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# The Minutes of the 7th Executive Board Meeting of A-WEB

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## The 7th Executive Board Meeting Program

### □ Introduction of the Order of Meeting

(Emcee) Ladies and gentlemen, the seventh A-WEB Executive Board Meeting is going to start in a few minutes. Please come inside the conference room and be seated. For your convenience, a simultaneous interpretation service is available in English, Spanish, French and Korean. Please set your receiver to Channel 1 for English, Channel 2 for Spanish, Channel 3 for French and Channel 4 for Korean.

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Jinju Jo. I am the emcee for the 7th Executive Board Meeting. It is a great honor to have an opportunity to emcee this meeting.

We will proceed with today's meeting in the following order: **first**, the approval of the minutes of the previous Executive Board Meeting; **second**, reports on 2018 project performance and the audit; **third**, reports on the project and budget plan for 2019; **forth**, the amendment of the A-WEB Charter; **fifth**, new membership application; **sixth**, discussion on ways to diversify revenue sources; **seventh**, report and discussion on the elections of the next Vice-Chairperson, next Executive Board members, and next Oversight & Audit Committee members; and **lastly**, decision on the host of the next Executive Board Meeting. These agenda items have been sent to the Board members in advance via email.

Under the Charter, decisions will be adopted by consensus. If a consensus is not reached, a decision will be adopted by a simple majority of the members present at the meeting today. I would like to ask for your cooperation for the smooth running of the meeting. Regretfully we do not have here our Chairperson due to urgent internal affairs requiring his attention. But the Chairperson has delegated Mr. Marian Muhulet, Vice-President of

Permanent Election Authority of Romania to fill his seat. Now, I invite Ms. Ivilina Aleksieva, Chairperson of the Central Election Commission of Bulgaria to deliver her welcome speech.

#### □ Welcome Speech

**(Bulgaria - Ms. Ivilina Aleksieva, CEC of Bulgaria)** Good morning, distinguished Executive Board members, observers, and ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Central Election Commission of Bulgaria, I sincerely welcome all of you to Sofia, the capital city of Bulgaria with a long history. I hope that you are enjoying what this beautiful city has to offer and have a wonderful time during your stay.

A-WEB was founded to promote democracy all over the world through free and transparent elections. We are the members of the Executive Board to A-WEB and we are here today to discuss many important matters that will affect the future direction of A-WEB. We will discuss issues such as Charter amendments. Yesterday, we held a Special Committee meeting to thoroughly review the proposed amendments and bring them to this meeting for more discussion with every member of the Executive Board. I am sure that today we will freely discuss all agenda items and come up with fruitful results.

Once again, I would like to thank you everyone for coming to Sofia to attend this meeting and hope that we will offer our best contribution today so that we can have a great success in this meeting. Thank you.

(Emcee) Thank you, Madam Chairperson for your welcome speech. Now Mr. Marian Muhulet, on behalf of Permanent Election Authority of Romania, will deliver his speech and declare the official opening of the seventh Executive Board meeting. Please give him a warm welcome.

**(Romania- Mr. Marian Muhulet, PEA of Romania)** Thank you. Thank you very much. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen! It is a great pleasure for me to be here

in Bulgaria. You have a very beautiful country. We are neighbors. We have actually the same whether nowadays, but tomorrow it won't be the same and at least in Bucharest. We heard that the next whether will get worse. I wish you already had some pleasant time here. Firstly, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Chairperson of the CEC of Bulgaria, Ms. Ivilina Aleksieva Robinson, for hosting this wonderful meeting. Of the twenty one members of the Board, we have here fourteen members and met the quorum. So, I now call the seventh Executive Board Meeting of the Association of World Election Bodies to order. Please allow me to introduce the participants in the meeting skipping myself and **Ms. Ivilina Aleksieva Robinson**, since we have already enjoyed her welcome speech. I will start and, I hope the list that I have here is correct.

○ I will start by introducing **Mr. Dharendra Ojha**, Director General of the ECI of India.

○ **Mr. Yong-Hi Kim**, Secretary General of A-WEB, is sitting on my lefthand side. Next, I will introduce the Executive Board members.

○ The former Chairperson of A-WEB, Julio Cesar Castanos Guzman of Dominican Republic is not present. I think it's **Mr. Joel Lantigua**, an old friend.

○ Director **David Matumika Banda** of Malawi Election Commission is present.

○ Commissioner **Hui-Feng Hsu** of Central Election Commission of Taiwan is present. Hello Sir.

○ Chief Election Commissioner **K. M. Nurul Huda** of Election Commission of Bangladesh is present. Hello Sir.

○ Commissioner **Janja Horvat Drobnyak** of State Election Commission of Croatia is in attendance. Hello. Sorry if I'm not pronouncing correctly the names.

○ Minister **Maria Elena Wapenka** of Tribunal Superior Justicia Electoral of Paraguay is present.

○ Chairperson **Mirza-Ulugbek Elchievich Abdusalomov** of Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan is present. Hello Sir.

