



General Assembly

Sixty-fourth session

25th plenary meeting

Monday, 26 October 2009, 10 a.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 110 (continued)

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council

Letter dated 15 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/64/493)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The Assembly will first proceed to a by-election to elect four members of the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with rule 140 of the rules of procedure.

In this connection, I would first like to draw the attention of members to document A/64/493, containing the text of a letter dated 15 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations, as Chairman of the Group of Western European and other States for the month of October 2009. In his letter, the Chairman announces that New Zealand, Sweden, Greece and Portugal would like to relinquish their seats on the Economic and Social Council at the end of the year 2009 for the remainder of their terms in favour of Australia, Finland, Malta and Turkey, respectively. As a result, four vacancies will occur and four new members must therefore be elected to fill the unexpired terms of office of New

Zealand and Sweden, commencing on 1 January 2010 and expiring on 31 December 2010, as well as of Greece and Portugal, commencing on 1 January 2010 and expiring on 31 December 2011.

In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, and taking into account that the vacancies will occur from among the Western European and other States, the new members should therefore be elected from that region.

I should like to inform the Assembly that the candidates who receive a two-thirds majority, and the greatest number, of votes by members present and voting will be declared elected. May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations. We shall now proceed accordingly.

I should like to inform members that, as of 1 January 2010, the following States from the Group of Western European and other States will be represented on the Economic and Social Council: France, Germany, Liechtenstein, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The names of those five States should therefore not appear on the ballot.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no

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representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process. Members are requested to remain seated until all ballots have been collected.

Allow me to remind members that, at this stage, they are voting in the by-election for four seats for Western European and other States. The election of the 18 members of the Council will take place immediately following this by-election.

Ballot papers will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers and to write on them the names of the four States for which they wish to vote. A ballot will be declared invalid if it contains the names of more than four Member States from the relevant region for the four vacant seats assigned to it. A ballot will also be declared invalid if none of the names of the Member States on that ballot belongs to the relevant region.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Bensmail (Algeria), Mr. Babić (Croatia), Mr. Jatmiko (Indonesia), Mr. Løvold (Norway), Ms. Ovcharenko (Russian Federation), Mrs. Aparici (Spain), Mrs. Mchárez Hadiji (Tunisia) and Ms. Anzola Padrón (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.30 a.m. and resumed at 11.10 a.m.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The result of the voting is as follows:

Group B – Western European and other States
(4 seats)

Number of ballot papers:	186
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	186
Abstentions:	4
Number of members voting:	182
Required two-thirds majority:	122
Number of votes obtained:	
Finland	148
Malta	147
Turkey	147
Australia	146
Italy	29
United States of America	29

Canada	29
Belgium	28
Austria	1
Monaco	1
Luxembourg	1

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Australia, Finland, Malta and Turkey have thus been elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a term of office beginning on 1 January 2010. The terms of Australia and Finland will end on 31 December 2010, and the terms of Malta and Turkey will end on 31 December 2011.

I congratulate Australia, Finland, Malta and Turkey on having been elected members of the Economic and Social Council.

The General Assembly will next turn to the election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 2009. The 18 outgoing members are: Algeria, Barbados, Belarus, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Canada, Cape Verde, El Salvador, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Malawi, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Romania, Somalia, the Sudan and the United States of America. Pursuant to rule 146 of the rules of procedure, those countries are eligible for immediate re-election.

Members will recall that New Zealand, Sweden, Greece and Portugal relinquished their seats on the Economic and Social Council, effective 1 January 2010, and that Australia, Finland, Malta and Turkey have just been elected to fill those vacancies.

Consequently, as of 1 January 2010, the following States will be represented on the Economic and Social Council: Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, China, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, India, Japan, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The names of those 36 States should therefore not appear on the ballots.

In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) of 20 December

1971, and taking into account the number of States that will remain members of the Council after 1 January 2010, the 18 members should be elected as follows: five from African States, four from Asian States, two from Eastern European States, three from Latin American and Caribbean States and four from Western European and other States. The ballot papers reflect that pattern.

I should like to inform the Assembly that those candidates, their number not exceeding the number of seats to be filled, who receive a two-thirds majority, and the greatest number, of votes by members present and voting will be declared elected. In the case of a tie vote for a remaining seat, there will be a special restricted ballot limited to those candidates that have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot, and there shall be no nominations.

Regarding candidatures of the respective regional Groups, the Secretariat has been informed that for the five vacant seats from among the African States, the Group has endorsed five candidates: the Comoros, Ghana, Egypt, Rwanda and Zambia. For the four vacant seats from among the Asian States, the Group has endorsed four candidates: Bangladesh, Iraq, Mongolia and the Philippines. For the two vacant seats from among the Eastern European States, the Group has endorsed two candidates: Slovakia and Ukraine. For the three vacant seats from among the Latin American and Caribbean States, the Group has endorsed three candidates: Argentina, the Bahamas and Chile. For the four vacant seats from among the Western European and other States, the Group has endorsed four candidates: Belgium, Canada, Italy and the United States of America.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, we shall now proceed to the election by secret ballot.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no

representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked A, B, C, D and E will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers and to write on them the names of the States for which they wish to vote.

A ballot will be declared invalid if it contains more names of Member States from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it. A ballot will also be declared invalid if none of the names of the Member States on that ballot belongs to the relevant region. If a ballot paper of a region contains some of the names of the Member States that do not belong to that region, the ballot remains valid, but only the names of the Member States that belong to the relevant region will be counted. The names of Member States that do not belong to that region will not be counted at all.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Bensmail (Algeria), Mr. Babić (Croatia), Mr. Jatmiko (Indonesia), Mr. Løvold (Norway), Ms. Ovcharenko (Russian Federation), Mrs. Aparici (Spain), Mrs. Mchárcek Hadiji (Tunisia) and Ms. Anzola Padrón (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 11.35 a.m. and resumed at 12.35 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

<i>Group A – African States (5 seats)</i>	
Number of ballot papers:	188
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	188
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	188
Required two-thirds majority:	126
Number of votes obtained:	
Ghana	183
Comoros	182
Zambia	180
Rwanda	178
Egypt	177
<i>Group B – Asian States (4 seats)</i>	
Number of ballot papers:	188

Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	188
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	188
Required two-thirds majority:	126
Number of votes obtained:	
Bangladesh	185
Mongolia	185
Philippines	185
Iraq	182

Group C – Eastern European States (2 seats)

Number of ballot papers:	188
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	188
Abstentions:	6
Number of members voting:	182
Required two-thirds majority:	122
Number of votes obtained:	
Ukraine	182
Slovakia	181

Group D – Latin American and Caribbean States (3 seats)

Number of ballot papers:	188
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	188
Abstentions:	3
Number of members voting:	185
Required two-thirds majority:	124
Number of votes obtained:	
Chile	183
Bahamas	182
Argentina	181
Dominican Republic	1

Group E – Western European and other States (4 seats)

Number of ballot papers:	188
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	188
Abstentions:	5
Number of members voting:	183
Required two-thirds majority:	122
Number of votes obtained:	
Italy	179
Belgium	177
Canada	174
United States of America	174

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority of members present and voting, the following 18 States have thus been elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2010: Argentina, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Chile, the Comoros, Egypt, Ghana, Iraq, Italy, Mongolia, the Philippines, Rwanda, Slovakia, Ukraine, the United States of America and Zambia.

I congratulate the States which have been elected members of the Economic and Social Council, and I thank the tellers for their assistance in this election.

This concludes our consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 110.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.