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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety

Eighty-ninth session

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Item 10 of the provisional agenda

Election of officers

Nomination/Voting of Chair/Vice-Chairs under current situation

Submitted by the Secretariat

Background:

In the past, WP.1 managed to reach consensus for decision making and elections. In year 2022 at the 84th session of ITC, during the regular session the elections of Chair, Vice-Chairs and Bureau Members had to be adjourned as no consensus could be reached, and a special session of ITC for elections needed to be organized.

In preparation for this special session, all applicable rules and guidelines were thoroughly analyzed, and feasibility and applicability checked with legal support both from OLA and UNOG lawyers.

Election of officers in WP.1 Rules of Procedures:

According to Rule 12 of the rules of procedure of the Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/100/Add.1) "*Every two years, WP.1 shall, at the end of the last session of the second year, elect from among the representatives of members of the ECE a Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons, who shall take office at the start of the first session of the year following their election. The officers shall be eligible for re-election.*"

In chapter VII titled "Conduct of Business" in Rule 25 provides that " Rules 25 to 28 and 30 to 33 of the Rules of Procedure of ECE are applicable mutatis mutandis.", which do not cover information on the quorum.¹

¹ In this case, Rule 25 of the Inland Transport Committee's rules of procedure would appear to be applicable as WP.1 is a subsidiary body of the sectoral committee; ITC RoP Rule 25 states "... The presence of one third of ECE member States shall be required for any decision to be taken."

Chapter VIII titled "Voting" covers in

"Rule 27

Each member of ECE shall have one vote.

Rule 28

Decisions of WP.1 shall preferably be made on the basis of consensus. In the absence of consensus, decisions shall be made by a majority of the members of ECE, present and voting.

Rule 29

Voting and elections of officers shall be held in accordance with Rules 37 to 39 of the Rules of Procedure of ECE."

The referenced Rules of the Rules of Procedure of the ECE as replicated in WP.1 Rules of Procedure provide for performing elections:

"Rule 38

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot, unless, in the absence of any objection, the Commission decides to proceed without taking a ballot on an agreed candidate or slate."

On the nomination of candidates applicable guidance is provided in the ITC Rules of Procedure, Rule 12 (c):

"(c) Nominations for the positions referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) above will be submitted to the secretariat, if possible, ten days before the start of the session during which elections will be conducted."

Practical implications for upcoming WP.1 elections:

Following the current situation, elections would require the use of secret ballot:

- Nominations for the position of Chairperson and Vice Chairpersons need to be submitted to the secretariat ten days before the start of the session.

For performing elections by secret ballot, the following pre-requisites would be necessary:

- Elections need attendance in person of a one third of members as per Rule 1 (a) of WP.1 RoP.
 - Accreditation for the representatives casting the vote.
 - Infrastructure for secret ballot process (e.g. ballots, ballot box).
 - The secretariat will process the vote/elections.
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