member States.
  - 4) When the General Assembly procures exactly five candidates, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council will inform each other of the five names and identify those candidates who obtained an absolute majority of votes in the General Assembly and in the Security Council.
  - 5) The President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council will resume the respective meetings, which will be webcast, and will announce the results of the conclusive ballot in the respective organs simultaneously and indicate those candidates who obtained an absolute majority of votes in the General Assembly and in the Security Council. Those candidates will be declared elected. Those results will also be included in the letters from the respective Presidents to all Member States. Once the results have been announced, the respective meetings will be adjourned.
  - 6) If there are still seats remaining to be filled after comparing the results in the General Assembly and in the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council will subsequently hold an additional ballot. The holding of the additional ballot and its date and time will be announced at the same time as the results of the secret ballot mentioned above as well as in the letters from the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council mentioned above.
22. If, in the first ballot, the Security Council procures more than five candidates or fewer than five candidates obtaining an absolute majority of votes, and the General Assembly procures exactly five candidates, not more or not fewer, obtaining an absolute majority of votes, the steps outlined in paragraph 21 above will be followed *mutatis mutandis*.
23. The announcement of the results for subsequent ballots will be carried out in the manner outlined in paragraphs 19 to 22 above, *mutatis mutandis*.

#### Withdrawal of nominations

24. In case any Member State wishes to withdraw their nomination of candidates, they are requested to do so in writing to the Office of Legal Affairs, who will verify that none of the national groups that nominated the candidate has objection to the withdrawal of the nomination and, upon confirmation that there is no objection, will convey this information to the two Presidents.

25. As the name of any candidate whose nomination is withdrawn will have to be removed from the ballot papers to be used and as representatives will receive a ballot paper upon arrival, should any national group of the Member States wishes to withdraw their nomination, the respective Member States are kindly requested to inform the Office of Legal Affairs in a timely manner, keeping in mind the adjusted measures set out herein, due to the coronavirus disease pandemic.

#### Campaign materials

26. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/323 of 8 September 2017, campaign materials to be distributed in the General Assembly Hall should be limited to a single page of information regarding the candidates. The campaign materials should be delivered to the Secretariat on 10 November 2020, between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. noon, at the east doors of the General Assembly Hall. The campaign materials will be distributed in the General Assembly Hall by the Secretariat prior to the plenary meeting. No campaign material should be distributed by delegations in the General Assembly Hall in order to reduce the movement of people in the Hall and to contain any spread of coronavirus disease.

#### Modalities for the additional ballots

27. The same modalities outlined above will apply mutatis mutandis to any additional ballots to be held in the General Assembly and the Security Council.