

A proposal of the Board of HOPE to change the Statutes of HOPE

Proposal 1: The change of voting at the General Assembly of HOPE

History:

At the HOPE congress 2020 in Tallinn there will be a very special situation because there will be a vote to fill two vacancies on the board with no fewer than six candidates. This will require a very careful voting procedure. In the statutes of HOPE there are only a few sentences about voting.

The current problem:

The current statutes of HOPE state: Only votes by raising of hands and safe online voting procedures are allowed.

This new situation requires a more specific set of rules for voting.

It is also desirable to offer the option of allowing written votes at the General Assembly.

Public voting is quick and transparent, but can sometimes be uncomfortable, it may allow for inaccuracies if for example members vote more than once. It does not provide a paper trail or verifiable record.

Voting on paper is slower, but it is anonymous and provides a clear result with a verifiable written record.

If we choose to have HOPE members vote in public at the General Assembly then it may very difficult to ensure accuracy when checking if members have voted too often or at all.

Online voting does not appear to be available option for us at present.

Many organisations choose to use public voting when making decisions on business and policy. When people have to make a decision to elect people, it is often conducted using written voting. Written votes can be checked and recounted afterwards, if necessary.

Proposal of the Board of HOPE:

Make it possible to use written votes at the General Assembly.

Considerations:

This change in the statutes will require several changes in the Internal Regulations of HOPE. The Board of HOPE believe this change in the Statutes of HOPE will only have positive consequences for both members of HOPE and future candidates for formal functions within HOPE.

The current text of the Article 6 of the Statutes of HOPE:

Article 6 • General Assembly

6.6. Votes are by a show of hands. Voting in a General Assembly may be replaced by safe online voting procedures as foreseen in the Internal Regulations.

The proposed new text of the Article 6 of the Statutes of HOPE:

Article 6 • General Assembly

6.6. Votes are by a show of hands, by written votes and by safe online voting procedures as foreseen in the Internal Regulations.

(end of the texts of the Statutes of HOPE)

Question for the General Assembly

The Board of HOPE asks the General Assembly of HOPE to bring our proposal to a vote at the General Assembly of HOPE in Tallinn in May 2020. The Board is of course prepared to explain the proposal and to answer any questions at the Committee Members meeting and at the General Assembly of the HOPE Congress in Tallinn in May 2020.

The Board of HOPE
February 27th 2020.