



# General Assembly

Seventy-ninth session

**75<sup>th</sup>** plenary meeting

Wednesday, 4 June 2025, 10 a.m.

New York

Official Records

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*President:* Mr. Yang ..... (Cameroon)

*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

## Agenda item 114 (continued)

### Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

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

##### **Note verbale dated 5 May 2025 from the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat (A/79/901)**

**The President:** The Assembly will first proceed to a by-election to elect members of the Economic and Social Council to fill the seats of the members that are relinquishing their seats before the end of their terms, in accordance with rule 140 of the rules of procedure. The election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council will take place immediately after that.

In connection with the by-election, I would like to draw the attention of members to a note verbale dated 5 May 2025 from the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat (A/79/901). In the note verbale, the Permanent Mission of Italy, in its capacity as Chair of the Group of Western European and other States for the month of May, communicated that the following members will relinquish their seats on the Economic and Social Council at the end of 2025: Liechtenstein in favour of Germany, for a term of office expiring on 31 December 2026; Switzerland in favour of the United States of America, for a term of office expiring on 31 December 2027; and Italy in favour of Switzerland, for a term of office expiring on 31 December 2027. In effect, Switzerland will remain a member of the Council for the term of office expiring on 31 December 2027.

As a result, two vacancies in the Council will occur. The seat relinquished by Liechtenstein effective 1 January 2026, for the term of office expiring on 31 December 2026, will need to be filled, and Germany is the candidate for it. The seat relinquished by Italy effective 1 January 2026, for the term of office expiring on 31 December 2027, will need to be filled, and the United States of America is the candidate for it. In accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 2847 (XXVI), of

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20 December 1971, and taking into account that the vacancy will occur from among the Western European and other States, the new member should be elected from that region. I would like to inform the Assembly that the candidates that receive a two-thirds majority of members present and voting and the greatest number of votes will be declared elected. In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot.

I should like to inform members that, as of 1 January 2026, the following seven States from among the Western European and other States will be represented on the Economic and Social Council: Austria, Canada, France, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The names of those States should therefore not appear on the ballot paper.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind representatives that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting. In addition, ballot papers will be given only to the delegate seated directly behind the country's nameplate.

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

Ballot papers will now be distributed, and the voting has thus begun.

In accordance with resolution 71/323, of 8 September 2017, the names of the States that have been communicated to the Secretariat have been printed on the ballot papers. Additional blank lines corresponding to the number of vacancies to be filled from each regional group have been provided on the ballot paper for inscribing other States, if desired.

I request representatives to use only those ballot papers that have been distributed and to put an "X" in the boxes next to the names of Member States printed on the ballot paper or to write the names of other eligible States on the blank lines. If the box next to the name of a State is checked, the name of that State does not have to be repeated on the blank line. The total number of checked boxes and handwritten names should not exceed the number of vacant seats to be filled as indicated on the ballot paper.

If the ballot paper contains a vote for a Member State that does not belong to the region concerned or that continues to be a member of the Council next year, the ballot paper will be declared invalid.

If a mistake is made in filling out the ballot paper, representatives should request a new ballot paper from the Secretariat. A blank ballot paper will be considered an abstention.

Finally, if a ballot paper contains any notation other than a vote in favour of an eligible Member State, those notations will be disregarded.

*At the invitation of the President, the representatives of Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Jamaica, Latvia, the Philippines and South Africa acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

*The meeting was suspended at 10.20 a.m. and resumed at 10.50 a.m.*

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

*Western European and other States (1 seat)*

Number of ballot papers:

188

Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	188
Abstentions:	17
Number of members present and voting:	171
Required two-thirds majority:	114
Number of votes obtained:	
Germany	171
<i>Western European and other States (1 seat)</i>	
Number of ballots:	188
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	188
Abstentions:	17
Number of members present and voting:	171
Required two-thirds majority:	114
Number of votes obtained:	
United States of America	170
Andorra	1

*Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Germany was elected as a member of the Economic and Social Council for a term of office beginning on 1 January 2026 and ending on 31 December 2026. Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, the United States of America was elected as a member of the Economic and Social Council for a term of office beginning on 1 January 2026 and ending on 31 December 2027.*

**The President:** I congratulate Germany and the United States of America on having been elected members of the Economic and Social Council.