○ Vice-President **Ana Guada Lupe Medina** of Tribunal Superior Electoral of El Salvador is in attendance. Good day.

○ **Adel Brinsi**, Member of Independent High Authority for Elections of Tunisia, is present. Hello Sir.

○ Deputy Chief Election Officer, **Ashraf Aziz Shuaibi**, from Central Elections Commission of Palestine is in attendance. Hello Sir.

I would like to acknowledge that members of the Executive Board representing Guinea, Argentina, Colombia, Albania, Burkina Faso, Kenya and Fiji could not participate in this meeting due to the affairs in respective organization.

○ Next, I would like to introduce Senior Advisor of A-WEB, **Mr. Terry Tselane** from South Africa, a beautiful country.

○ Lastly, **Wooyong Shin**, Chief of Planning Office of the National Election Commission of the Republic of Korea, is present as an observer. Hello Sir.

Now, we will proceed to the items for approval and discussion. Before that, I would like to announce to you that the reason that the President of Permanent Election Authority is not here is because he resigned from the office yesterday, and we will have a new Chairperson at the Permanent Election Authority of Romania next week. We don't know who will be but we will find out. The parliament will approve next week. From now on, the meeting will be presided over by the Secretary General of A-WEB. So Thank you very much, and let's hope we will have a great day today.

(SG) With your permission, as consented by the Chair, I will preside over this meeting from now on. Prior to dealing with the agenda for the Executive Board Meeting, I will announce very important things to me and A-WEB. I will resign from the position of the Secretary General of A-WEB. As you know, last

year, I and the Secretariat of A-WEB suffered a lot from many allegations around me and the Secretariat. The NEC of Korea asked Prosecutors of Korea to investigate me, but the prosecutors, 2 weeks ago, announced that there is no allegation around me and the Secretariat of A-WEB. Fortunately, the Chair of NEC of Korea expressed to me his feeling sorry about the fact that the Secretariat of A-WEB suffered from the allegations and accusations made by the NEC of Korea. But I'm exhausted with the suffering.

As you know, I have served A-WEB without being paid for six years. Even though I have no salary, my reputation has been tarnished by my old colleagues. Another reason I have to resign, my reputation has been tarnished by Korean mass media and their libels and slanders. The mass media received distorted and exaggerated information from some bad guys of NEC. So, I cannot secure the budget of A-WEB anymore, so I have to leave this Secretariat. I am sorry, today I announce the sad news to you but I will stay in A-WEB until the new Secretary General is elected at the coming General Assembly. I ask you to get the process to elect new Secretary General. According to A-WEB Charter, we will receive the application from the person who wants to become Secretary General until the end of May, because according to A-WEB Charter we have to receive the application 3 months before General Assembly. Someone who wants to become Secretary General must get two or more than two recommendation from Executive Board members and submit the application to the Secretariat.

According to A-WEB Charter, the Secretariat can narrow the candidates down to two candidates if there are many candidates, and the Secretary General submits the two candidates to the Executive Board to select one candidate. The candidate will be approved by General Assembly as Secretary General. But I want you, the Executive Board, to use the right of Secretary General to narrow the candidates to two candidates and to submit them to Executive Board. I will submit all the candidates to the Executive Board, and the Executive Board will cast vote and select two candidates who get most vote, and then I will again submit the two candidates to Executive Board, who will select one candidate to

be approved by the General Assembly.

**□ Adoption of the minutes of the 7th Executive Board meeting**

(SG) And now, I will proceed based on the agenda for the Executive Board Meeting that we already handed out. The first item on the agenda is the "Adoption of minutes of the sixth Executive Board meeting." The Secretariat sent out the minutes of the past Executive Board meeting in advance, the 6th Executive Board meeting on March 27, 2018. I think you have had enough time to review them. Would anyone like to ask questions or make comments? (no comments) If there are no other comments, those minutes will stand approved as proposed.

⇒ Conclusion : The minutes of the 6th Executive Board meeting is approved as proposed.

**□ Agenda Proceedings**

(SG) Today, we have lots of items, so if there is no question or no comments, I will deal with the agenda very speedily. The agenda items we are now dealing with are 2018 Project Performance Report, 2018 Audit Reports, 2018 Project and Budget Plan, proposal for amendment of the Charter, new membership application, discussion on diversifying revenue sources, report and discussion on elections of the next Vice-Chairperson, next Executive Board members and next Oversight & Audit Committee members, and lastly, election of the host of the next Executive Board meeting.

**□ Report on the 2018 Project Performance Report**

(SG) First, we will deal with the 2018 project performance report. On behalf of the Secretariat, Seung Kim, Deputy Director of Planning Department, will

present it.

(Seung Kim) Honorable members of the Board, ladies and gentlemen, I am Seung Kim, Deputy Director of Planning Department. It is a great pleasure and honor for me to report on A-WEB activities in 2018. Since the 2018 Project Performance Report and the 2018 Annual Report were sent out prior to the meeting, let me go through key activities in 2018. Last year, A-WEB made its best efforts to develop its own programs and to expand and diversify its activities in order to boost outcomes. I would like to report on A-WEB activities in the following order: ODA projects for member EMBs; Election Observation; Election Management Capacity Building Program; Specialized Training Program on ICT-based Election Management; and lastly, administrative affairs and the status of the Secretariat.

