

## **ELECTION GUIDELINES FOR EC & ZONAL REPRESENTATIVES (NOMINEES & CANDIDATES)**

Elections for the following posts will take place at the General Assembly on **26 September 2026** during the 26th World Congress of Psychiatry in Stockholm:

- 1. President-Elect**
- 2. Secretary-General**
- 3. Secretary for Finances & Fundraising**
- 4. Zonal Representatives**

The elections will take place in person on 26 September 2026. Member Societies who have paid all their membership dues since the last General Assembly in 2023 will be eligible to vote. The number of votes allocated to each Member Society is based on their number of members reported to the WPA and charged accordingly. The results of the voting will be announced on **26 September 2026**.

### **ELECTION PROCEDURES for Zonal Representatives**

The information below contains the relevant extracts from the WPA Statutes, By-Laws & Manual of Procedures concerning the election procedure. The WPA Oath of Office is attached as Appendix B-8.

#### **Extract from Statutes & By-Laws (pages 17-18)**

##### **Article 25 - Election of the WPA Zonal Representatives and their eligibility for further Offices**

- Zonal Representatives are elected for an initial period of three years, and they can stand competitively for re-election for a second and final period of three years.
- The (term of) office of the newly elected WPA Zonal Representatives begins at the end of the WPA General Assembly that elected them and finishes at the end of the subsequent WPA General Assembly. The WPA General Assembly elects them in accordance with the By-Laws.
- Members of the Board are allowed to present their candidature for election for a position on the Executive Committee.
- Candidates for Zonal Representatives are not eligible to apply for an elected Executive Committee post at the same time.

#### **Extract from By-Laws (pages 18-19)**

##### **Ad article 25 - Election of the WPA Zonal Representatives and their eligibility for further Offices**

- The Chair of the WPA Nominations Committee writes to each WPA Member Society at least nine months prior to the WPA General Assembly, requesting that the WPA Member Society recommends one psychiatrist from the countries composing the relevant WPA Zone for the available position. Only WPA Member Societies from a given WPA Zone can nominate candidates for that WPA Zone. In WPA Zones consisting of two or more countries the representative should not come from the same country as the immediate predecessor.
- In a WPA Zone where there is only one WPA Member Society, the Society may nominate one or more candidate(s) as their Zonal Representative and present that name(s) to the General Assembly to elect a candidate.
- The Nominations Committee examines the eligibility of candidates, compiles the names submitted from each WPA Zone and whenever more than two candidates are eligible it requests, through its Chair, each WPA Member Society within that WPA Zone to vote for two candidates from the circulated list (*as per By-Laws*).
- The Nominations Committee sends its report to the WPA Executive Committee and the WPA Board.
- The Nominations Committee presents to the WPA General Assembly as nominees for the available position the two individuals who have received the highest number of unweighted votes from the WPA Member Societies of the WPA Zone. When only one candidate is eligible it will be automatically included in the list to be proposed to the WPA General Assembly for voting.
- The General Assembly receives the report of the WPA Nominations Committee, along with the views of the Executive Committee and the Board and elects one of the two nominees.
- If WPA Zonal Representatives are unable to continue serving in their posts until the end of their mandate, the Executive Committee has the right to appoint an interim Zonal Representative to carry out the tasks assigned to the vacant post until the next WPA General Assembly

- The appointment to a post of an interim WPA Zonal Representative does not affect the eligibility of that person for any elective post in the WPA.

**Extract from MOP (pages 97-99)**

**Article 6.5 (i) - Nomination of WPA Zonal Representative Candidates**

- **Validity of nominations**

A nomination is valid if submitted by a WPA Member Society of the relevant Zone and received by the Chair of the WPA Nomination Committee at least six months before the WPA General Assembly in response to the Chair of the WPA Nomination Committee's written request for nominations sent to Member Societies **at least 9 months** before the election.

