

Eleventh plenary meeting of the 41st session of the General Conference

Wednesday 17 November 2021 at 4.40 p.m.

President: **Mr Irazabal Mourão** (Brazil)

Third report of the Bureau

1. The President:

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I declare open the eleventh plenary meeting of the General Conference, which will be devoted to the announcement of the results of the election of Members of the Executive Board. Before we start, I wish to inform the delegates that the Bureau held its third meeting yesterday, of which I am pleased to give you a short report: The chairpersons of those committees and commissions, which had already begun their work, reported to the Bureau on the progress and results of their meetings. The commissions and committees are working very efficiently and as per their schedule. Reference was also made to the adoption in the plenary on 15 November of a motion submitted by Chile, on behalf of GRULAC, to suspend the deadline of seven days for the elections to the subsidiary organs, noting that candidatures were lacking for a number of important subsidiary bodies, and in particular to the Legal Committee for the 42nd session of the General Conference. The organization of the work of the final meetings of the General Conference will be presented to the next Bureau on 19 November 2021. May I take it that the General Conference agrees to take note of this report? *It is so decided.*

Election of Members of the Executive Board

2. The President:

Now, dear colleagues, Excellencies, let us 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 1 p.m. in Room V, under the supervision of Her Excellency Ms Tamara Rastovac Siamashvili, Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, and Her Excellency Ms Lorena Sol de Pool, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of El Salvador to UNESCO, Vice-President of the General Conference. I invite Ambassador Tamara Rastovac Siamashvili to present the results of today's ballot starting with Group I. Excellency, you have the floor.

3.1 Ms Siamashvili (Serbia) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you Mr President. Can I begin with an introduction? I know that you are all impatient, but first I wish to thank you for offering to entrust me with this work and to tell you that the election took place in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference. I sincerely thank the Secretariat who made this election possible and the six excellent tellers who did everything with professionalism and efficiency. In particular, my gratitude goes to the Vice-President, the Ambassador of El Salvador, who supervised on your behalf, Mr President, the elections of the Members of the Executive Board.

3.2 Now for the part that we are all interested in: the number of States entitled to vote in the present session of the General Conference was 185. I am pleased to inform you that 178 Member States participated in the election of Members of the Executive Board. I shall now read out by Group the detailed results of today's ballot for the election of the Executive Board. Group I, in which there are three seats to be filled. There was one abstention, two invalid ballot papers and the names of the candidate Member States, and number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes is: Iceland: 168; Austria: 166; Turkey: 158. Thank you very much.

4. The President:

Thank you very much. I therefore declare the following three Member States of Group I elected Members of the Executive Board: Austria, Iceland, Turkey. We shall now turn to Group II. Excellency, you have the floor.

5. Ms Siamashvili (Serbia) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you Mr President. In Group II, there are three seats to be filled. There was one abstention and one invalid ballot. The names of the candidate Member States, and number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes is: Armenia: 146; Azerbaijan: 143; Lithuania: 126; Ukraine: 92.

6. The President:

Thank you Excellency. I therefore declare the following three Members of Group II elected Members of the Executive Board: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Lithuania. We shall now turn to Group III. Excellency, you have the floor.

7. Ms Siamashvili (Serbia) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

In Group III, there are six seats to be filled, with three for Ibero-American States and three for Caribbean States. There was one abstention and three invalid ballot papers. The names of the candidate Member States, and number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes is: Mexico: 159; Chile: 153; Paraguay: 151; Saint Lucia: 145; Haiti: 119; Grenada: 115; Dominica: 59; Bahamas: 45.

8. The President:

Thank you, Excellency. I therefore declare the following six Members of Group III elected Members of the Executive Board: Chile, Grenada, Haiti, Mexico, Paraguay, Saint Lucia. We shall now turn to Group IV. Excellency, you have the floor.