A-WEB implemented ODA projects in El Salvador and Fiji. We were also going to carry out ODA projects in Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Guinea. For those three countries, the Secretariat secured budget from the Korean government. However, the NEC of Korea decided not to provide electoral devices which were originally included in each project. The Secretariat discussed and negotiated with the three countries regarding the changes in the projects, which took a long time to finalize the scope of those projects. In the end, the 2018 projects for Papua New Guinea and Samoa have been transferred to this year, whereas the project for Guinea has been cancelled.

In March 2018, A-WEB organized an Election Visitor Program in conjunction with the General and Local Elections in El Salvador in which 29 observers from 11 countries participated. We also observed elections in Ecuador, Sri Lanka and Russia.

During the year 2018, A-WEB organized 7 Election Management Capacity Building Programs in which 137 trainees from 51 countries participated. A-WEB's training program used to combine Capacity Building courses for election officials and ICT Capacity Building courses for engineers. In 2018, we



separated ICT course from the Election Management Capacity Building Program and developed it into the Specialized Training program on ICT-based Election Management. A total of 125 participants from 33 countries participated in this program: 4 times for policy-making authorities and 4 times for engineers.

As part of its effort to increase its global presence, A-WEB participated in 8 international conferences and signed a trilateral MoU with the Union Election Commission of Myanmar and Mitsubishi Research Institute.

Next, with regard to the membership fee in 2018, 11 member EMBs paid their fees.

Currently, the membership of A-WEB is 111 organizations from 105 countries. This membership size gives us a strong foundation to share our visions and goals with the international community as a leading association of election management bodies.

As of the first day of 2019, the number of staff members in the Secretariat is 17: Secretary General; 5 persons seconded from the NEC of Korea; 8 regular staff; and 3 contract staff. For more details, please refer to the 2018 Project Performance Report and Annual Report on your table.

(SG) If you have any questions or comments on the 2018 Project Performance Report, please feel free to share them with us. (no comments) If there isn't any other question or comment on the report on the 2018 Project Performance Report, this is the end of the report. I would like to announce the 2018 Project Performance Report will stand approved as proposed.

⇒ Conclusion : The 2018 Project Performance Report is approved as proposed.

## □ Reporting Audit Results

(SG) Next, we will turn to the 2018 Audit Report. In order to present the audit

result to the Executive Board in a fair and transparent manner, the Secretariat appointed RSM Korea, a world-renowned accounting firm with reputation for professionalism as an external auditor to assess the Secretariat's financial activities. The audit result is supposed to be reported by a representative of the Oversight and Audit Committee. But, unfortunately, no members of the Committee are present today. Instead, on behalf of the Committee, Ms. Daka, President of the CEC of Kosovo, sent to the Secretariat her report. Mr. Seung Kim, would you elaborate on this?

(Seung Kim) On January 31, the Secretariat sent out to all members of the Oversight and Audit Committee the financial statements of A-WEB made by the external auditor. After reviewing the statements, President Daka wrote to the Secretariat on February 19, I am now holding it, that she agrees and supports the audit report by the external auditor in its entirety and she does not have any specific comments on the report. For more details, please refer to the 2018 Audit Report on your table.

(SG) Actually, A-WEB Secretariat is audited by NEC of Korea for 2 months thoroughly and I believe that there is not anything wrong found. Thank you, Mr. Seung Kim. Are there any comments or questions on the 2018 Audit Report? (No comments) If there is no more comment or question, the discussion on the 2018 Audit Report is closed. I announce the 2018 Audit Report is approved.

⇒ Conclusion : The 2018 Audit Report is approved as proposed.

#### **□ Report on the 2019 Project and Budget Plan**

(SG) Now we turn to agenda item 2019 Project and Budget Plan. As an association of election management bodies, A-WEB, in cooperation with its members, strives to contribute to enhancing electoral integrity and fairness and strengthening democracy. By harnessing its reputation garnered by its

contribution, A-WEB strives to share its visions and goals with the international community. The Secretariat will give a concrete shape to A-WEB's visions and goals through implementation of the 2019 Work Plan. I would like to invite Deputy Director Seung Kim to present the 2019 Project and Budget Plan.

(Seung Kim) To begin with, A-WEB's revenue for 2019 sharply dropped from 8 million USD in 2018 to 1.5 million USD. It is inevitable for the Secretariat to downsize its projects and activities accordingly. The year 2019 will be a difficult year for the Secretariat, but we will try to maximize and make the best use of all resources available. A-WEB's 2019 Project and Budget plan has three goals: Focusing on the Core Functions of the Secretariat for Sustainable Growth and High Efficiency; Spreading and Sharing a Transparent and Democratic Electoral Culture; and Supporting ICT-based Elections.

