

2 June 2021

Subject: Elections to be held in June 2021

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 27 January 2021 informing of the dates of the elections to be held in June 2021 in the General Assembly Hall, I have the honour to enclose additional details concerning the conduct of the meetings in the Annex, including the secret ballot, for the following elections:

- The election of the President of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly, to be held on 7 June 2021 at 10 a.m.;
- The election of members of the Economic and Social Council, to be held on 7 June 2021 at 3 p.m.; and
- The election of the non-permanent members of the Security Council, to be held on 11 June 2021 at 10 a.m.

It is suggested that the delegate who will be casting the ballot should pick up the ballot paper upon arrival at the General Assembly Hall. Please note that, as ballot papers must be picked up by delegates prior to taking their seats, delegates are kindly requested to arrive at the General Assembly Hall at least 30 minutes before the start time of the meeting. Please also note that, after casting the ballot paper(s) in the ballot box(es) located at the base of the podium, delegates will exit the General Assembly Hall through the doors located on the west side and return to their seats through the East doors of the Hall in order for the meeting to continue (see paragraphs 6, 17 and 26 of Annex I). While the 1+1 format outlined in my letter dated 21 May 2021 will apply to the meeting, only one representative per delegation will be invited to walk from the national seat to cast the ballot.

I urge all to follow the guidelines on precautionary measures aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19 on the day of the meeting, including not to congregate, to maintain the recommended physical distancing, and to wear a face covering.

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



Volkan BOZKIR

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

Annex I: Conduct of the elections to be held on 7 June and 11 June 2021

Election of the President of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly [7 June 2021, 10 a.m., General Assembly Hall]

1. The General Assembly will hold a formal plenary meeting on 7 June 2021, at 10 a.m., in the General Assembly Hall, to hold the election for the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session.
2. In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the election will be held by secret ballot.
3. Upon arrival to the General Assembly Hall, delegates will proceed through the East doors of the General Assembly Hall to the East Documents Counter located toward the back of the Hall to receive the ballot paper from the Secretariat staff (see Annex II, marked “(B) EAST DOCUMENTS COUNTER BALLOT PICK UP”). 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.
4. After casting the ballot paper, delegates will leave the Hall through the doors located on the west side and return to their seats through the East doors of the Hall (see Annex II, marked “(E) EXIT” and “(G) RE-ENTRY”).
5. Once all the delegates have cast their ballot, the President will declare that the voting has closed and suspend the meeting.
6. Thereafter, consecutive meetings of the Main Committees for the purpose of electing the Chairs and the Bureau of the Main Committees at the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly will be held in the General Assembly Hall.
7. Upon receipt of the results certified by the tellers, the President of the General Assembly will resume the plenary meeting to announce the results and to declare elected the candidate that has received the greatest number of votes and a simple majority of the members present and voting.
8. Following statements by the President of the General Assembly, the President-elect of the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session, the Secretary-General, the Chairs of the regional groups for the month of June and the host country, the Secretary-General will draw lots for the purpose of determining the Member State which will occupy the first seat in the General Assembly Hall at the seventy-sixth session.
9. The General Assembly will then hold the election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session. In accordance with paragraph 16 of General Assembly decision 34/401, the election by secret ballot will be dispensed with when the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled.
10. Consecutive meetings of the remaining Main Committees for the purpose of electing the Chairs and the Bureau of the Main Committees at the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly will continue, if needed, until 1 p.m.

Election of members of the Economic and Social Council [7 June 2021, 3 p.m., General Assembly Hall]

11. The General Assembly will hold a formal plenary meeting on 7 June 2021, at 3 p.m., in the General Assembly Hall, for the election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 2021.

12. The Assembly will also hold at the same time a by-election to elect four members of the Economic and Social Council to fill the seats of the members that are relinquishing their seats before the end of their term, in accordance with rule 140 of the rules of procedure. A note verbal dated 18 May 2021 from the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations, in its capacity as Chair of the Group of Western European and other States for May 2021, has been issued as document A/75/894.

13. In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the election of the eighteen members as well as the by-election will be held by secret ballot.

14. Upon arrival to the General Assembly Hall, delegates will proceed through the East doors of the General Assembly Hall to the East Documents Counter located toward the back of the Hall to receive the ballot papers from the Secretariat staff for the election of the eighteen members as well as the by-election (see Annex II, marked “(B) EAST DOCUMENTS COUNTER BALLOT PICK UP”). 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.

15. After casting the ballot papers, delegates will leave the Hall through the doors located on the west side and return to their seats through the East doors of the Hall (see Annex II, marked “(E) EXIT” and “(G) RE-ENTRY”).

16. Once all the delegates have cast their ballot, the President will declare that the voting has closed.

17. While the votes are being counted, the General Assembly will continue with its plenary meeting to take up any other items that would be before the Assembly. If the votes are still being counted at the conclusions of the other items, the President of the General Assembly will suspend the meeting.

18. Upon receipt of the results certified by the tellers, the President of the General Assembly will resume the plenary meeting to announce the results and to declare elected those Member States that have received the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

19. If the number of candidates obtaining a required majority of the members present and voting is fewer than the number of members to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places. In such a case, the President of the General Assembly will announce the date and time of the next round of secret balloting.

20. In the case of a tie vote, and when it becomes necessary to determine the candidate that will proceed to the next round of restricted balloting, there shall be a special restricted ballot limited to those candidates that have obtained an equal number of votes. In such a case, the President of the General Assembly will announce the date and time of the special restricted ballot.