- A nomination must be signed by the President and Secretary of the nominating WPA Member Society. It should also be signed by the candidate to indicate his/her acceptance.
- The same person cannot be proposed for more than one post, which should be reflected in the nominee's acceptance.
- A candidate shall submit to the Chair of the WPA Nomination Committee, **at least 6 months** before the election, a curriculum vitae documenting training and certification as a psychiatrist, membership in a WPA Member Society in the corresponding Zone, as well as qualifications pertinent to a WPA Zonal Representative.
- The WPA Nomination Committee will inform the prospective candidates that nominations for them have been received.
- Nominations from the floor during the WPA General Assembly will not be accepted.
- The nominators should consider the requirements listed in the following section when making nominations.

- **Criteria for WPA Zonal Representative**

- Be a psychiatrist
- Fluency in English
- Psychiatric professional standing and track record based on C.V.
- History of participation in WPA activities
- Excellent reputation in the countries of the corresponding Zone
- Work experience at the international level
- Knowledge of most countries in the Zone, particularly regarding health care and psychiatric matters
- Readiness to collaborate with all Member Societies in the Zone
- Absence of serious constraints to function throughout the Zone and corresponding WPA Member Societies
- Not having conflicts with the ethical codes and purposes of WPA

- **Additional desirable assets**

- a supporting office structure
- Knowledge of the major languages of the Zone

- **Election procedures**

The Chair of the WPA Nomination Committee writes to each WPA Member Society at **least nine months prior** to the WPA General Assembly requesting that the WPA Member Society recommend **one psychiatrist from the countries** composing the zone for the available WPA Zonal Representative slot. Only WPA Member Societies from a given Zone can nominate candidates for that Zone (Ad Article 25).

The WPA Nominations Committee examines the eligibility of candidates, compiles the names submitted from each WPA Zone and whenever more than two candidates are eligible it requests, through its Chair, each WPA Member Society within that WPA Zone to vote for two candidates from the circulated list. In the event that the candidates still receive the same number of votes, the Nominations Committee will review each nomination together with the paperwork submitted and will agree which two candidates should go forward to the General Assembly for voting.

The Nominations Committee will also send its recommendations to the Board and Council.

The WPA Nomination Committee compiles the names submitted by WPA Member Societies from each Zone **at least six months** before the WPA General Assembly and, through its Chair, requests each WPA Member Society within that Zone to respond at least two months before the WPA General Assembly by voting for two candidates from a list of preliminary nominees (By-Laws, Ad article 25). The voting for the two candidates will be done using unweighted votes as stated in By-Laws Ad article 25 1.

The WPA Nomination Committee, after due consultation with the WPA Executive Committee and the Board, presents to the WPA General Assembly as nominees for the available zone slot the two individuals who have received the highest number of unweighted votes from the WPA Member Societies of the Zone (By-Laws, Ad Article 25).

The WPA General Assembly elects one of the two nominees (By-Laws, Article 25) (see the specific procedures in Chapter Three General Assembly).

## **Election of the Members of the Executive Committee (3 Vacant Posts)**

### **Extract from By-Laws - Section VI (page 20)**

#### **Ad article 26 – WPA Executive Committee**

The General Assembly elects by secret vote candidates to fill posts vacated by members who have completed their term of office. Should members of the Executive Committee become unable to perform their functions or do not comply with the Oath of Office, the other members of the Executive Committee have the right to appoint an interim officer to carry out the tasks assigned to the vacant post until the next Ordinary General Assembly, which can confirm the appointment of the interim officer as a member of the Executive Committee, or proceed to the election of another replacement member. The mandate of new members of the Executive Committee will begin at the end of the General Assembly which elects them.

The appointment to or confirmation to a post of an interim officer of the Executive Committee does not affect the eligibility of that person for any elective post in the WPA, nor does it affect the requirement to elect a candidate from a different country.