In line with the goal of "Sustainable Growth and High Efficiency of the Secretariat", the Secretariat will prepare to organize the 4th General Assembly which is going to take place in India sometime in September. We will also try to find ways to diversify revenue sources and continue to do promotional activities. The Secretariat will also revise the internal rules and regulations to improve efficiency of the operation of the Secretariat.

For the goal of "Spreading and Sharing a Transparent and Democratic Electoral Culture", we are now organizing 3 Capacity Building Training Programs.

In line with the goal of "Supporting ICT-based Elections", we have started to undertake programs in Papua New Guinea and Samoa. In the two countries, we will work with respective member EMB to enhance their data center and develop a customized Election Information System. We are also planning to provide IT Capacity Building Programs for the engineers of the two countries to be able to independently run their new systems. In Fiji, A-WEB will be

offering an information security consulting and dispatching IT experts for running a capacity building program in Fiji. We will also invite Fijian engineers to an information security capacity building program at the Secretariat.

For more details, such as the amount of budget for each project, please refer to the 2019 Project Plan in the Agenda book.

Please, allow me to add a few more words about the background of the budget reduction for the year 2019. As I mentioned earlier, the 2019 budget was cut down from 8 million(USD) to 1.5 million(USD) after the NEC's audit of the A-WEB Secretariat and the budget review by the National Assembly. As a result of the drastically reduced budget, the size of A-WEB's project has shrunk and the number of staff members has significantly decreased.

The domestic reasons behind the sharp decline in the 2019 budget were the NEC's audit of the A-WEB Secretariat and its request for prosecution investigation against the Secretary General of A-WEB. The Secretariat could not accept the audit results and accusations. After a thorough investigation for one year, the Prosecution has confirmed no suspension over all allegations made by the NEC.

(SG) Anyway, fortunately, the new leadership of NEC secretariat of Korea promised me to fully support A-WEB Secretariat again. So, I want to trust that they will keep their promise. So, I asked them to show their plan and promise not only to me, but to persuade our Executive Board members and all other members that they will fully support A-WEB again. Now, the representative of Korea NEC is present here. I ask him to explain and show their will and plan to our members. Please.

(Mr. Shin) It is a very great pleasure to be attending this meeting in such a beautiful city and it is unfortunate that we have to talk about such unfortunate events. I believe that we also have something to say about what Mr. Kim(Deputy Director) has just mentioned, but put that aside, I would like to mention how power works in democratic countries, even when the leadership takes

inappropriate action, then people can pull the leader down. If you look at the public officials in Korea, they are held up against very strict ethical and other standards, and that is why we pursued investigation through the prosecutors and, of course, we were relieved that the prosecutors dismissed all charges against him, and I would like to express my sorrow for the difficulties that the Secretary General and Secretariat had to go through. I would like to emphasize once again that we hold the public officials to very strict standards. I would like to mention that we are aware that the Secretary General, Kim Yong-Hi, played a pivotal part in founding this very important organization that we call A-WEB and I believe that many countries are indebted to Mr. Kim Yong-Hi and I believe that even when he steps down, through his legacy all the members will continue to contribute to free and democratic elections around world.

I would like to add some comments, if you look at the business and projects of A-WEB in the past, most work conducted through or as ODA(Official Development Assistance) projects of the Korean government. When it comes to this Korean ODA Project, we apply Korean law. As you know, A-WEB pursued the projects that were centered around ICT technology and ICT machines. This was where allegations of collusion were raised, and as an organization, National Election Commission needed to clarify these allegations and we had to investigate these matters through the Korean prosecution. Once again, I would like to congratulate Mr. Kim Yong-Hi. However, given this backdrop, when we pursue projects in the future, when we carry out the projects using Korean ODA, we need to move away from centering on providing assistance on particular items such as ICT equipment. We need to broaden our horizon of projects including election observation and also training. So, we need to strengthen other parts of our projects. I would like to once again clarify that we are committed to providing support A-WEB to promote free and democratic elections around the world.

(SG) Thank you for your explanation. There are any comments or questions on the 2019 Project and Budget Plan?

(Palestine) Thank you. Just a few things before I start. Thanks, Chairperson for the hospitality and warm welcome from your Bulgaria CEC, and sorry, Kim, to hear that you are leaving us, but thanks that your allegation has been denounced, and just one thing I want to thank that Korean government for being like a good assistant to the A-WEB since it started before like 6 years or so. I mean they really did a lot of funding in this organization so that we can be a very huge organization up until this point. Just small comment on the project plan, I'm really a little bit confused why we see like the ICT, No. 3, still in the work plan for 2019. I mean this area is very costly. If you look at the past, most of the budget of the A-WEB went to this area, around 70 percent of the budget allocated to the ICT in just 3 or 4 countries out of the 130 countries. So, there is no balance in the budgeting. I really seconded the idea of like focusing on different issues rather than ICT. Because ICT is really very expensive, I mean there's a bit confusion. Shall we go for ICT? Shouldn't we go for ICT? I mean it's very expensive one. My recommendation is just to take it off of the work plan for 2019. Thank you very much.