The General Assembly will now proceed to the election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 2025.

The 17 outgoing members are: Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Türkiye. Pursuant to rule 146 of the rules of procedure, those countries are eligible for immediate re-election.

Members will also recall that one vacancy for a member from the Eastern European States remains to be filled for a term of office beginning on the date of election and ending on 31 December 2025.

As of 1 January 2026, the following States will be represented on the Economic and Social Council: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Haiti, Japan, Kenya, Mauritania, Mexico, Nepal, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Zambia. The names of these States should therefore not appear on the ballot papers.

In accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 2847 (XXVI), of 20 December 1971, and taking into account the number of States that will remain members of the Economic and Social Council after 1 January 2026, the 18 members should be elected as follows: four from the African States; four from the Asia-Pacific States; three from the Eastern European States; three from the Latin American and Caribbean

States; and four from the Western European and other States. The ballot papers reflect that pattern.

I should like to inform the Assembly that those candidates, not exceeding the number of seats to be filled, receiving the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, will be declared elected. If the number of candidates obtaining a two-thirds majority is less than the number of members to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled. Also, consistent with past practice, in the case of a tied vote, and when it becomes necessary to determine the candidates to be elected or the ones to proceed to the next round of restricted balloting, 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 Assembly agrees to these procedures?

*It was so decided.*

**The President:** Regarding candidatures, I have been informed of the following. For the four vacant seats for the African States, four candidates have been communicated, namely Burundi, Chad, Mozambique and Sierra Leone. For the four vacant seats for the Asia-Pacific States, four endorsed candidates have been communicated, namely China, India, Lebanon and Turkmenistan. For the three vacant seats for the Eastern European States, five candidates have been communicated, namely Belarus, Croatia, North Macedonia, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. For the three vacant seats for the Latin American and Caribbean States, three candidates have been communicated, namely Ecuador, Peru and Saint Kitts and Nevis. For the four vacant seats for the Western European and other States, four endorsed candidates have been communicated, namely Australia, Finland, Norway and Türkiye.

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 representatives that pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting. In addition, ballot papers will only be given to the representative seated directly behind the country's nameplate.

We shall now begin the voting process. Members are requested to remain seated until all ballots have been collected. Ballot papers marked "A", "B", "C", "D" and "E" will now be distributed. The voting has thus begun.

In accordance with resolution 71/323, of 8 September 2017, the names of the States that have been communicated to the Secretariat, at least 48 hours prior to the election today, have been printed on the ballot papers for each of the regional groups. Additional blank lines corresponding to the number of vacant seats to be filled from each of the regional groups have been provided on the ballot papers for inscribing other names, if desired.

I request representatives to use only those ballot papers that have been distributed and to put an "X" in the boxes next to the names of the Member States from the relevant region for whom they wish to vote, and to write other eligible names on the blank lines. If the box next to the name printed on the ballot paper is checked, the name of that State does not need to be repeated on the blank line. The total number of checked boxes and handwritten names should not exceed the number of vacant seats to be filled, as indicated on the ballot paper.

A ballot paper will be declared invalid if it contains more names of States from the relevant region than the number of seats allocated to it. Accordingly, for the ballot papers marked "A", for the African States, the total number of checked boxes

and handwritten names should not exceed four; for the ballot papers marked “B”, for the Asia-Pacific States, the total number of checked boxes and handwritten names should not exceed four; for the ballot papers marked “C”, for the Eastern European States, the total number of checked boxes and handwritten names should not exceed three; for the ballot papers marked “D”, for the Latin American and Caribbean States, the total number of checked boxes and handwritten names should not exceed three; and for the ballot papers marked “E”, for the Western European and other States, the total number of checked boxes and handwritten names should not exceed four.

