

General Assembly

26th session
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

7-11 November 2025

Agenda item 2**Election of the President and
Vice-Presidents of the Assembly**

A/26/2

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**Executive summary**

The General Assembly is called upon to elect its President and Vice-Presidents at the beginning of its session. The Vice-Presidents are recommended by the Regional Commissions. The guidelines for elections and the functions of the officers are also recalled in this document.

DRAFT RESOLUTION¹

Agenda item 2

Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Assembly
(document A/26/2)

The General Assembly,

1. *Declares* elected Saudi Arabia as President of its twenty-sixth session, represented by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Al-Khatib, Minister of Tourism of Saudi Arabia; and
2. *Declares elected* as Vice-Presidents of its twenty-sixth session:

Africa:

- Nigeria
- Zimbabwe

Americas:

- Bahamas
- Chile

East Asia and the Pacific:

- Philippines

Europe:

- Lithuania
- Switzerland

South Asia:

- Maldives

¹ This is a draft resolution. For the final resolution adopted by the Assembly, please refer to the Resolutions document issued at the end of the session.

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with Articles 12 and 13 of the Statutes of the World Tourism Organization, the General Assembly is called upon to elect its President and Vice-Presidents at the beginning of its session.
2. The President and Vice-Presidents are considered as the Officers of the Assembly for the duration of the session and are elected from among the Full Members.
3. The Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly establish the guidelines for election of the President and Vice-Presidents and their functions:

“Rule 16 – Officers of the Assembly:

- (1) *The session of the Assembly shall be opened by the President of the preceding session or by the head of the delegation to which he belonged.*
- (2) *The Assembly shall elect its President.*
- (3) *The Assembly shall elect its Vice-Presidents on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, making allowance for the region represented by the President.*

Rule 17 – Functions of the President and Vice-Presidents:

- (1) *The President shall ensure the observance of these Rules of Procedure. He/she shall declare the opening and close of each plenary meeting, direct the discussions at plenary meetings, grant the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce the decisions. He/she shall rule on points of order and, subject to the provisions of these Rules of Procedure, ensure the orderly conduct of business at each meeting. He/she may propose a limitation of the time allowed to each speaker or the closing of the list of speakers. He/she may also declare the suspension of the debates.*
- (2) *The President shall not participate in the discussions or votes.*
- (3) *He/she shall be responsible to the Assembly while it is in session.*
- (4) *The President may appoint one of the Vice-Presidents to replace him/her during a meeting or a part of a meeting. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.*
- (5) *If the President is unable to perform his functions, a new President shall be elected by the Assembly for the unexpired term.*
- (6) *The President shall represent the Organization during his/her term of office, on all occasions on which such representation is necessary.*

Rule 43 – Voting

- (1) *All elections as well as the appointment of the Secretary-General shall be made by secret ballot.”*

II. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents

4. Notwithstanding the above-mentioned rules, it is nevertheless recalled that the Presidents of the previous twenty-five sessions of the Assembly were all elected by acclamation after consultations among delegations, the head of delegation of the host country being traditionally chosen for this office – Saudi Arabia in the case of the 26th session of the General Assembly.
5. The Regional Commissions held prior to the General Assembly nominate candidates to represent their regions as Vice-Presidents.

6. The following Regional Commissions have already taken place in 2025: the 51st meeting of the Commission for the Middle East (12 February 2025, Doha, Qatar); the 56th meeting of the Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the 60th meeting of the Commission for South Asia (15 April 2025, Jakarta, Indonesia); the 71st meeting of the Commission for Europe (5 June, Baku, Azerbaijan); the 68th meeting of the Commission for Africa (11 June 2025, Abuja, Nigeria) and the 70th meeting of the Commission for the Americas (1 August 2025, Lima, Peru);
7. The Regional Commissions have elected the following Member States as Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly:

Africa:

- Nigeria
- Zimbabwe

Americas:

- Bahamas
- Chile

East Asia and the Pacific:

- Philippines

Europe:

- Lithuania
- Switzerland

South Asia:

- Maldives
