FIFTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION OEA/Ser.P

November 10 to 12, 2021 AG/INF.735/21

Guatemala City, Guatemala 8 November 2021

VIRTUAL Original: Spanish

PROCEDURAL ASPECTS FOR THE FIFTY-FIRST- REGULAR SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR

SECRET IN-PERSON VOTING

Procedural aspects of the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly:

* + The format for the General Assembly will be virtual;
	+ The member states will forward their letters of accreditation with the list of the members of the delegation;
	+ For technical reasons, only up to a maximum of five (5) delegates will be able to enter the virtual plenary sessions, which will be broadcast live; and up to a maximum of ten (10) delegates will be able to enter the virtual meetings of the General Committee;
	+ The delegations will provide the names and email addresses of their accredited delegates who are to enter the plenary sessions and the meetings of the General Committee;
	+ During the plenary sessions and the meetings of the General Committee, requests for the floor will be made using the KUDO technological platform. The Chair will offer the floor in the order in which it is requested;
	+ The permanent observers will forward their letters of accreditation with the list of the members of their delegation. For technical reasons, during the plenary sessions and meetings of the General Committee only two (2) delegates per observer state with permanent representation to the OAS and only one (1) delegate per state without permanent representation to the OAS may enter the virtual rooms at a time;
* The accreditation system will open on October 12, 2021;
* Three test (3) sessions will be held so that all participants in the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly can test their equipment. These test sessions will be held on October 22, October 29, and November 5, 2021;

**Access to the OAS Main Building and use of the Hall of the Americas**

* For entry to the premises, all persons will have their temperature taken;
* Persons entering the Main Building will be required to clean their hands with disinfectant gel;
* All persons will be required to wear a mask and maintain social distancing of 6 feet;
* All participants are expected to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, with two (2) doses or one (1) dose, as applies;
* A maximum of two (2) delegates per delegation may connect to the plenary sessions from the Hall of the Americas;
* All delegations must inform the Secretariat, by November 3, 2021, by email to 51AGOEA@oas.org, if they will attend the Hall of the Americas in person;
* Chairs in the Hall of the Americas will be arranged so as to maintain between them a minimum distance of six feet;
* Neither microphones nor interpretation services will be available in the Hall of the Americas. Interpretation will be available only over the KUDO platform, for which all participants must bring their own laptop computer and headphones. An in-person technical test will be conducted on November 5, 2021, to allow participants to test their equipment;
* Owing to the health and security measures imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Secretariat regrets to advise that food service will not be available in the Main Building during the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly;
* For delegations wishing to connect from the Hall of the Americas, it will be available as of November 11, 2021;

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SECRET IN-PERSON BALLOTING DURING THE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD AT THE FIFTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION

OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Department of Conferences and Meetings Management will make all necessary arrangements for conducting the secret balloting during the elections to be held at the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly, taking precautions due to the special circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. The logistical aspects of the secret balloting are described below:

**Arrangements for secret in-person voting**

* Balloting will be conducted in the Hall of the Americas of the OAS Main Building, observing all security, health, and cleaning measures required by the authorities as protection against and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic;
* All ballot boxes will be placed in front of the podium;
* The delegations connected from the Hall of the Americas will be given in hall the envelopes containing all ballot papers and will vote in turn, casting their ballots and coming up to the urn once to deposit their ballots for all votes;
* The delegations not connected from the Hall of the Americas are requested to designate for the balloting one representative of their accredited delegation and to report his or her name to the following email address: 51AGOEA@oas.org;
* The time for balloting will be in accordance with the Calendar adopted for the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly;
* The representatives must wear a mask at all times;
* The delegates not present in hall may enter through the main entrance to the Main Building lobby and will be directed to the Hall of the Americas to pick up their ballots;
* When his or her country is announced, the delegate will deposit at the same time the ballots for all vacant positions;
* When delegates have voted, they may return to their designated seats in the Hall of the Americas or may wait in the Hall of Heroes;
* The voting site will have an appropriately placed camera from which the voting process will be broadcast live to the plenary;
* The delegations will remain in the Main Building until the count is conducted and the elections concluded;
* When voting has concluded, the tellers will conduct the counting and broadcast the results live to the plenary;
* The tellers will have access to all elements of the voting process so as to guarantee to the member states the transparency and legitimacy of the process;
* If necessary, a second round will be conducted following the same procedure as that for the first.

AG08337E05

AG08394E01

