



Revised proposal:

System for electing international members to attend the ICM & CF

Amnesty International members only

AI Index: ORG 50/002/2010

To: All sections and structures

From: IEC

Date: May 2010

Summary

This paper contains a revised version of the proposed system for electing representatives from the international membership to attend the International Council Meeting and the Chairs Forum, which was first circulated in March (ORG 50/001/2010).

Distribution

This document is being sent to all sections and structures.

Recommended Actions

The IEC encourages sections and structures to review this revised proposal in advance of the Chairs Forum Meeting on 18-20 June. The IEC has, with assistance of the Global Governance Taskforce, considered all concerns raised by sections and structures so far. Most of them have been addressed in this revised proposal. Since, according to Decision 10 of the 2009 ICM, the system for electing the representatives of international members shall be defined by the IEC after consultation with the Chairs Forum, it would be very helpful for any further concerns about this proposal to be raised in advance of or during that meeting.

Please send any further feedback to csmitolu@amnesty.org. This will be posted on the intranet site at: <https://intranet.amnesty.org/wiki/display/IEC/4.2+Global+Governance+Taskforce>

For Chairs, the Chairs Interactive Forum is also available as a discussion forum.

Further information on the background to the proposal is available from IEC vice-chair Christine Pamp (christine.pamp@amnesty.org).

Revised proposed system for electing representatives of the international membership to the ICM and Chairs Forum meeting

1. Introduction

The 2009 International Council Meeting (ICM) decided that AI's international members shall elect representatives to the ICM and to the Chairs Forum meeting. It decided that "The system for electing the representatives for international members shall be defined by the International Executive Committee (IEC), after consultation with the Chair's Forum" (2009 ICM Decision 10). This paper contains a revised version of the IEC's proposal for the election system, taking into account comments and concerns raised by sections and structures before May 18 2010 together with a summary of the main points the IEC took into account in revising the proposed system.

The IEC is circulating this revised proposal in advance of the Chairs Forum Meeting to enable all sections and structures to determine whether their concerns have been dealt with in a suitable way. We would appreciate as much feedback as possible before the Chairs Forum meeting in order to prepare as thoroughly as possible for the final discussions at the meeting. The IEC will approve the final election system after the Chairs Forum meeting.

2. Comments on the election system for international members

The revised election system proposed by the IEC is presented below. In revising its original proposal, the IEC took the following points into account. We recognise that on most of these points there are good arguments for and against a range of different options, but we believe that our proposal now achieves the right balance.

The IEC strongly believes that this system – which will regulate the election of a very small number of delegates to these meetings – should not set a much higher threshold or impose much stronger regulations than the systems in place for the large majority of delegates attending (e.g., as far as the IEC is aware, there are no term limits for ICM delegates in most sections, and it is unusual for members to require more than one seconder if they wish to be nominated for an ICM delegation).

- **The scope of the electorate (Paragraph 3)** In this revised proposal, the IEC adopts a much narrower definition of "international members" who are entitled to vote in the elections. In the original proposal the IEC chose to consider all of AI's e-members (around 103,500) as international members, entitled to be nominated and vote in the elections. After feedback and renewed discussions the IEC has revised the proposal to include only those who explicitly joined as members and are resident in countries where there is no section or structure. As of today we have around 18,000 international members falling into this category. Most of these members have been given a fee waiver either because they live in a country with a low Human Development Index or because there is no online fee paying facility in their country. In this proposal, we are using the definition of AI member that is given in Article 15 of the AI statute (which is reproduced in the

proposal). The IEC may, however, propose an amended definition to the 2011 ICM, depending on the further work that is due to be carried out on this issue by both the Strategy Committee and the Global Governance Taskforce.