(SG) Is there any comment? (No Comments) If there are no further comments, the discussion on the 2019 Project and Budget Plan is closed. I announce the 2019 Project and Budget Plan is approved.

(Palestine) Shall we keep doing ICT in the 2019? Where does it stand right now? Or Shall we open the floor for discussion?

(SG) We will consider your comments but frankly, for all of the plan of A-WEB using the budget from Korean government, we submit to Korean government the plan one year before we execute the budget, so we can not change the plan directly. Now we can consider your comment. We may apply your advice to next projects. Can I announce 2019 project and budget plan closed? This agenda item is approved.

⇒ Conclusion : The 2019 Project and Budget Plan is approved as proposed.

## □ Amendment to the A-WEB Charter

(SG) Now, we will move on to the next agenda item, "Amendment of the Charter". Deputy Director Seung Kim, would you explain on them?

(Seung Kim) At the Executive Board meeting held in Fiji last year, it was decided that a Special Committee of six Executive Board members representing each continent would be organized to revise the Charter and make a proposal for the Charter amendments to the next Executive Board meeting.

Yesterday the Special Committee had a meeting where the Committee members reviewed and made necessary modifications to finalize the proposed Amendments in your agenda book. The Special Committee have submitted to the Executive Board a finalized proposal for the Charter amendments.

Main points of the Amendment proposal are: Allowing members absent at the General Assembly to express their approval and disapproval to each agenda by writing or sending an email to the Secretariat (instead of delegating their right to vote to a member present or the Secretary General); No more than twenty-one(21) organizations in the Executive Board including the member organization of the country hosting the Secretariat; Reducing the length of the term and limiting the consecutive terms of Secretary General; and Clarifying the Executive Board Approval Process for the enactment or revision of the internal rules of the Secretariat.

The Special Committee decided that some articles may need an additional discussion for revision. For more details of the amendment proposal, please refer to the comparison chart on your table.

(SG) As you know, Malawi Election Commission is the Chair of the Special Committee for the Charter Amendments. I find it necessary for the Chair of the

Committee to further elaborate on the outcome of the Committee's work. Mr. David Banda, please have the floor.

(Malawi) Thank you very much, Secretary General. Indeed, it is true that the Special Committee for the Charter amendments of the A-WEB met yesterday to finalize and deliberate on their proposed amendments that have been suggested to the A-WEB Charter. The Deputy Director has already summarized the reason why this Special Committee was constituted. According to the Charter Article 15.3.4, any proposed amendment must first be endorsed by the Executive Board. But since the Executive Board is huge and has many members, a special committee was formulated comprising of the following countries: Fiji, Malawi, Dominican Republic, Taiwan, Bulgaria and Burkina Faso. So, these members, we are supposed to come up with a final report that should be presented to the Executive Board in this meeting for endorsement. After the endorsement, the proposed amendments will now be tabled before the General Assembly for possible adoption. I confirm that the Special Committee indeed held a meeting yesterday and debated and finally came up with the final proposed amendments that are today being presented before the Executive Committee for endorsement so that they will be reported to the General Assembly. So If you have seen in your agenda book, on agenda No. 4, that is the book that we are using, you will find the proposed amendments that we had before the Special Committee yesterday. The Special Committee deliberated on them and then finally came up with the final proposal for the amendments. This now should be in a pamphlet that is also before you today. So, If you allow me, I will go through the pamphlets. I want to be sure that everyone has it. It's a written final proposal for the amendments to the Charter of A-WEB. So, this final proposal was the one that was settled yesterday during the meeting of the Special Committee.

(Mr. Tselane) Secretary General, we are looking into the book for the amendments. I don't think the pamphlet we are talking about has been circulated. Is it possible for us...because that isn't updated. We don't have that circulated amongst us. Is it possible for us to get that updated version please?



(Malawi) Maybe before I proceed, Secretary General, can you confirm that everyone has the updated final version. (Confirming) Thank you very much. It appears everyone has the copy, so if I should go through it quickly, I will not be reading through everything since you have it in front of you, I will just talk you through it. The first column on your left is how the article or clause in the Charter was before the proposal and then the middle column is what has been settled as the final proposal that is being presented today for endorsement by the Executive Board.

So, quickly the first article is Article 3 which talks about the nature and entity and official language of the Charter. It's been amended from just Type of Entity to Nature of Entity and Official Language. The Special Committee agreed on what should be presented before the Executive Board for endorsement and submission to the General Assembly.

The other article was article No.14 which talks about the General Assembly. As explained, this is to allow members who do not attend the General Assembly to be able to vote or to be able not to vote, but to express their opinions and views through email or letter, provided that the letter is sent to the Secretariat at least a week prior to the General Assembly. If the member will not be attending the General Assembly, they can write a letter or an email at least a week before the General Assembly. If that letter is received and acknowledged, those views would be read out in the General Assembly and that member shall have been deemed to have been present at the meeting. That's how article No.14 has been changed.