### **Extract from By-Laws Section VI (page 21)**

#### **Article 27 – Election of members of the WPA Executive Committee**

The members of the Executive Committee are elected by the General Assembly, in accordance with the By-laws. Any elected member of the Executive Committee may serve on the Executive Committee only once for no more than one six-year term.

Thus, any member, or former member, of the Executive Committee may be elected then to the position of President Elect (Vice-President) and serve for six more years.\*

In no case may the immediate successor to the same position be elected from the same Member Society or country.

*\*(Note: The President Elect may serve 3 years and then 3 more years as President - for a total of 6 years.)*

### **Extract from the MOP (page 95)**

#### **Article 6.5 (e) - Nomination of WPA Executive Committee Candidates**

A nomination is valid if submitted by a WPA Member Society and received by the Chair of the WPA Nomination Committee at least six months before the WPA General Assembly, in response to the Chair of the WPA Nomination Committee's written request for nominations sent to WPA Member Societies **at least 9 months** before the election. Nominees for the EC cannot hold any other office in an association that extends beyond two years after they were first elected.

- A nomination must be signed by the President and Secretary of the nominating WPA Member Society. It should also be signed by the candidate to indicate his/her acceptance.
- The same person cannot be proposed for more than one post, which should be reflected in the nominee's acceptance.
- A candidate shall submit to the Chair of the WPA Nomination Committee, at least 6 months before the elections, his/her curriculum vitae documenting training and certification as a psychiatrist as well as qualifications with references to the requirements specified for the position sought.
- No elected member of the WPA Executive Committee may serve for more than one 6-year term of office. Any member, or former member of the WPA Executive Committee may be elected to the position of WPA President-Elect (Vice-President). In no case may the immediate successor to the same position be elected from the same country.
- The WPA Nomination Committee will inform the prospective candidates that nominations for them have been received.
- Nominations from the floor during the WPA General Assembly will not be accepted.
- The nominators should consider the requirements listed in the following sections when making nominations.

### **Extract from the MOP (page 96)**

#### **Article 6.5 (f) - General criteria for all posts**

- Be a psychiatrist
- Required fluency in English and desirable fluency in other WPA languages
- Professional and academic standing and achievements as described in the C.V.
- History of participation in WPA activities
- Recognized leadership skills and personal integrity
- Stated readiness to devote at least 30 days per year to WPA activities
- Managerial skills and committee work experience
- Recognized work and experience at the international level
- Not having conflicts with the ethical codes and purposes of WPA

- Absence of legal, political, or economic conflicts of interest between the individual's personal and professional affiliations and WPA. In instances of possible conflict of interest, the WPA Nomination Committee will explore the situation and submit its recommendations to the WPA General Assembly

**Additional desirable assets**

- Adequate support from home institutions for space, staff, phone, and e-mail
- Fluency in languages in addition to English
- Residence in an underrepresented part of the world

**Extract from the MOP (page 96)**

**Article 6.5 (g) - Specific Criteria for each Executive Committee post**

- Please see Appendix B-18 of this Manual for the specific criteria for each Executive Committee post.

**Extract from the MOP (page 96)**

**Article 6.5 (h)- Timetable for nomination procedures**

- The Chair of the WPA Nomination Committee writes to all WPA Member Societies at least nine months prior to the WPA General Assembly requesting nominations to WPA Executive Committee elective posts. The list of posts to be filled and the election guidelines established in the Statutes, By-Laws and the Manual of Procedures shall be enclosed.
- The WPA Member Societies submit their proposals to the Chair of the WPA Nomination Committee at least six months prior to the WPA General Assembly. Date of postmark, fax or e-mail will be considered.
- The WPA Nomination Committee will inform the candidates that nominations for them have been received.
- The WPA Secretariat forwards the proposals received to the WPA Nomination Committee for its deliberations.
- Once the list of valid candidates has been established, this will be communicated to all WPA Member Societies and other WPA components by the Chair of the WPA Nomination Committee.
- The WPA Nomination Committee's report is presented to the WPA Executive Committee and the Board for their opinions. All this information is then submitted to the General Assembly.