Election of non-permanent members of the Security Council [11 June 2021, 10 a.m., General Assembly Hall]

21. The General Assembly will hold a formal plenary meeting on 11 June 2021, at 10 a.m., in the General Assembly Hall, for the election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 2021.
22. In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the election will be held by secret ballot.
23. Upon arrival to the General Assembly Hall, delegates will proceed through the East doors of the General Assembly Hall to the East Documents Counter located toward the back of the Hall to receive the ballot papers from the Secretariat staff (see Annex II, marked “(B) EAST DOCUMENTS COUNTER BALLOT PICK UP”). 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.
24. After casting the ballot papers, delegates will leave the Hall through the doors located on the west side and return to their seats through the East doors of the Hall (see Annex II, marked “(E) EXIT” and “(G) RE-ENTRY”).
25. Once all the delegates have cast their ballot, the President will declare that the voting has closed.
26. While the votes are being counted, the General Assembly will continue with its plenary meeting to take up any other items that would be before the Assembly. If the votes are still being counted at the conclusions of the other items, the President of the General Assembly will suspend the meeting.
27. Upon receipt of the results certified by the tellers, the President of the General Assembly will resume the plenary meeting to announce the results and to declare elected those Member States that have received the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.
28. If the number of candidates obtaining a two-third majority of the members present and voting is fewer than the number of members to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places. In such a case, the next round of secret balloting will take place at 3 p.m. on the same day.
29. In the case of a tie vote, and when it becomes necessary to determine the candidate that will proceed to the next round of restricted balloting, there shall be a special restricted ballot limited to those candidates that have obtained an equal number of votes. In such a case, the special restricted ballot will take place at 3 p.m. on the same day.

General points

Before the elections

Campaign material

30. The General Assembly, in its resolution 71/323, decided that on the day of election in the General Assembly the campaign materials distributed in the General Assembly Hall **shall be limited to a single page of information regarding the candidates**, with a view to preserving the decorum of the Assembly. Any such materials, in a sufficient number of copies, should be submitted to the Secretariat **at room S-30MM2 on the 30th floor of the Secretariat building** as follows:

- **11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Friday, 4 June** for the elections to be held on Monday, 7 June, namely the election of the President of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly and the election of members of the Economic and Social Council; and
- **11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Thursday, 10 June** for the election to be held on Friday, 11 June, namely the election of the non-permanent members of the Security Council.

31. No late submission will be accepted. The Secretariat will distribute the campaign material received desk-to-desk in the General Assembly Hall on 7 and 11 June.

On the day of the election

Arrival

32. The tellers will confirm before the start of the meeting that the ballot box(es) is empty and will observe the whole process while present in the General Assembly Hall (see Annex II, marked “(F) TELLERS”).

33. Delegates should start arriving to the General Assembly Hall 30 minutes before the start time of the meeting.

Ballot paper pick-up desk

34. After showing their regular delegate’s pass to the Security Officer and swiping it for contact-tracing purpose at the entrance of the General Assembly Hall, the delegates will then proceed through the East doors of the General Assembly Hall to the East Documents Counter located toward the back of the Hall to receive the ballot paper from the Secretariat staff (see Annex II, marked “(B) EAST DOCUMENTS COUNTER BALLOT PICK UP”). Delegates will be required to present their delegate’s pass before receiving the ballot paper.

35. It is suggested that the delegate who will be casting the ballot should pick up the ballot paper upon arrival at the General Assembly Hall. Under the 1+1 format, the delegate who does not cast the ballot should proceed directly to the national seat, without visiting the East Documents Counter.

Filling in the ballot paper

36. The delegates will then proceed to their respective national seats in the General Assembly Hall to be seated and wait for the meeting to begin at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (see **Error! Reference source not found.**Annex II, marked “(C) FILLING IN THE BALLOT PAPERS AT THE DELEGATION SEATS”). The name plates will be displayed according to the seating chart for the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly. Delegates are requested to remain in their seats until they are asked by the President of the General Assembly to cast their ballots. The tellers will be present in the General Assembly Hall to observe the process.

37. At 10 a.m. or 3 p.m., the President of the General Assembly will open the plenary meeting, outline the election procedure, allow time for the delegates to fill out the ballot paper(s) and commence the casting of ballots.

38. If a delegate makes a mistake with filling in the ballot paper, he/she will have to return to the East Documents Counter to receive a new ballot paper.

39. The delegate will be requested to place the ballot paper on the Counter and present a valid delegate’s pass to the Secretariat staff. The ballot paper will be discarded by the Secretariat staff. A new ballot paper will be placed on the Counter for the delegate, who will then return to his/her delegation’s seat.

Ballot paper drop-off

40. A ballot box(es) will be placed at the front of the Hall at the base of the podium where tellers will be able to observe it from a distance (see Annex II, marked “(D) BALLOT BOX”).

41. Once the ballot paper(s) has been filled within a sufficient amount of time, the Secretariat will call upon the delegates one-by-one to cast (place) the ballot paper(s) in the ballot box(es). Delegates will be called upon based on the seating chart in the Hall, starting from Iceland. Under the 1+1 format, only one representative per delegation will be invited to walk from the national seat to cast the ballot paper(s).

42. After casting the ballot paper(s), delegates will leave the Hall through the doors located on the west side and return to their seats through the East doors of the Hall (see Annex II, marked “(E) EXIT” and “(G) RE-ENTRY”).

43. Once all the delegates have cast their ballot, the President will declare that the voting has closed and either suspend the meeting or continue with the consideration of other items scheduled and then suspend the meeting, if necessary.

Announcement of results

44. Upon receipt of the results certified by the tellers, the President of the General Assembly will resume the plenary meeting to announce the results.

45. The plenary meeting, including the resumed plenary meeting, will be webcast.

Annex II General Assembly Hall layout for the casting of the ballots

