PROCEDURES FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE[1]

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Assembly, at its twenty-ninth session, identified the need for the development of procedures for the appointment of the Members of the Advisory Committee which is a permanent subsidiary organ established by the Assembly.

1.2 Rule 18(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly provides that at each regular session, the Assembly shall appoint an Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from a minimum of fifteen Parties and a maximum of preferably one-third of the total membership of the Organization, taking into account the need for full geographical representation, and for continuity of membership.

1.3 In accordance with Rule 18(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the procedures for the appointment of the Members of the Advisory Committee (the "Procedures") establish a structured framework for the appointment of the Members of the Advisory Committee.

2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

2.1 The appointment process must be transparent and inclusive, ensuring equal opportunities for all Parties to participate while achieving balanced geographical representation and maintaining continuity of membership to preserve institutional knowledge and support the interest of the membership as a whole.

2.2 All appointments should comply with Rule 18(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

2.3 The Advisory Committee shall carry out the tasks set by the Assembly in accordance with its Terms of Reference. In particular, paragraph 2.2 of the Terms of Reference provides that any Party that is not a Member of the Advisory Committee may participate in its deliberations without participating in the recommendations and advice to the Assembly.

2.4 These Procedures do not introduce any control mechanisms for compliance nor do they create additional administrative burden for IMSO Parties or the Directorate.

[1] The original text of the Procedures for the appointment of Members to the Advisory Committee was adopted by Assembly 30 (October 2026)

3. PARTICULAR CHARACTERISTICS AND INTERESTS

3.1 The following non-exhaustive list provides indicative examples of characteristics and interests that may be taken into account by IMSO Parties when seeking membership of the Advisory Committee.

.1 Parties that are Contracting Governments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), with interests related to the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) and the Long-Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) system;

.2 Parties that host, or are home of the main or a branch of, a Recognized Mobile Satellite Service Provider;

.3 Parties with an interest in providing Search and Rescue services; and

.4 Parties that are active in safeguarding the electromagnetic spectrum.

4. GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS

4.1 For the purpose of Rule 11 and Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the membership of the Organization is assumed to be grouped into four geographical regions[2]: Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe.

4.2 When a State joins the Organization as Party, it should indicate, or be requested to indicate, the region to which it wishes to be affiliated.

5. NOMINATION PROCESS

5.1 At least eight (8) weeks before a regular session of the Assembly, the Directorate shall issue a Circular Letter informing all Parties that the appointment of the Members of the Advisory Committee will be conducted by the Assembly at its forthcoming session, in accordance with Rule18(2) of the Rules of the Procedure of the Assembly and to these Procedures

5.2 The Circular letter should also remind all Parties, including Parties interested in becoming Members of the Advisory Committee, to transmit their credentials in accordance with Rule 7 of the Rules of the Procedure of the Assembly.

5.3 The Circular Letter should include:

.1 a copy of the Procedures for the appointment of the Members of the Advisory Committee;

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[2] Rule 11 (1) stated that the Assembly shall ensure that, in the election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Assembly, membership of the Credentials Committee and of the Advisory Committee, regional representation is taken into account. For this purpose, the membership of the Organization is assumed to be grouped into four regions: Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe.

.2 historical information on the membership of the Advisory Committee since its establishment at the fourteenth session of the Assembly in February 1999; and

.3 relevant information on the regional composition of the Organization (Africa, Americas, Asia and Pacific, and Europe).

6. INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE ASSEMBLY

6.1 At each regular session of the Assembly, the Director General should submit a document concerning the appointment of the Members of the Advisory Committee. The document should include historical information on the membership of the Committee since its establishment, as well as a table showing the regional composition of the membership of the Organization.

6.2 The document should also note that Members of the Advisory Committee are expected to attend all sessions, as their primary responsibility is to participate actively in the work of the Committee.

7. REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The Assembly shall convene, no later than the first day of the session, informal regional group meeting(s) outside regular Assembly hours to provide for regional consultations. Each regional group shall be assisted by an officer of the Directorate.

7.2 The Assembly should also consider:

.1 tasking the Chair and the Vice-Chairs of the previous session of the Assembly, if available, to supervise the consultation process[3]; and

.2 encouraging Parties in each region to participate in regional consultation, reach consensus on regional representation and report the outcomes of those consultations.

7.3 Parties interested in becoming Members of the Advisory Committee shall transmit valid Credentials to the Director General in accordance with Rule 7(1) and (2) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

7.4 Parties shall express their intention to become Members during regional group meeting(s). These meeting(s) shall serve as the primary forum for Parties to present their interest and for regions to determine their recommended representatives.

7.5 Parties present in the session of the Assembly but unable to attend regional group meeting(s) may submit their interest in writing to the Directorate prior to the first regional groups' meeting. These expressions of interest should be considered during the regional consultations by the relevant regional group.

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[3] Rule 11 (2) stated that the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the previous session of the Assembly will be responsible, if available, for coordinating regional activities at the subsequent session.

7.6 Following the consultations, regional groups shall report the outcome of their consultation to the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the previous session of the Assembly who shall report to the Assembly detailing each regional group's recommendations for Advisory Committee membership.

8. APPOINTMENT BY THE ASSEMBLY

8.1 The Assembly shall review the recommendations provided by the regional groups and shall appoint Members accordingly.

8.2 In deciding, the Assembly should retain full discretion to amend or reject the recommendations by the regional groups to ensure compliance with the Procedures and alignment with the principles of transparency, inclusivity and geographical balance.

8.3 The Assembly should formally appoint the Members of the Advisory Committee by acclamation.

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