

Rules of Procedure Review Group (RRG)

Intermediate report
EB 43



Active participation by:

- Eduard Dame (NL, chair)
- Dominique Pritula (CND)
- Catharine Bloodworth (CND)
- John Salter (UK)
- Heidi Ravnborg (DK)
- Alex Hurley (EC)
- Eva Salplachtova (CZ)
- Alina Novikova (CLRTAP S)
- Miriam Koestner (CLRTAP S)

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Issues identified for guidance during EB 43:

- A. Hybrid meetings with remote participation
- B. Composition of the EB Bureau: geographical balance, gender balance and 4 instead of 3 vice chairs of the Executive Body
- ~~C. More flexibility for next term in case of re-election~~
- D. Voting rules for electing officers in case of no consensus
- E. Voting rules for decision making on substantive matters

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A. Hybrid meetings with remote participation

- The Bureau should decide when to switch from an in person meeting to a hybrid meeting with remote participation
- Hybrid meetings with remote participation definitely need some additional or alternative operating rules
- However, closely defined rules for hybrid meetings may not be suitable for all possible future situations in which hybrid meetings may be necessary
- A possible way forward could be that the Bureau will set provisionally the operating rules, based on a draft by the secretariat and that these will be applied to the extent necessary until the Executive Body can adopt them.

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B. Number of EB vice chairs /composition of the EB Bureau

- The composition of the EB Bureau should respect geographical balance and gender balance;
- 4 instead of 3 EB vice chairs is also suggested by a number of Parties
 - Main argument: 4 vice chairs make it more easy to meet geographical and gender balance
 - Note for consideration: in case of 4 Vice Chairs, one of them could be elected as first vice-chair

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D. Voting rules for electing officers in case of no consensus

- The current Rules of Procedure lack specific voting rules for electing officers in case of no consensus
- The EB may decide to rectify this omission by introducing appropriate voting rules comparable to what is common in other conventions
- A possible set of voting rules can be found in the Annex to the informal RRG-document under Rule 17b

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E. Voting rules for decision making (including for subsidiary bodies) in case of no consensus

- Parties may want to consider adding a paragraph to explain how voting on should be carried out on all issues other than electing officers in case of no consensus; by show of hands or by roll call if requested by any Party.
- the existing provision that “the result of the vote of each Party participating in a vote shall be recorded in the report of the meeting”” by a more practical provision like “the overall result of the vote shall be recorded in the report of the meeting and each party may request that in addition, its vote will be also explicitly mentioned in the report of the meeting”.

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Other – less drastic - options

- Temporary absence or premature resignation of the Chair (Rule 19)
- Transparency Requirements for Executive Body Bureau Meetings (Rule 20.4)
- Voting Rules for Subsidiary Bodies (Rule 21.6)

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How to proceed further?

- EB43 filters out which items are eligible for revision together with relevant guidance
- EB reflects on the report of the ad hoc group of legal experts
- RRG and ad hoc group of legal experts join forces to prepare a draft document for WGSR 62 (27- 31 May)
- Discussion at WGSR 62 (27 – 31 May)
- Formal document for decision making available at EB 44 (December 2024)