



United Nations
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38 C/WG/1/4

**Working Group on the governance, procedures, and working methods
of the governing bodies of UNESCO**

Presented by

El Salvador, Germany, Oman, Philippines, Senegal and Slovenia

INTRODUCTION

1. The Working Group on voting rights of the 38th General Conference, established by the APX Commission on the 4th November 2015, composed of representatives of El Salvador, Germany, Senegal, Slovenia, Philippines, Oman, met four times on 4, 5 and 6 November 2015 and presented its oral report on 6 November 2015.
2. The Working Group has the mandate to examine the communications submitted by Member States requesting voting rights at the General Conference and decides whether failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member State. Currently, the deadline for submission of such communications is three days after the beginning of the General Conference as per Rule 82 of the Rules of procedures of the General Conference.
On the basis of the work accomplished, the Working Group recommends the following changes of Rules and Procedures under which Working Groups on voting rights should work in the future:
3. First change: The Working Group should meet one or two months before the expiration of the deadline for submitting communications. This will give the Working Group more time to discuss with representatives of countries mechanisms to ensure the payment of their contributions, including the review of existing and proposed payment plans. This will also allow Member States to better prepare their communications and payment plans.

4. Second change: The deadline for submitting communications as set in Rule 82 of the General Conference, paragraph 5, should be changed:

The communications from Member States referred to in paragraph 4 shall be submitted no later than the first day of the Executive Board session preceding the General Conference. In the absence of such a communication from the Member States concerned, the latter may no longer be authorized to take part in voting at that session of the General Conference.

These two changes will give the Working Group more time to explore with Member States possibilities for the payment of their contributions.

5. Third change: The membership of the Working Group should be maintained for two consecutive mandates. This kind of continuity in the membership of the Working Group would be beneficial.
6. A new rule should be created, since the establishment of the Working Group on voting rights is based on past practice and not part of the Rules of the Procedures of the General Conference.

This new rule on the establishment, composition and number of mandates of the Working Group on voting rights could read as follows:

- The APX Commission, at every second session of the General Conference, will establish a Working Group on voting rights with six members, one representative from each electoral group.
- The Working Group is established for two consecutive mandates.
- The Working Group will meet for the first time one or two months before the expiration of the deadline for submitting communications.