

## **Selection of Council Members - Gender**

### **New Regulation 11**

A submission from the Chairman of the Constitution Committee

#### **Proposal:**

That a new regulation 11 in the following form be inserted:

## **11 GENDER OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

- 11.1 In order to comply with Article 39 of the Constitution, the selection of members of the Council to ensure that each gender is represented by at least 20% shall be made in accordance with the provisions of this regulation.**
- 11.2 Any Group required by this regulation to appoint a member of a particular gender shall comply with that requirement. If it fails to do so the provisions of regulations 11.6 and 11.7 shall apply.**
- 11.3 Each Group of Full Members entitled by virtue of Article 42 to appoint three members of the Council shall appoint at least one member of each gender.**
- 11.4 At least two years before each Ordinary Meeting of the General Assembly, the Executive Committee shall determine how many members of the Council for the four years following from that Ordinary Meeting shall necessarily be of each gender as a result of requirements contained elsewhere in the Constitution or otherwise. It will then be clear how many additional members of that gender will need to be appointed to comply with the requirements of Article 39.1 and they shall be selected from the Groups entitled to appoint two members of Council. The Secretary General shall immediately inform all Member National Authorities and shall name those Groups that will be required to appoint members of different genders.**
- 11.5 The Council shall make a list in such manner as it decides of the order in which the Groups entitled to appoint two members will be selected by the Secretary General for that purpose and that list shall be maintained by the Secretary General. Once the list is exhausted, the Secretary General shall start again at its beginning.**
- 11.6 If, notwithstanding the provisions of this regulation, a Group required to nominate persons of different gender in accordance with this regulation, the candidate nominated with the lesser number of nominations shall be disqualified from being a member of Council. If the candidates have an equal number of nominations, the method of selection shall be the same as for the President pursuant to Regulation 7.2.**
- 11.7 If no selection of a candidate of the required gender has been made within four weeks prior to the first meeting of the Ordinary Meeting of the General Assembly, the President shall select a person of the appropriate gender being a national of one of the Full Members of the Group concerned.**

**11.8 This regulation and the method of selection set out in it shall be reviewed by the Constitution Committee in conjunction with the review required in Regulation 8.**

**Current Position:**

There is no regulation dealing with this matter.

**Reason:**

1. The Constitution requires that at least 20 per cent of the members of Council shall be women. The requirement at present is in general terms, but if other submissions are accepted by Council and ultimately accepted by the General Assembly, the requirements will be more specific. In either case, a regulation is required to comply with those requirements.
2. This proposed regulation will ensure that the requirement is complied with.
3. The provision envisages that Groups required to nominate a woman as one of its Council Members will have two years warning of the requirement. This is considered necessary as compliance with the requirement could take some time.
4. A separate submission deals with the means of creating a list in accordance with regulation 11.5.
5. Since the requirement will be mandatory if the current submissions in that respect are approved by Council and by the General Assembly, it is considered that regulations 11.6 and 11.7 are needed to ensure compliance.
6. This regulation is introducing a new provision and it is not known how it will work in practice. It is considered that the review required by regulation 11.8 will enable changes to be made if Council considers them necessary.