

Rules of Procedure Review Group (RRG)

Intermediate report
WGSR 61



Active participation by:

- Eduard Dame (NL, chair)
- Dominique Pritula (CND)
- Catharine Bloodworth (CND)
- John Salter (UK)
- Heidi Ravnborg (DK)
- Alex Hurley (EC)
- Eva Salplachtova (CZ)
- Alina Novikova (CLRTAP S)
- Miriam Koestner (CLRTAP S)

Rules of Procedure Review Group (RRG)

Intermediate report
WGSR 61

Three guiding principles

- Members of the Rules of Procedure Revision Group (RRG) are committed to their task and will work together collegially and cooperatively to achieve the best possible outcome for the functioning of the Convention in all its entities
- Input of Parties should lead the work of the group. In addition, supplemented with insights from members of the group
- the Rules of Procedure as posted on the homepage of the website of the Convention should be as complete as possible and may duplicate existing rules from other sources, like Executive Body decisions, if appropriate

Rules of Procedure Review Group (RRG)

Intermediate report
WGSR 61

Easy access

Environmental Policy

Conventions and Protocols

Air

40 years. Clean air.

The Air Convention and its Protocols >

Convention bodies >

Guidance documents >

Capacity building

International cooperation

Cross-sectoral linkages >

Meetings and Events

E-learning

Publications

Videos and audios

Geneva Air Quality Index

Contact us

Air

INTRODUCTION

Air pollution impacts our health, environment and economy. Air pollutants come from multiple sources. It is therefore paramount that we take action together — across sectors and national boundaries.

To improve air quality, UNECE member States have been working successfully to reduce air pollution in the region through the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. Eight protocols identify specific measures to be taken by Parties to cut their emissions. The Convention provides access to [emission, measurement and modelling data](#) and information on the [effects of air pollution on ecosystems, health, crops and materials](#). To learn more about the Convention, watch a video by clicking on the picture.



IN FOCUS



[Workplan 2022-2023](#)

[Long-term strategy](#)

[Rules of procedure](#)

[Anniversary Declaration on Clean Air](#)

Rules of Procedure Review Group (RRG)

Intermediate report
WGSR 61

Issues identified for guidance during WGSR 61:

- A. Hybrid meetings with remote participation
- B. Composition of the EB Bureau: geographical balance, gender parity and 4 instead of 3 vice chairs of the Executive Body
- C. More flexibility for next term in case of re-election
- D. Voting rules for electing officers in case of no consensus
- E. Voting rules for decision making (including for subsidiary bodies)

Rules of Procedure Review Group (RRG)

Intermediate report
WGSR 61

Hybrid meetings with remote participation

- The Bureau should decide when to switch from an in person meeting to a hybrid meeting with remote participation
- Hybrid meetings with remote participation definitely need some additional or alternative operating rules
- However, closely defined rules for hybrid meetings may not be suitable for all possible future situations in which hybrid meetings may be necessary
- A possible way forward could be that Bureau will set provisionally the operating, based on a draft by the secretariat and that these will be applied to the extent necessary until the Executive Body can adopt them.

Rules of Procedure Review Group (RRG)

Intermediate report
WGSR 61

Number of EB vice chairs /composition of the EB Bureau

- The composition of the EB Bureau should respect geographical balance and gender parity
- 4 instead of 3 EB vice chairs is also suggested by a number of Parties
- Main argument: 4 vice chairs make it more easy to meet geographical balance and gender parity
- Note for consideration: in case of 4 Vice Chairs, one of them could be elected as first vice-chair

Rules of Procedure Review Group (RRG)

Intermediate report
WGSR 61

More flexibility for next term in case of re-election

- No specific RRG-opinion on a possible change of the length of the first term (currently two years)
- However, if changed to three years, and the second term still equals the first term, officers who are not in position to accept another term of three years, will waive re-election
- Therefore, more flexibility is needed regarding the length of the second term (in casu one, two or even three years)
- In concrete terms this would mean that if the first **term remains two year**, an officer can stay 2, 3 or 4 year on its post.
- If the first term is **set at three years**, an officer can stay 3, 4, 5 or 6 year at its post.
- In both cases this may be even longer, if the EB makes use of the existing rule to overrule the provision that an officer cannot serve longer than two terms of office

Rules of Procedure Review Group (RRG)

Intermediate report
WGSR 61

Voting rules for electing officers in case of no consensus

- The current Rules of Procedure lack specific voting rules for electing officers in case of no consensus
- The EB may decide to rectify this omission by introducing appropriate voting rules comparable to what is common in other conventions
- A possible set of voting rules can be found in the Annex to the informal RRG-document under Rule 17b

Rules of Procedure Review Group (RRG)

Intermediate report
WGSR 61

Voting rules for decision making (including for subsidiary bodies) in case of no consensus

- Parties may want to consider adding a paragraph to explain how voting on should be carried out on all issues other than electing officers in case of no consensus; by show of hands or by roll call if requested by any Party.
- the existing provision that “the result of the vote of each Party participating in a vote shall be recorded in the report of the meeting”” by a more practical provision like “the overall result of the vote shall be recorded in the report of the meeting and each party may request that in addition, its vote will be also explicitly mentioned in the report of the meeting”.

Rules of Procedure Review Group (RRG)

Intermediate report
WGSR 61

Lower order options that probably can be taken on board without further discussion

- Frequency of Executive Body meetings (Rule 3.1)
- Temporary absence or premature resignation of the Chair (Rule 19)
- The Executive Body Bureau under a separate heading (Rule 20)
- Transparency Requirements for Executive Body Bureau Meetings (Rule 20.4)
- Voting Rules for Subsidiary Bodies (Rule 21.6)

Rules of Procedure Review Group (RRG)

Intermediate report
WGSR 61

Other items discussed by the RRG

- The composition of the EB Bureau (Rule 20)
- Intersessional Decision-Making (Rule 29)
- Amendments to these rules of procedure shall be adopted by consensus of the Executive Body (Rule 33)

Rules of Procedure Review Group (RRG)

Intermediate report
WGSR 61

Possible recommendations for the report of WGSR or for consideration by the EB Bureau

- Use the possibility that every one can follow any meeting of the EB or subsidiary body via UNTV broadcast or a Webex Livestream
- The Secretariat should start drafting the general rules for hybrid meetings, for adoption in a separate document by the EB
- Consider a review/revision the mandate of the EB Bureau for the benefit of an even better functioning of the Convention as a whole

Rules of Procedure Review Group (RRG)

Intermediate report
WGSR 61

Way forward

- The ad hoc group of legal experts will deliver its opinion before EB 43
- If the WGSR wishes to do so, key questions for the ad hoc group of legal experts could be formulated
- Taking into account the findings of WGSR 61, the informal report for this meeting will be the basis for a formal document for EB 43, provided that the findings of the WGSR are of such nature that no further work is required by the RRG
- Under the assumption that Parties will be ready to do so, EB 43 could adopt amendments of the Rules of Procedure (by consensus)

Many thanks for your attention