(Bangladesh) You would like to receive comment when we go ahead or you would like to receive comment at the end? If you allow us to have some comment when we go ahead...

(SG) I think that it is better that we comment on each amendment after we hear the whole explanation.

(Malawi) I think it would be best if we just go through what is being proposed for

endorsement and then maybe before the actual question on whether the Executive Board is endorsing the amendments, the proposed amendments, we get to hear the comments.

So, I was on article No.15 which is the composition of the Executive Board. 15.1.1 is being proposed to read that the Executive Board should comprise not more than twenty member organizations, and Secretary General should also be a member of the Executive Board, but he should not have the voting right. But he would be a member of the Executive Board. Apart from those, the twenty member organizations shall include the organization of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, the immediate former Chairperson, members appointed as per Article 15.2.3 of the Charter as it reads now, and the member organization of the country that host the Secretariat. So, this is how the new Executive Board would be composed.

The next one is 15.1.2. The only thing that is being added, is because 15.1.1 has been amended 'some members would be permanent members of the Executive Board'. So, it's necessary that 15.1.2 should also include, if you see the underline 'the member organization of the country hosting the Secretariat' must be added. That is why it's necessary that member is also being added, which also brings me to 15.2.2 on the next page. That addition is also necessary because as we said that composition, now has some country that would be permanent members. So, it's important that this regulation should be an exception, meaning all members that would be part of the Executive Board and have been appointed under 15.2.3. This regulation should not apply. That is why it is also necessary that we should have this amendment due to the Charter.

Then we come to the decision making of the Executive Board. 15.4.1 which talks about the quorum is being amended and it should read 'a quorum shall be comprised of a majority of the members of the Executive Board. If a member is unable to attend a meeting, the member may express their approval or disapproval to each agenda tabled at the Executive Board meeting by writing or

sending an email to the Secretariat'. Members, you see the rationale is being repeated where we have said in the General Assembly, if a country or member does not attend and they can express their view or opinion in writing. It's also just consistent that when the Executive Board meets, then any member who is not present can also express their views or opinion in writing an email. So, it is consistent both at the General Assembly and at the Executive Board meeting. So, once that email or letter is received at least a week prior to the meeting, then the member is being deemed to have attended the meeting.

Then we come to the appointment of the Secretary General. The new or proposed clause is proposing that 'a candidate for Secretary General should be nominated by the Executive Board and the appointment of the candidate to Secretary General should be approved by the General Assembly. The Secretary General shall have a term of office of 3 years and serve up to two consecutive terms'. I think this is a reduction from what was prevailing in the current Charter, where I think the Secretary General serves for 4 year terms, to two consecutive terms. So, the term is being reduced to 3 years.

And then regarding the procedure for appointment, 18.2 says 'applicants for Secretary General shall submit their application to the Secretariat with the recommendation of at least three members of the Executive Board no later than ninety days prior to the General Assembly or no later than the date set by the Executive Board'. Once the applications have been received, we get to 18.3 'the Executive Board shall nominate the final candidate for endorsement by the General Assembly'. 'The endorsement shall be made by a simple majority of the members present at the General Assembly'. I must mention that there was a rationale as to why this has been placed this way. This is to eliminate instances where the organization does not have Secretary General for a long time. Maybe by a possibility of where a name has been presented before the General Assembly, and the General Assembly has rejected or has not agreed with the nomination. What happens? So, we have said there should be full recommendation from the Executive Board. When a name goes to the General Assembly, it's going for endorsement, by the General Assembly by simple

majority.

18.4 is seeking where you have an existing Secretary General who is seeking reappointment. The same is being presented before the General Assembly for endorsement. So, if you have a Secretary General that would like to be reappointed and then 18.4, as it's reading in the middle column, would be applied.

Then we come to 18.7 'Roles of the Secretary General'. Those ones I think, it was agreed that they are straightforward and only what was added was 18.7.1 which I think was being left out from the old Charter. We said 18.7.1 which says 'oversee the entire functioning of the Secretariat' is very important and should also be included in the roles of the Secretary General. Otherwise, if you read from 18.7.1 up to 18.7.6, those are being proposed to be in the roles of the Secretary General.

And then, there is another minor amendment on Article 22 about independence. As it is now, it reads 'Independence'. The members of the Special Committee said maybe the best way to describe it would be 'Operation of the Secretariat', not 'Independence of the Secretariat'. So, when you read it now, it makes sense. It says 'The Secretary General and staff of the Secretariat shall not be subject to any external direction or control of any person or authority other than that of the organization'. The next one is 'the Secretary General shall obtain approval from the Executive Board for enactment or revision of rules and regulations of the Secretariat'. This is a new provision that is being added. So, when the Secretary General would like to make rules and regulation for the Secretariat, he must, first of all, seek the approval of the Executive Board.

