

2020 Elections—Steering Committee Electoral Rules

The Electoral Board was designated to organize the election to the Steering Committee in 2020, according to the ICH NGO Forum bylaws adopted by the General Meeting of the ICH NGO Forum in Bogota in December, 2019. The 2020 Electoral Board is made up of: Ms. Ananya Bhattacharya (Contact Base, Asian and Pacific States), Mr. Carlos J. Villaseñor Anaya (Cultural Interactivity and Development, Latin-American and Caribbean States), Mr. Michael Atwood Mason (Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, International).

Candidates are invited **to submit their application no later than November 5,2020 (midnight, Eastern Daylight Time, EDT)** according to the following rules.

The ICH NGO Forum will elect four members of the Steering Committee for two-year terms, one for each of the four following UNESCO electoral regions: Africa (group Va), Asia and the Pacific (group IV), Western Europe and North America (group I), International NGOs

1. Election will take place online between **Monday December 14,2020 to Tuesday December 15,2020** using online voting application.
2. Election results will be announced on **Wednesday December 16,2020** at the General Assembly of ICH NGO Forum.
3. Candidates must represent an accredited NGO with its headquarters in the region.
4. NGOs presenting a candidate can also propose an alternate candidate together with the statutory member, to enable the alternate member to replace the statutory member in case of necessity.
5. All Steering Committee members are elected for a two-year period and can be re-elected only once. The mandate of a Steering Committee member shall start at the end of the IGC session during which he was elected and shall end two years later at the end of the IGC session. If an NGO informs the Steering Committee either that its representative elected member of the Steering Committee has, during her/his mandate, lost contact with the NGO, or that the designated person no longer represents the NGO, this Steering Committee member will immediately lose her/his status of member of the Steering Committee, and be substituted by the alternate member elected by concerned NGO or, in the absence of an alternate member, be replaced by the election of the member of another NGO from the region at the next General Assembly for the remainder of the mandate.
6. The desirable profile for candidates is the following:
 - a) Be member of an accredited NGO under the 2003 Convention;
 - b) Have participated at a minimum of two sessions of the Governing bodies of the 2003 Convention;
 - c) Have a good working knowledge of English and/or French, both oral and written,
 - d) Have access to a good internet connection;
 - e) Have reasonable knowledge and be connected to ICH NGOs, accredited or not, in his region;
 - f) Be willing to draft and review documents related to the communication tasks of the Committee;
 - g) Be willing to moderate sessions at the Forum;
 - h) Be willing to undertake activities of representation for the Committee and for the Forum;
 - i) Be available to participate regularly at virtual meetings;
 - j) Have received the approval of his NGO to become a member of the Steering Committee.Applications must be sent to all members of the Electoral Board, at the following emails: (ananya@banglanatak.com; gaia@prodigy.net.mx, MASONM@si.edu) no later than

November 5,2020 (midnight, EDT), using the application form and attaching a one to two page curriculum vitae pointing out ICH related experiences.

7. The Electoral Board will review the applications to make sure that they formally satisfy these rules, will inform the approved applicants no later than **November 12,2020** and shall provide the motifs for rejection to the applicants not selected. If there is no call from a region a second call will be issued. The list of selected candidates will also be announced no later than **November 12,2020**.
8. If there is no eligible candidate for one region, a second call for applications open to NGOs from all regions will be launched **November 13,2020 and** will close by **November 30,2020 (midnight EDT)**.

The Electoral Board will announce the list of candidates selected no later than **December 4,2020**.

9. Each NGO can vote for only one candidate per electoral region. Only the officially designated representative of the NGO is allowed to vote. A voting link will be sent to the designated official email id of the NGOs. If there is more than one vote per NGO, the ballots will be cancelled and the vote considered void. The election will take place by online secret ballot.
10. Candidates receiving most votes will be elected to the Steering Committee. If two or more candidates for the same region receive the same number of votes, and as voting will be online this year, a second round will not be organized and the candidate will be selected through a draw of lots by a person designated by the Election Board.
11. If an NGO's accreditation is not renewed during the mandate of a member of the Steering Committee, other NGOs from the same region will be eligible for election and be invited to present their application at the following elections.
12. If a member of the Steering Committee becomes a member of official delegation of a State Party in the course of her or his service in the Steering Committee, membership in the Steering Committee will be terminated.