- **Seconders** We have proposed that only one seconder (who must be an international member) is needed for each nomination. There has been concern expressed that there is a risk of very many nominations, associated with extensive financial and practical implications since all supporting documents need to be translated into several languages in a quite short timeframe. The IEC has considered this concern, but is not convinced that adding more seconders is the correct solution to this potential problem. Many international members may not even know another international member and this would favour people with a wide AI social network and may favour international members from certain societies, cultures or parts of the world above members from other societies, cultures or parts of the world. The IEC has therefore chosen to apply a different measure to raise the threshold for nominations. In this revised proposal we have added the condition that any international member who wants to be a candidate or vote in the election must have been registered as an international member for 18 months or more.
- **Term limits for elected representatives** The elections for electing the representatives of international members to the ICM and Chairs Forum meetings will be complex, expensive and time consuming. The IEC has received several comments and concerns about doing this once or twice every year. There have also been concerns about the lack of possibilities to build up knowledge and experience in this particular “delegation”. The IEC has considered the best ways to address these concerns and in the revised proposal we conclude that there will be only one election every ICM cycle. The representatives elected will remain in place for the ICM and the following two Chairs Forum meetings. This also opens the possibility for them to fully take part in the Chairs Forum, which is not only an annual meeting but an ongoing forum. We believe that this approach will ensure continuity and raise the possibilities of quality participation by the international members in the meetings. Further to this point and as a consequence the IEC has revised its initial view about term limits. Electing representatives for full ICM cycles makes imposing a term limit of three terms (six years) useful. Only holding one election per ICM cycle also makes it more feasible to extend the timelines of the election and thereby give the elected representatives more time to prepare, consolidate and consult their electorate.
- **Preparing and reporting back to the electorate** Although we have not referred to this in the election system, the IEC is aware that the newly elected international members will need considerable support in preparing for and ensuring their quality participation in the ICM and Chairs Forum. We will work with the Chairs Forum Steering Committee and the International Secretariat to ensure that suitable preparation, guidance and practical support is made available to them. Further concerns have been raised about the representatives’ obligations to report back to their electorate. Accordingly we have added some emphasis to this in the revised proposal.
- **Quality representatives** The IEC agrees that we need to find good ways of identifying the best international member candidates, and also agrees that it would be good if the elected representatives did have all three AI languages between them. However we also want to underline again that it does not make sense to set a much higher threshold or impose much stronger regulations in these elections than the systems in place for

the large majority of delegates attending. The language skills of candidates can, however, be made clear to the electors so that people can take them into account when deciding who to vote for.

- **Evaluating and reviewing the system** We agree that the system will probably need some revision based on experience after it has been used for one election cycle. The IEC also stated this in the original documents. We do not want to enforce too many restrictions on the election based on hypothetical problems. For example, we have no idea how many nominations we will receive: if we receive very large numbers and this leads to impractically large numbers of names in the ballot, we may need to raise the threshold for nomination. On the other hand, if we only receive very few nominations we may need to make other changes. Similarly, it may turn out that almost all those who are nominated or elected come from the same part of the world, in which case we might want to consider world-regional quotas in addition to or instead of national quotas. The IEC does not believe, however, that such matters can usefully be discussed until we have some evidence from running the election system. We have therefore agreed to undertake a full evaluation after the first election cycle is concluded and make revisions as needed in preparing for the second election.

4. Consultation process

The Chairs Forum meeting is fast approaching. However the IEC encourages sections and structures to discuss, if possible, this revised proposal in advance of the Chairs Forum meeting on 18-20 June. According to Decision 10 of the 2009 ICM, the system for electing the representatives for the international members shall be defined by the IEC after consultation with the Chairs Forum. Accordingly it would be very helpful for any further concerns about this proposal to be raised in advance of that meeting to enable a useful session at the Chairs Forum meeting and a quick decision by the IEC thereafter.

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REVISED SYSTEM FOR ELECTING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TO THE ICM AND CHAIRS FORUM

1. The Chair of the ICM appoints a special Election Officer ~~for the whole ICM cycle~~ to be responsible for the correctness and fairness of the process. The Election Officer shall be appointed no later than six months after the ICM. The Election Officer shall have overall responsibility for the organization of the elections.
2. There will be only one election per ICM cycle. All elected representatives will attend and represent the international membership at the ICM. The three representatives receiving the highest number of votes will also represent the international membership in the Chairs Forum, including at the Chairs Forum meetings, during the cycle. All elected representatives will be encouraged to work together as a delegation all through the full cycle.
3. Information about the elections and nominated candidates will be made available in English, French and Spanish. Further languages may be added in line with AI's language strategy. All timelines will take translation into account.
4. The AI Statute (Article 15) defines members as follows:

An individual member of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL is any person who contributes to the advancement of the mission of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, who acts in accordance with the core values and policies of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, and who has been recognized and registered as a member by an AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL section, structure or affiliated group by virtue of payment of annual dues or having been granted a dues waiver. Individuals residing in countries, states, territories, or regions where there is no section or structure and who are not members of an affiliated group, may, on payment to the International Secretariat of an annual subscription fee determined by the International Executive Committee, become international members of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. In countries where a section or structure exists, individuals may become international members of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL with the consent of the section or structure and of the International Executive Committee. The International Secretariat shall maintain a register of such international members.