## **WPA Nomination Process - THE WPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Extract from By-Laws Section IV (page 10)**

#### **Ad Article 12 - Composition**

A Member Society is represented by one Representative (who cannot represent any other WPA Member Society). Each WPA Society may also authorize an Alternate Representative who, in the absence of the Representative will serve as the Representative

Every Representative and Alternate Representative must present a letter of authorization signed by the President or the Secretary General or the equivalent in their Society.

Representatives of Applicant Societies may attend the General Assembly as observers and speak upon invitation by the Chairperson. They shall be asked to leave while the application of their Society is voted upon and in any other circumstance at the discretion of the Chairperson.

### **The WPA Committee on Nominations**

#### **Extract from the Manual of Procedures (page 91-94)**

##### **Article 6.5 - The WPA Committee on Nominations**

- **Remit**

The WPA Nomination Committee will make proposals concerning elections for all elective posts of the WPA in accordance with the WPA By-Laws. It will ensure that the nominations are valid and that the candidates are eligible. The Committee will also ensure that each nominee has provided suitable referees who can vouch that the nominee's behaviour is in accordance with the WPA Code of Conduct. In this respect they reserve the right to request for additional specific references.

The Committee can make proposals concerning the voting procedures and related electoral issues. The WPA Nomination Committee can make proposals concerning the voting procedure and give its views on other relevant matters including the post-election report on things that went well and things that need to be changed before the next election cycle. These will be considered by the EC and the Board and then submitted to the WPA General Assembly by the WPA Executive Committee along with the WPA Board's opinion.

- **Composition**

The WPA Nomination Committee consists of five members including the WPA President who will Chair it and up to five additional co-opted members. It will reflect a geographical and membership balance. The Committee will include:

- one member whom the President will select who has in-depth knowledge of the organization and membership.
- one member of the WPA Executive Committee whose term will continue after the next WPA General Assembly
- one member of the Board
- one member of the Ethics and Review Committee

The members of the WPA Committee of Nominations cannot run for elective positions during the period for which they have been appointed to the Committee. In case a Committee member wishes to run for an elective position, she/he will resign from the Committee and a replacement will be appointed by the WPA President in consultation with the EC.

- **Term of Office**

The members of the WPA Nomination Committee shall be appointed for a period of three years.

- **Procedures of Work**

The Nominations Committee will seek names for candidates from the Board, Council and Member Societies. They will consider past experience with the WPA and other positions held by nominees in the past. They can reject candidates based on past work experience as part of their due diligence in vetting the candidates.

The WPA Secretariat will support the work of the WPA Nominations Committee by receiving, distributing, and processing all communications between the WPA Nominations Committee and WPA Member Societies.

The conduction of the election process should have the following objectives and features:

- To guarantee and strengthen WPA democracy by ensuring the transparency of the electoral process which must be carried out according to the Statutes and By-Laws and this Manual of Procedures.
- To centre electoral activities on a debate of ideas and proposals, in which respect for the dignity of the competing candidates prevails
- To prevent aggressive or intimidatory behaviours that may interfere with the right of candidates to present

responsibly their perspectives and proposals, and, more generally, with the electoral process at large.

The election process involves the period from the point when the letter calling for nominations is sent out by the Chair of the WPA Nominations Committee to the point when the votes are cast and counted, the results announced, and the WPA General Assembly is adjourned.

Candidates are nominees whom the WPA Nominations Committee finds eligible and with a valid nomination.

