



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

8 October 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the plenary meeting during which the General Assembly will hold the election of members of the Human Rights Council, scheduled for Thursday, 14 October 2021, at 10:00 a.m., in the General Assembly Hall, United Nations Headquarters, New York (The full programme for the meeting is published in the Journal of the United Nations).

Further to my letter dated 27 September 2021 on COVID-19 pandemic-related business continuity during the session, additional details concerning the conduct of the election are set out in the Annex to this letter.

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 campaign materials must be distributed by delegations in the General Assembly Hall by 9:45 a.m. so that the meeting can begin promptly.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Abdulla Shahid', with a horizontal line underneath.

Abdulla SHAHID

All Permanent Representatives  
to the United Nations  
New York

## **Annex: Conduct of the election of members of the Human Rights Council**

### ***Campaign material***

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 71/323, decided that, on the day of election in the General Assembly, 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 should be distributed by delegations desk-to-desk in the General Assembly Hall by 9:45 a.m.

### ***Arrival and ballot papers pick-up desk***

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

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 papers from the Secretariat staff. Delegates will be required to present their delegate's pass before receiving the ballot papers.

### ***Casting the ballot papers***

4. In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the election of the members of the Human Rights Council will be held by secret ballot.

5. After receiving the ballot papers at the East Documents Counter, the delegates will proceed to their respective national seats in the General Assembly Hall to be seated for the meeting to begin at 10:00 a.m. The name plates will be displayed according to the seating chart for the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly.

6. Following the opening of the meeting, the President of the General Assembly will invite delegates to proceed to the election. He will explain the procedure and then allow time for the delegates to fill out the ballot papers.

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

8. The delegate will be requested to place the ballot papers on the Counter and present a valid delegate's pass to the Secretariat staff. The ballot papers to be discarded will be shredded and disposed by the Secretariat staff. A new set of ballot papers will be placed on the Counter for the delegate, who will then return to his/her delegation's seat.

9. Once the ballot papers have been filled within a sufficient amount of time, the President of the General Assembly will invite the representatives of States serving as Tellers to accompany the conference officers as they collect the ballot papers from desk to desk. Delegations should cast the ballot papers in the ballot boxes held by the conference officers.
10. Once all the delegates have cast their vote, the President will declare that the voting has closed.
11. 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.

### *Announcement of results*

12. Upon receipt of the results certified by the tellers, the President of the General Assembly will continue (or resume, if the meeting has been suspended) the plenary meeting to announce the results and to declare elected those Member States that have received the greatest number of votes and a required majority.
13. If the number of candidates obtaining the required majority 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.
14. 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.
15. The plenary meeting, including the resumed plenary meeting, will be webcast.