For the purposes of these elections, including all the regulations below:

- (a) the right to vote applies only to those registered international members who live in countries in which there is no AI section or structure.¹
- (b) the right to be nominated and elected applies only to those international members who live in countries in which there is no AI section or structure, and who have been registered as international members for at least 18 months on the date that the election process commences. No international member is entitled to serve more than three (3) consecutive terms (six years).

¹ This definition deliberately excludes the very small number of international members who are resident in countries which have a national AI section or structure. The IEC believes that all such members should be encouraged and enabled to join their national AI entity. The IEC will consider proposing a statute amendment at the 2011 ICM to cover this situation.

(c) these rights apply equally to international members who pay a membership fee and to international members who have been granted a dues waiver, either because they live in a country in which fee-payment facilities are not available, or because they live in a country with a low Human Development Index.

5. The international members elect their representatives by an online secret ballot system. Not more than one international member voluntarily resident in any one country, state or territory may be elected as a delegate to the International Council Meeting or Chairs Forum, and once such a member has received sufficient votes to be elected, any votes cast for other members in that country, state or territory shall be disregarded.
6. An Online Election web space opens thirty (30) weeks before the starting date of the ICM ~~or CF meeting~~ for which the representatives are elected. The Online Ballot is open for two weeks and starts seventeen (17) weeks before the starting date of the ICM meeting for which the representatives are elected. This timeline will give the representatives adequate time to liaise with each other, consult with the electorate and with the assistance of the International Secretariat and the IEC, to prepare fully for the meetings.
7. The Election Officer, in cooperation with the INC, will inform all international members by electronic communication (including on the Online Election web space) about the number of representatives to be elected in the election at hand, about the requirements, desired expertise and responsibilities of the representatives (including reporting back to their electorate) and the workload typically involved in the role, and about the process to be used.
8. All nominations shall be seconded by one or more registered international member(s) entitled to participate in the election process.
9. The deadline for submission of nominations is fixed four (4) weeks before the Online Ballot opens to allow for the translation of documents. Nominations should include a curriculum vitae, letter(s) of support from seconder(s) and a supporting statement by the candidate. All supporting documents will be standardized online forms.
10. The Election Officer will verify that nominations satisfy the rules of the election. All nominations will be made available in all languages one (1) week before the Online Ballot opens. Name and details of every candidate will be available in alphabetical order. ~~All AI members with Intranet access have access to the Online Election Intranet.~~ Only registered international members have access to the Online Ballot.
11. The elections will be conducted as follows:
 - a) There is an online ballot open for two weeks with the names of candidates in alphabetical order.
 - b) Only registered international members with the right to vote have log-in access to the Online Ballot.
 - c) International members vote, selecting the button beside the name of the candidate(s) they choose. Representatives are free to vote for as many candidates as there are vacant seats, or less than the total number of vacancies.
 - d) The Online Ballot will only allow an international member to cast his/her vote once.
 - e) Candidates with the highest number of votes are elected until all vacancies are completed.
 - d) In the event of a tie for the last vacant place there will be a re-election between the candidates with an equal number of votes.
12. When the ballot is closed the Election Officer will announce the results of the election on the online election web space by giving details of the number of votes obtained by each candidate. The announcement will be made by the Election Officer within one week of the ballot closing.

13. After the announcements are made, the Election Officer and the ICM Chair will invite the elected representatives to an induction phone conference with the aim of facilitating their consolidation and preparations for the ICM and following meetings. The elected representatives will also receive written information about their role and responsibilities, including how to consult with their electorate and how they are expected to report back.

SUMMARY TIMELINE

WHEN?	WHAT?
Up to <u>six</u> months after the ICM	Election Officer appointed by ICM Chair
<u>18</u> month before ballots open	Determining voting right and right to be nominated
<u>30</u> weeks before ICM or CF	1. Online election <u>web space</u> opens 2. Election Officer communicates election information to all members
<u>21</u> weeks before the ICM	Deadline for submitting nominations
<u>18</u> weeks before the ICM	All nominations made available in all languages
<u>17</u> weeks before the ICM	Online ballot opens
<u>15</u> weeks before the ICM	Online ballot closes
<u>14</u> weeks before the ICM	Election result announced