The nominees and candidates carry out their electoral activities keeping in mind the following guidelines:

- A prospective nominee shall not commence any election promotional activity before the Chair of the WPA Nominations Committee formally calls for nominations (nine months before the corresponding WPA General Assembly).
- A nominee or candidate shall not offer a benefit to another person as an inducement or reward to affect his/her candidacy or get a third person to do so.
- A nominee or candidate shall not solicit or accept a benefit from another person as an inducement or reward to affect his/her candidacy.
- A nominee or candidate must not publish any false or misleading statement of facts for the purpose of promoting his/her candidacy or get a third person to do so.
- A nominee or candidate must obtain prior written consent from a person or organization before using that person or organization indication of support. Oral consent is not sufficient.
- A nominee or candidate who is a WPA officer shall not use to promote his/her candidacy office or logistic resources assigned for official functions by WPA.
- A nominee or candidate must not use false or misleading statements about a particular candidate for the purpose of promoting or prejudicing the election of the candidate or get a third person to do so.
- A nominee or candidate shall not use duress against a person to induce him/her to vote for him/her or get a third person to do so.
- A nominee or candidate shall not use duress on the Secretariat during the accreditation of member societies or seek special dispensation for a third person to attend the General Assembly as observer.
- During the WPA General Assembly no electoral propaganda from any candidate or other sources will be allowed.
- Keeping in mind the above considerations, a nominee or candidate is entitled to develop his/her electoral campaign free from interference or dissuading pressures from WPA committees and officers, and WPA Member Societies have the right to have adequate access to candidates' perspectives and proposals.

WPA Executive Committee members (unless they are candidates) and WPA Nominations Committee members shall not engage in any election activities to promote or prejudice the election of any candidate. Discussions of all WPA Nomination Committee meetings should be considered confidential.

The WPA Secretariat in electoral matters acts under the supervision and guidance of the WPA Nominations Committee and observes the following guidelines:

- The WPA Secretariat shall not engage in electoral activities promoting or prejudicing the election of any particular candidate or get a third person to do so.
- The WPA Secretariat shall provide information to the candidates in a fair and open manner. The information may include the list and addresses of WPA Member Societies, members of the WPA Executive Committee and the WPA Council, and the WPA Zonal Representatives, as well as, after the report of the WPA Nominations Committee, the list of societies that nominated him/her.

Complaints related to the electoral process or the nominees or candidates shall be addressed in writing to the WPA Nominations Committee for review. The nominees or candidates who are subjects of the complaints shall be provided with an opportunity to reply to the complaints. Egregious breaches of ethical procedures may lead to declaration of ineligibility of a candidate. The WPA Nominations Committee will prepare a report on the complaints and other aspects of the electoral process for the WPA Executive Committee, which will be distributed to the candidates as well. Candidates will have 30 days from the distribution of the report for presenting an appeal, which will be reviewed by the WPA Nominations Committee and may lead to the revision of the report. The overall report of the WPA Nominations Committee will be presented to the WPA General Assembly, accompanied by comments or statements from the WPA Executive Committee and the WPA Board. Ultimately, the WPA General Assembly will make the final decision.

In order to optimize the efficiency and accuracy of the voting and its counting and reporting, advanced technological procedures will be used.

**World Psychiatric Association Oath of Office****Oath of Office for the Members of the Executive Committee and Zonal Representatives**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ do solemnly, sincerely and truly affirm to uphold the purposes for which the World Psychiatric Association is established, to abide by the Statutes, By-Laws and Operational Procedures of the Association and perform all my duties with openness, integrity and accountability.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and name of the Oath taker

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and name of the person  
administering the Oath

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date and place

## Explanation for the wordings:

1. Purposes is used because this is stated in the Statutes; and
2. Openness, integrity and accountability are the three key principles of corporate governance.
3. Procedures
4. The relevant forms shall be prepared by the Secretariat.
5. The Oath shall be taken after the General Assembly when the newly elected office holders take office.
6. The Oath shall be administered by the President.
7. In the event that a newly elected office holder is unable to attend the oath taking, he/she shall be sent a form to be signed and returned within one month of the oath taking and it has to be countersigned by the President.
8. The original of the signed oaths shall be kept at the Office of the Secretariat.