



Governing Board recommendation on the term of office of vice-presidents of the ISC

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For adoption

1. At the extraordinary ISC General Assembly in February 2021, at which changes to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure were proposed and voted on, it was proposed from the floor that the term of office of the Vice-President (VP) for Finance and Fundraising be made renewable for a second term of three years, in the interest of consolidation of expertise and continuity of experience. It was also suggested that the terms of office of vice-presidents be staggered to allow for a smoother transfer of information and experience.
2. In the ensuing discussion there was some support from the members to consider the renewability of terms of office for all three vice-president roles (not only VP for Finance and Fundraising), in the interest of consistency.
3. As the issue could not be decided during the meeting, it was agreed that the question would be revisited by the Governing Board after the meeting and that their recommendation would be presented at the General Assembly in October 2021.
4. Statute 26 of the revised Statutes currently reads:

‘The President and Vice-Presidents shall hold office for one term of three years, non-renewable.’
5. The Governing Board subsequently decided at its 12th meeting in March 2021 to ask the Working Group¹ that was tasked with drafting the revisions to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure to reconvene to analyse the question and propose options for the Governing Board to consider.

¹ Comprising: Daya Reddy (Chair), Peter Gluckman, Alik Ismail-Zadeh, Saths Cooper, Heide Hackmann.

6. The Working Group thereupon met on 5 May 2021 to discuss the question of renewing and/or staggering the terms of office of the vice-presidents and decided to recommend against both types of measure, for the following reasons:
- a) Continuity and consolidation of expertise in the Governing Board cannot be assured by allowing one or all vice-presidents to be re-elected for a second term, since there is no guarantee that incumbent vice-presidents will stand for re-election or in fact be re-elected.
 - b) A good degree of continuity in the governance of the Council is assured through:
 - a. the President-elect, who becomes President
 - b. the professional ISC secretariat.
 - c) One or more Ordinary members of the Governing Board may stand for re-election and be re-elected, contributing to continuity.
 - d) Staggering terms of office alone would produce a complex and possibly disruptive situation without necessarily improving continuity.

The Governing Board therefore recommends that the Statutes not be changed.