A ballot paper will be declared invalid if none of the names of the States on that ballot for which votes were cast belong to the relevant region. If a ballot paper for a region contains one of the following, the ballot remains valid but the vote for those States will not be counted: names of Member States that do not belong to the region concerned or Member States that will continue to be members of the Council. If a ballot paper contains any notation other than votes in favour of specific eligible candidates, those notations will be disregarded.

*At the invitation of the President, the representatives of Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Jamaica, Latvia, the Philippines and South Africa acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

*The meeting was suspended at 11.10 a.m. and resumed at 12.35 p.m.*

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

*Group A — African States (4 seats)*

Number of ballot papers:	189
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	189
Abstentions:	0
Number of members present and voting:	189
Required two-thirds majority:	126
Number of votes obtained:	
Mozambique:	186
Sierra Leone:	186
Burundi:	184
Chad:	183

*Group B — Asia and Pacific States (4 seats)*

Number of ballot papers:	189
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	189
Abstentions:	2
Number of members present and voting:	187
Required two-thirds majority:	125
Number of votes obtained:	
Lebanon:	183
Turkmenistan:	183
India:	181
China:	180

*Group C — Eastern European States (3 seats)*

Number of ballot papers:	189
Number of invalid ballots:	4
Number of valid ballots:	185
Abstentions:	1
Number of members present and voting:	184
Required two-thirds majority:	123

Number of votes obtained:	
Croatia:	146
Ukraine:	130
Russian Federation:	108
Belarus:	96
North Macedonia:	59

*Group D — Latin American and Caribbean States (3 seats)*

Number of ballot papers:	189
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	189
Abstentions:	2
Number of members present and voting:	187
Required two-thirds majority:	125
Number of votes obtained:	
Ecuador:	182
Peru:	182
Saint Kitts and Nevis:	180

*Group E — Western European and other States (4 seats)*

Number of ballot papers:	189
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	189
Abstentions:	9
Number of members present and voting:	180
Required two-thirds majority:	120
Number of votes obtained:	
Türkiye:	174
Finland:	173
Australia:	172
Norway:	169
Andorra:	1

*Having obtained the required two-thirds majority of members present and voting and the greatest number of votes, the following 17 States are elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2026: Australia, Burundi, Chad, China, Croatia, Ecuador, Finland, India, Lebanon, Mozambique, Norway, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sierra Leone, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.*

**The President:** I congratulate the States that have just been elected members of the Economic and Social Council, and I thank the tellers for their assistance in the election.

There still remains one seat to be filled from among the Eastern European States. We shall therefore proceed to the first round of restricted balloting, which, in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure, shall be restricted to the two States from among the Eastern European States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous unrestricted ballot, namely, Belarus and the Russian Federation.

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. Any announcements, including those concerning withdrawals of candidatures, should therefore be made prior to the commencement of the voting process, that is to say, before the announcement of the beginning of the voting process.

We shall now begin the voting process. Members are requested to remain seated until all ballots have been collected. Ballot papers will now be distributed and the voting has thus begun.

I request representatives to put an "X" in the boxes next to the names of the States on the ballot papers for which they wish to vote. A ballot paper will be declared invalid if the name of more than one State is checked. Also, if a ballot paper contains any notation other than votes in favour of eligible candidates, those notations will be disregarded.

*At the invitation of the President, the representatives of Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Jamaica, Latvia, Philippines and South Africa acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

*The meeting was suspended at 12.50 p.m. and resumed at 1.05 p.m.*

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

<i>Eastern European States (1 seat)</i>	
Number of ballot papers:	187
Number of invalid ballots:	3
Number of valid ballots:	184
Abstentions:	23
Number of members present and voting:	161
Required two-thirds majority:	108
Number of votes obtained:	
Russian Federation:	115
Belarus:	46

*Having obtained the required two-thirds majority of members present and voting and the largest number of votes, the Russian Federation was elected as a member of the Economic and Social Council for a term of office beginning on 1 January 2026 and ending on 31 December 2028.*

**The President:** I congratulate the Russian Federation on having been elected a member of the Economic and Social Council, and I thank the tellers for their assistance in the election.

The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 114.

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*