

Women's Representation on Council

A submission from the Executive Committee

Proposal:

1. That ISAF introduce the following simple and equitable system to achieve the existing policy that there be 20% women's representation on the ISAF Council:

That each Group of ISAF Member National Authorities with more than one seat on Council ensure that each gender be represented amongst its Council representation.

If the Group does not achieve this requirement, then all seats for that Group will become vacant and not valid.

2. If the above proposal is approved then Article 39.1(f) can be deleted as it will no longer be required as the women's representation will be achieved, and Article 39.1(h) shall also be deleted:

39.1 The Council of the Federation shall consist of:-

- (a) the President;
- (b) the seven Vice-Presidents;
- (c) not more than 30 members appointed by Full Members;
- (d) The Chairman of the ISAF Offshore Committee;
- (e) a member appointed by the International Classes Committee;
- ~~(f) a woman member appointed by:
(i) Women Vice Presidents
(ii) Women members of Council, and
(iii) The women of Committees or Sub-committees, the members of which are nominated by Member National Authorities;~~
- (g) the Treasurer who, unless already a member in some other capacity, shall be an ex-officio non-voting member and shall be appointed by the Council;
- ~~(h) The Council as determined by Articles (a) to (g) above will have not less than twenty (20) per cent women members as may be established by agreement by those entitled to appoint member or by Regulation.~~

3. The proposal achieves a women's representation by Full Members of 9 persons, in addition to the two women's seats on the Executive Board, therefore a minimum of 11 women on Council, equating to (11 women out of 38 Council Members) 28.9 %.
4. That the Constitution Committee be charged to draft the necessary wording for the ISAF Regulations and/or Articles to implement this policy.

Current Position:

39.1 The Council of the Federation shall consist of:-

- (a) the President;
- (b) the seven Vice-Presidents;
- (c) not more than 30 members appointed by Full Members;
- (d) The Chairman of the ISAF Offshore Committee;
- (e) a member appointed by the International Classes Committee;
- (f) a woman member appointed by:
 - (i) Women Vice-Presidents
 - (ii) Women members of Council, and
 - (iii) The women of Committees or Sub-committees, the members of which are nominated by Member National Authorities;
- (g) the Treasurer who, unless already a member in some other capacity, shall be an ex-officio non-voting member and shall be appointed by the Council;
- (h) The Council as determined by Articles (a) to (g) above will have not less than twenty (20) per cent women members as may be established by agreement by those entitled to appoint member or by Regulation.

Reasons:

1. In May 2006, Council approved the following policy to achieve 20% women's representation on Council:

“Require those areas with more than two councillors to appoint a woman to one of their 3 positions and those with 2 councillors to (in turn) appoint a woman as at least one of their members. This would give more than 20% and a rotational fallback requirement would need to be included.”

Whilst recognizing Council has approved the above policy, the solution to implement is quite complicated specifically in respect of the rotational system.

2. The proposal that each group with more than one Council member representative have both genders represented is a simple, equitable and easily manageable system, and will achieve a minimum of 28.9% representation from both genders on the ISAF Council.
3. It is also important to enforce the policy by mandating the action which will be taken by ISAF if groups of MNA's do not comply with the requirements.