



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

29 October 2021

**Subject: Plenary meeting of the General Assembly to be held on Friday, 5 November 2021**

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the plenary meeting during which the General Assembly will hold an election of a member of the International Court of Justice, scheduled for Friday, 5 November 2021, at 10:00 a.m., in the General Assembly Hall, United Nations Headquarters, New York.

Further to my letters dated 27 September and 11 October 2021 on 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 the ballot papers will be distributed desk-to-desk once the meeting begins. 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', written over a horizontal line.

Abdulla SHAHID

All Permanent Representatives  
to the United Nations  
New York

**Annex: Modalities for the secret ballot(s) to be held in the General Assembly to elect a member of the International Court of Justice**

***Background***

1. The General Assembly and the Security Council will be holding secret ballots to elect a member of the International Court of Justice whose term will begin on the date on which the individual is elected and expire on 5 February 2024. In this regard, reference is made to the memorandum of the Secretary-General (A/76/337-S/2021/821) and the notes by the Secretary-General (A/76/338-S/2021/882 and A/76/339-A/2021/823).

***Dates***

2. The first ballot will be held at a plenary meeting scheduled to open at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, 5 November 2021.

3. If a second ballot becomes necessary, it will be held immediately following the announcement of the results of the first ballot.

***Opening of the meeting and the distribution of ballot papers***

4. At 10:00 a.m., on Friday, 5 November 2021, the President of the General Assembly will open the plenary meeting of the General Assembly.

5. The President of the General Assembly will outline the election procedure and announce any withdrawal of candidates, if applicable.

6. The President of the General Assembly will then announce the commencement of the distribution of ballot papers desk-to-desk by the Conference Officers.

***Casting of ballots***

7. The President of the General Assembly will announce the commencement of the casting of ballots.

8. If a delegate makes a mistake with filling in the ballot paper, he/she will have to approach the Secretariat staff in the front of the General Assembly Hall. The delegate will be requested to hand the ballot paper to a staff and present a valid delegate's pass to the Secretariat staff. The ballot paper to be discarded will be shredded and disposed by the Secretariat staff. A new ballot paper will be handed to the delegate, who will then return to his/her delegation's seat.

9. 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.

### ***Suspension of the meeting***

10. After the members of the General Assembly have cast their ballots, the President of the General Assembly will declare that the voting has closed and announce the suspension of the plenary meeting.

### ***Counting of votes***

11. After the suspension of the meeting, the tellers and Secretariat officials will proceed to a designated room to count the votes.

### ***Announcement of the results***

12. The President of the General Assembly will resume the meeting and announce the result of the secret ballot. If need arises as outlined in paragraphs 17 and 19 of A/76/337, additional ballots will take place.

### ***Withdrawal of nominations***

13. In case a Member State wishes to withdraw its nomination of a candidate, it is requested to do so in writing to the Office of Legal Affairs, which will verify that none of the national groups that nominated that candidate have objections to the withdrawal of the nomination and, upon confirmation that there is no objection, will convey this information to the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

14. As the name of any candidate whose nomination is withdrawn will have to be removed from the ballot papers to be used, should any national group of a Member State wishes to withdraw its nomination, the respective Member States are kindly requested to inform the Office of Legal Affairs in a timely manner.

### ***Campaign material***

15. 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 should be distributed by delegations desk-to-desk in the General Assembly Hall 15 minutes before the start of the meeting, i.e. by 9:45 a.m. or 2:45 p.m., as applicable.

### ***Modalities for the additional ballots***

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