
Fifth Assembly of International Solar Alliance
18 October 2022
New Delhi, Republic of India

18 September 2022

Agenda Item 16

Proposed Amendment for the Selection of the Vice Chair for the Regional Committees

Summary

This document presents the ISA Secretariat's proposed amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the ISA Assembly regarding the procedure of selection of the Vice Chair of the Regional Committee, for the information of the Members.

Proposed Amendment for the Selection of the Vice Chair for the Regional Committees

Background:

Amendment to Rule 2, Annex II Relating to Vice Chair of the Regional Committee Meeting

Rule 77 of the Rules of Procedure of the ISA Assembly empowers the ISA Assembly to establish Committee(s), as it deems necessary, for the performance of its functions and to make decisions regarding the further implementation of all ISA Programmes.

Pursuant to Rule 77, the ISA Assembly established the Regional Committee to assist with regional coordination and highlight regional concerns and views on matters related to the Assembly.

The Regional Committee comprises of all the members from the region, the two Vice Presidents of the Standing Committee and a Vice Chair elected by the members of the region.

Rules Pertaining to Chair and Vice Chair

Rule 79 of the Rules of Procedure of the ISA Assembly provides for the selection of the Vice Presidents of the Standing Committee as follows:

“The Vice Presidents of the Standing Committee will be selected on rotation basis from the ISA member countries in the specific region on the basis of seniority in terms of submission of the instrument of ratification with the depositary. Countries joining the ISA after 31 October 2019, will be placed at the end of the members list in the order of joining. On completion of the two-year term, the next two countries on the list will represent the region in the Standing Committee.”

Rule 79 read with Annex III of the Rules of Procedure of the ISA Assembly lays down the provisions relating to the establishment of the Regional Committee. Rule 2 of Annex III captures the provision relating to Chair and Vice Chair of the Regional Committee as follows:

“2. Chair and Vice-Chair

The Vice-Presidents of the Standing Committee selected from four regions shall serve as the Chairs of the Regional Committees as per para (1) above¹. The member countries of the respective regions will also elect one of the other members of the Regional Committee

¹ As per Annexure 3: Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committees, listed in the Rules of Procedure of the ISA Assembly, under ‘Roles of Regional Committees’, para 1 enlists the following:

“1. Composition

The two Vice Presidents of the Standing Committee selected from the region will function as the Chair of the respective Regional Committee for one-year duration each in the order of submission of the instrument of ratification of the Framework Agreement with the depositary. All the Members from the region would be represented in the respective regional Committees.”

to be the Vice-Chair of the Regional Committee. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall have a term of one year.”

Application of Rules in Practice

Based on Rule 79, the Vice Presidents selected for the four regions of the ISA from 2020 to 2022, serving as the Chairs of the Regional Committees, are as follows:

- a) **Asia and the Pacific** – Republic of Fiji and Republic of Nauru
- b) **Africa** – Republic of Mauritius and Republic of Niger
- c) **Latin America and the Caribbean** – Co-operative Republic of Guyana and Republic of Cuba
- d) **Europe and Others** – United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Based on Rule 2 of Annexure III of the Rules of Procedure of the ISA Assembly, the member countries of the respective regions to elect one of the other members of the Regional Committee to be the Vice-Chair of the Regional Committee.

During the Fourth Regional Committee Meeting for the Asia and the Pacific Region, Tuvalu was unanimously appointed as the Vice Chair. In all the other regions, it was decided that since both the Vice Presidents were present, a Vice Chair need not be appointed.

Justification for Proposed Amendment

During the Third Regional Committee Meeting for the Asia and the Pacific region in August 2021, the ISA Secretariat was mandated by the Regional Committee to develop and implement the procedure for the election/selection of the Vice-Chair of the Regional Committee under ‘*Agenda Item 3: Election of the Vice-Chair*’.

Pursuant to the mandate of the Regional Committee for the Asia and the Pacific, the ISA Secretariat identified that the Chair is selected whereas the Vice Chair is elected. This caused an inherent conflict wherein the Chair, who presides over the meeting, is selected whereas the Vice Chair is elected. Therefore, the amendment proposed by the ISA Secretariat will allow the countries to be Chair and Vice Chair in a sequential manner, thus ensuring continuity for 4 years.

Proposed Amendment to Rule 2, Annex III

The ISA Secretariat proposes to amend Rule 2 of Annex III such that the Vice Chair is also selected as per their seniority based on the date of deposit of the Instrument of Ratification i.e., the two senior-most member countries become the Chair for one year each and the two member countries following them become Vice Chair for one year each. The amended Rule 2 of Annex III would read as follows:

“2. Chair and Vice-Chair

The Vice-Presidents of the Standing Committee selected from four regions shall serve as the Chairs of the Regional Committees as per para (1) above. The next two senior most member countries from the region, following the two Vice Presidents, in terms of date of submission of instrument of ratification with the depositary will function as the Vice-Chair of the respective Regional Committees for one-year duration each in the order of submission of the instrument of ratification. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall have a term of one year.”

Next Step

The Fifth Assembly of ISA is therefore invited to consider the amendment proposed by the ISA Secretariat and approve it.
