

## Twelfth plenary meeting of the 38th session of the General Conference

Wednesday 11 November 2015 at 6.20 p.m.

President: Mr Stanley Mutumba Simataa (Namibia)

### 1. The President

Thank you very much Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. Today is the only day that we will be starting our session without necessarily suspending for five minutes and I am really pleased that all of us are here. But, once again, our sincere apologies for these delays. I have the pleasure to declare open the twelfth plenary meeting of the General Conference. You surely know that this afternoon we will announce the results of the Executive Board elections. Before we do that, I would like to inform you that the Bureau of the General Conference held its third meeting yesterday morning. The Bureau heard progress reports on the work of the commissions and committees, and I am pleased to inform you that their work is fully on schedule. Having said that, let us now turn to the highlight of today's meeting. The election of Members of the Executive Board took place this morning from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Room V, under the supervision of His Excellency, Mr Michael Worbs, Chairperson of the Nominations Committee. I now invite him to present the results of today's ballot, starting of course with Group I. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

### Election of Members of the Executive Board

#### 2.1 Mr Worbs (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you, Mr President. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I would first like to thank you for entrusting me with the task of reporting to the plenary of the General Conference on the detailed results of the election of the Members of the Executive Board. The election took place today in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference and I might add with a considerable turnout. I am grateful to the many people who made this election possible, especially to the Ambassador of San Salvador, who was overlooking the election, and I shall use my oral report to the forthcoming plenary session of the General Conference to express my thanks. Ladies and gentlemen, the number of States entitled to vote in the present session of the General Conference is 186. I shall now read out by electoral group the detailed results of today's ballot for the election of Members of the Executive Board.

2.2 Group I, in which there are six seats to be filled. Absent: 3. Abstentions: 0. Invalid ballot papers: 0. Names of the Member States candidates and the number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes: Greece: 165; Italy: 165; Spain: 164; France: 163; United States of America: 158; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: 156. The floor is with you, Mr President.

#### 3. The President:

Thank you very much Mr Worbs. I therefore declare the following six Member States from Group I elected members of the Executive Board: France, Greece, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America. We shall now turn to Group II. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

#### 4. Mr Worbs (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you Mr President. Group II in which there are four seats to be filled. Absent: 3. Abstentions: 0. Invalid ballot papers: 1. I will read now the names of the Member States candidates and the number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes. Lithuania: 171; Slovenia: 167; Russian Federation: 162; Serbia: 161. Mr President, please you have the floor.

#### 5. The President:

Thank you very much, Sir. I therefore declare the following Member States from Group II elected members of the Executive Board: Lithuania, Russian Federation, Serbia, and Slovenia. We shall now turn to Group III. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

#### 6. Mr Worbs (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you, Mr President. Group III in which there are five seats to be filled. Absent: 3. Abstentions: 0. Invalid ballot papers: 0. Again, I will read the names of the Member States candidates and the number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes: Brazil: 168; Mexico: 158; Paraguay: 158; Nicaragua: 152; Haiti: 150. Thank you.

#### 7. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I therefore declare the following five Member States from Group III elected members of the Executive Board: Brazil, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Paraguay. We now turn to Group IV, which had six seats to be filled. Excellency, you have the floor.

#### 8. Mr Worbs (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you, Mr President. Group IV in which there are six seats to be filled. Absent: 3. Abstentions: 0. Invalid ballot papers: 0. Again, I will read out the names of the Member States candidates and the number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes. Malaysia: 165; Viet Nam: 156; Sri Lanka: 149; Republic of Korea: 137; Pakistan: 135; Iran: 128; Samoa: 101; Afghanistan: 62. Thank you, Mr President.

#### 9. The President:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I therefore declare the following six Member States elected members of the Executive Board for Group IV: Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam. We shall now turn to Group V(a). Your Excellency, you have the floor.