The next one would now be talking about 'SOURCES OF FUNDS' for the organization. This is also a new article that is being proposed to be added. The members agreed that when it comes to members' funds that are used for meetings such as General Assembly and Executive Board meetings and for operating training centers and any other program related to A-WEB, those funds should be considered to be contributions that the member is actually making

towards A-WEB activities.

Lastly, we have an addendum that is also a new article that is being proposed to be added to the Charter. It says that 'amendments to this Charter shall come into effect at the moment of their adoption by the General Assembly'. So that there should be no requirement that indeed should be appointed when they should come into force. Once they are adopted by the General Assembly, all amendments to the Charter should become applicable immediately. And then, 'decisions made by the General Assembly or the Executive Board prior to the adoption of these amendments shall be deemed made in accordance with this amended Charter'.

That is what has been finalized at the final proposals for the Charter amendment, and they are being presented before the Executive Board meeting for endorsement so they would be presented before the General Assembly. But it must be mentioned that while going through the proposed amendments, there are some provisions that we thought maybe we could not completely agree and we thought maybe we could benefit from this meeting and we see whether they should be presented before the General Assembly the way they are, or if members have other views, they can express so that we make them to be worded in a much better manner. These are 18.5 and 18.6. Mr. Secretary General, if you allow me just to read 18.5 and 18.6, 18.5 is being proposed to read as the last page of the pamphlet. 'In the case that the Secretary General is regarded as being unable to fulfill his/her duty for a considerable amount of time or as having seriously violated the Charter, the Secretariat shall immediately notify the Executive Board of the case. The Executive Board may suspend the Secretary General from duty by its decision and appoint a second highest ranking person within the Secretariat as the acting Secretary General'. 18.6, 'In the case of Secretary General's decease, resignation or removal, the Chairperson shall immediately notify the Executive Board of the case. The Executive Board shall appoint the second highest ranking person within the Secretariat as the acting Secretary General and commence the appointment process for the next Secretary General within one hundred and eighty days from

the occurrence of the vacancy'. So, these ones may require more contributions from this meeting. But otherwise, what I presented so far is what the Special Committee agreed that should be presented before this Committee for endorsement. If there is an issue that I may not have clearly presented, it may require any member who attended the meeting yesterday to clarify. Thank you, Mr. Secretary General.

(India) Apart from this, those points also may be told to the members which we had agreed upon to circulate as additional points so that the members can take a view in due course of time, not today. In due course of time, member EMBs can take a view like some, Secretary General has suggested some issues, one or two issues. Please see those also and that also has to be circulated in due course of time, not today.

(SG) Yes, I will do so. But today I hope this Executive Board can make decisions. We have to distribute the outcome of this meeting to our members 90 days before the General Assembly. So, we cannot convene the extraordinary Executive Board meeting again. So, I hope today we decide on amendments of this Charter.

(Croatia) Just a few words before the amendments, thanks Bulgaria and thanks Mr. Kim for the work, thanks NEC Korea for its support. I want to further go on that, but on this amendments of the Charter, just one clarification. On this Article 15.1.1, 20 members, this is including Chairperson, Vice-chairperson and host country. Just to clarify, 15.1.1 it says 'the Executive Board shall not be comprised of no more than 20 member organizations'. In this twenty are the Chairperson, Vice-chairperson and the host country. Am I reading it right? So all together is actually 16 plus eventually this.

(Mr. Tselane) I think she really has got the point. I remember when we discussed it yesterday, we did not properly clarify it, because if you look around here, we may be already not complying with that provision. Perhaps, instead of saying there should not be 'more than', we should say there should be 'at least', because when you count the people who are around the table today, already it

is more than 16 countries. When you include the other members who are appointed through certain provisions, it might easily exceed the number twenty. So, we've got to find solution where we do not find ourselves not complying with the Charter due to the numbers. So, we've got to be a little bit more open at provision that allows us a flexibility to be able to do that, obviously without creating an unwieldy structure, but at the same time, allowing us to be able to have the members that we require to be part of the Executive.

(Croatia) Just to clarify, will it be 16 elected plus, plus, plus or it will be, just know how many members are elected as Board members from a certain region, and then on top of that goes the Board members that are there by function. Taking care that those members that are by position do not exceed the members that are elected, this is only to clarify, because otherwise if we don't have the starting point clear, everything else further on might get complicated, So, this is my comment, otherwise congratulations and also I know it was lots of comments and I think the Committee did a great job on trying to comprise all the different views.

(SG) I will answer to you Madam Chair. Let's look at the current Charter, the left side, 15.1.1. 'The Executive Board shall be comprised of no more than twenty member organizations and the Secretary General. The twenty member organizations shall include the organization of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and the immediate former Chairperson'. So, in the current Charter, the 20 members include all other members. So, we cannot have more than 20 members. When we first made this Charter, it was agreed that it would be more effective to have the Executive Board small in size rather than big and heavy.