9. Ms Siamashvili (Serbia) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

In Group IV, there are six seats to be filled. There was no abstention and no invalid ballot paper. The names of the candidate Member States, and number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes is: Japan: 166; Philippines: 165; India: 164; Viet Nam: 163; Cook Islands: 154; China: 153.

10. **The President:**

Thank you very much, your Excellency. I therefore declare the following six Members of Group IV elected Members of the Executive Board: China, Cook Islands, India, Japan, Philippines, Viet Nam. We shall now turn to Group V(a). Excellency, you have the floor.

11. **Ms Siamashvili** (Serbia) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you. In Group V(a), there are six seats to be filled. There was one abstention and three invalid ballot papers. The names of the candidate Member States, and number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes is: South Africa: 162; Botswana: 161; Djibouti: 161; United Republic of Tanzania: 160; Angola: 157; Congo: 152.

12. **The President:**

Thank you your Excellency. I therefore declare the following six Members of Group V(a) elected Members of the Executive Board: Angola, Botswana, Congo, Djibouti, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania. We shall now turn to Group V(b). Excellency, you have the floor.

13. **Ms Siamashvili** (Serbia) (Chairperson of the Nominations Committee):

Thank you. In Group V(b), there are three seats to be filled. There was one abstention and five invalid ballot papers. The names of the candidate Member States, and number of votes secured by each of them in descending order of the number of votes is: Kuwait: 153; Egypt: 130; Jordan: 126; Morocco: 83.

14.1 **The President:**

Thank you, Excellency. I therefore declare the following three Members States of Group V(b) elected Members of the Executive Board: Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait.

14.2 Thank you very much, Excellency. Honourable colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, we come to the end of this item, but before we resume our work, let me say a few words of acknowledgement. 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. Let me also thank the electoral groups for their efforts in finding consensus whenever possible with a clean slate of candidates. In closing, I warmly congratulate on behalf of Member States, on my behalf, all the newly elected Members of the Executive Board. On behalf of all Member States of UNESCO, I wish to thank Her Excellency, Ms Tamara Rastovac Siamashvili, Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, and Her Excellency, Ms Lorena Sol de Pool, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of El Salvador to UNESCO, Vice-President of the General Conference, for having skilfully supervised the election process. I also wish to express my appreciation to Mr Matthew Sultana of Malta, Ms Jirina Valentova of Czechia, Ms Claudine de Kerdaniel of Saint-Vincent and the Grenadines, Mr Dimas Sulistio of Indonesia, Ms Soukeynatou Kourouma of Guinea, and Mr Sultan Almusallam of Saudi Arabia for their work as tellers. I will now give the floor to the Secretary to provide us with some information concerning the 213th session of the Executive Board which will meet on 26 November. Mr Bhatt, you have the floor

15. **The Secretary:**

Thank you, Mr President and all the newly-elected Members of the Executive Board. The 213th session of the Executive Board, with its new membership for 2021-2023, will meet on Friday 26 November at 10 a.m. in Room X. At this session, the Executive Board will be required, principally, to establish its Bureau, and for that purpose, to elect its Chairperson and six Vice-Chairpersons, as well as the Chairpersons of its Commissions and Committees, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Rule 10 and Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure. The Board will also designate the State Members that will constitute the Special Committee, the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations and the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners. Therefore, the Secretariat would be most grateful if you would kindly consult your respective groups and inform us as soon as possible, since we have less than a week before this Executive Board session, of your proposals concerning the composition of the Bureau, together with your proposals concerning the States Members that will constitute the three above-mentioned Committees. May it be kindly requested that this information be received by close of business on Monday 22 November. The usual invitation letter for this session with all the necessary background information will be sent out tomorrow, 18 November, to all Executive Board Members. Thank you for your kind attention.

16. **The President:**

Thank you very much, Mr Bhatt. Ladies and gentlemen, we have concluded our work for today. We will reconvene on Monday 22 November at 10 a.m. for the last phase of the General Conference. *The meeting is adjourned.*

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.