#### 10. Mr Worbs (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you, Mr President. There are seven seats to be filled for Group V(a). Absent: 3. Abstentions: 2. Invalid

ballot papers: 2. Again, I will read out the names of the Member States candidates and the number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes. South Africa: 139; Senegal: 135; Nigeria: 132; Kenya: 119; Côte d'Ivoire: 101; Ghana: 101; Cameroon: 100; Rwanda: 99; Ethiopia: 82; Botswana: 80; Niger: 60; Equatorial Guinea: 48. Mr President, thank you.

11. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I therefore declare the following seven Member States from Group V(a) elected members of the Executive Board: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, and South Africa. And finally we turn to Group V(b). Your Excellency, you have the floor.

12. **Mr Worbs** (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you once more, Mr President. Group V(b) has four seats to be filled. Absent: 3. Abstentions: 0. Invalid ballot papers: 2. And for the last time I will read again the names of the Member States candidates and the number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes. Oman: 142; Lebanon: 131; Qatar: 121; Saudi Arabia: 97; Sudan: 97; Iraq: 57; Yemen: 30. Since two countries, Saudi Arabia and Sudan, have obtained the same number of votes, in accordance with Rule 95 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference there shall be a second secret ballot restricted to those two candidates. The ballot will take place on Friday, 13 November in Room IV at 10 a.m. Thank you, Mr President.

13.1 **The President:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I therefore declare the following three Member States from Group V(b) elected members of the Executive Board: Oman, Lebanon, and Qatar. As you have just heard, there will be a second round of voting for the last remaining seat between the two countries that were tied for fourth place. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we have come to the end of our session, but before we part let me say a few words of acknowledgment.

13.2 First of all, I would like to thank the Member States for the high level of participation in this electoral exercise which shows the vitality of our democratic process. As you know, in UNESCO one country equals one vote, and every vote is important. I am sure that this strong participation will be maintained in tomorrow's elections which are as important as the one we held today. Indeed, the different intergovernmental commissions, committees and other subsidiaries organs of the General Conference, whose memberships you will be renewing, also participate in no small way in the implementation of the different programmes of our Organization. I also wish to thank the Member States who presented their candidatures to renew the membership of the Executive Board, thereby showing their strong interest in the work of our Organization and to the universal values that it promotes. Let me also thank the electoral groups for their efforts in finding consensus whenever possible with a clean slate of candidates.

13.3 In closing, I warmly congratulate all newly elected members of the Executive Board. On behalf of all of you as Member States, I wish to thank His Excellency, Mr Michael Worbs, Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, for the good work of the Committee who skilfully supervised the election process. I also wish to express my appreciation to the six tellers. We appreciated the time and effort devoted to the electoral process. I will now give the floor to the Secretary to provide you with some information concerning the 198th session of the Executive Board which will meet on 20 November 2015. Mr Secretary, you have the floor.

14. **The Secretary:**

Thank you Mr President. The 198th session of the Executive Board with its new membership for 2015-2017 will meet on Friday, 20 November at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in Room X. At this one-day session, the Executive Board will be required, among other things, to establish its Bureau, and for that purpose to elect its Chairperson and six Vice-Chairpersons, as well as Chairpersons of its commissions and committees in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board. The Board will also designate the State Members that will constitute the Special Committee – 18 members, three per electoral group; the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations – 13 Members, five per electoral group; and the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners – 24 members, four per electoral group. The Secretariat would be most grateful if you would kindly consult your respective groups and inform us as soon as possible, since we hardly have a week before this Board session, of your proposals concerning the composition of the Bureau. It would be appreciated if this could be provided by next Wednesday at noon, which is also the closing day of the General Conference. The usual invitation letter for this session will be sent out this evening. Thank you, Mr President.

15. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. Ladies and gentlemen, we have thus finished our work for today. The plenary will reconvene this Friday afternoon, 13 November 2015, at 3 p.m. for the examination and adoption of the reports. I wish you a pleasant evening. *This meeting is now adjourned.*

*The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.*