(Malawi) Thank you very much, Secretary General. To address it, I have a proposal. It is being suggested that maybe since here we have, it appears we have too many permanent members. For example, we shall always have the Chairperson as a member, Vice-Chairperson, the immediate former Chairperson, and then members appointed as per Article 15.2. This shall always be member of

Executive Board. We are saying maybe the 20 that we are talking about should not include these. So, we should have these that are the permanent members and 20 more members.

(Bangladesh) Thank you very much, I have got some observations on 15.1.1. We have said that the number, 20, is the number of the Board size, but the number of the countries may be increased or decreased for some reasons, maybe the size that we have today may be more than that in future or less than that in future. If we do not fix it on number but what percentage is, what percent of the total member countries should be the Executive member of the Board. I think that should have some sense to have a permanent structure on the size of the Executive Board. That is my observation. Today, we have 109 or so, in future we may have 150, then if you do not go through proportional line, the size of the Executive Board will be relatively small. If the size comes to reduce to, for example, 50 or 60, then it will have some exclusion from the original position.

(SG) I recommend you to refer to the current Charter 15.1.2. ‘Geographical distribution of seats in the Executive Board shall proportionally reflect the number of members from Africa, America, Asia, Europe, and Oceania, where at least one seat shall be reserved for each region. In this case, the total number of seats to be proportionally distributed to each region shall not include the seats taken by the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, the immediate former Chairperson, and members appointed pursuant to sub-paragraph 15.2.3’. So, I think the current Charter already reflects your concern.

(Bangladesh) I’ve got another observation on 14.2.1. The original proposal was that the ‘members unable to participate in the General Assembly may delegate their right to vote to one of the participating members or the Secretary General’. I think it was sensible, because it would send some ideas, send some proposal by email. In this case, if there are some areas that require discussion, with emails it cannot answer. The physical presence is essential so that it can explain anything even out of the agenda or anything can be debated. Because in this meeting, for example, on the mail, some areas of observation may come, which can not



be answered in his absence. What in the absence of his delegation, that is why, I think that previous one was good. It should be represented by anybody, not by sending mail only, No.1. No.2, if you allow sending mails only, then I think the size of the Executive Committee's presence should be shrunk day by day. Because without going there or without sending a representative, one can just send a mail and be a part of participation in the meeting. So, in future, people will lose their interest to attend the meeting.

(Malawi) Secretary General, I would propose maybe we exhaust the points that are being raised on 15.1.1, first. And then, we go to the second observation that is making, because we haven't finalized it yet. Now so far what I have recorded is that they seek proposal to say the composition maybe should be a percentage of the number of the entire organization. And then from South Africa, they are saying why don't we just say the permanent members are not part of the number 20. So, meaning we have 20, including the permanent members. So, it says that of the two should be adopted as the final proposal for amendment. Thank you.

(Mr. Tselane) If I could try to amplify the point that I'm making, Secretary General, we are already 21 members here in the Executive. So, it means we are not complying with our own Charter, if we adopt that provision. So, that 20 when I say it is 20, excluding the various other aspects that I mentioned, which is members appointed in terms of 15.1.2 as well as Secretary General and the Chairperson and the Vice as indicated. So, we just exclude those so that the total number can be 20 and then you include those to make the whole Executive Board. I think it is going to help us greatly, because then it means we are going to have a problem of having to say to stick to the provision that we have of 21, then we must remove someone. We should become very uncomfortable. So, let's just change one word, and say, excluding instead of saying including.

(SG) Anybody wants to comment on what Terry said?

(Croatia) If you are looking to the text, to start 'Executive Board shall be comprised of

no more than twenty member organizations'. And then Second paragraph, 'Executive Board shall include one, two, three, four, five Executive. And then third paragraph, Executive Board shall include also the Secretary General without voting right. so, we are having it divided in three sets, one set is representative of the countries, the second paragraph is those countries that are members of the Board by the position of hosting, and then the third category is the Secretary General that is a member of the Board but without the voting right. In that sense then, we are clear. We are having this not exceeding 20 but it can be less and then this fixed now. This is my proposal very technical. Thank you.

(SG) Everybody agreed to Advisor Terry and we can make conclusion that the Executive Board shall be comprised of twenty member organizations and the Secretary General who shall not have the voting right and the organizations of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, the immediate former Chairperson, members appointed as per article 15.2.3 and the member organization of the country hosting the Secretariat. All right? So, 20 members and other special members.

(Bangladesh) ... and one person is without voting right. So, the number stands at 21. 20 members who have voting right and the one member is without voting right, who is Secretary General. Can we categorize what Terry and Madam told that the Secretary General is one part without voting right and another party is the ex officio or the current hosting country and other representatives of the EMBs. So, I think this is Okay. Terry do you mean it the 21 persons, how you segregate the 21 persons, Terry?

(Malawi) Thank you very much Secretary General. I think he has actually summarized it and he has included all the suggestions, because what he has now, is that the Executive Board shall have the 20 members that are now according to the geographical distribution of seats. And then on the 20, we are adding the Secretary General who doesn't have any voting right, and then we are also adding members who are being members by virtue of being Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and the immediate former Chairperson, and then also adding

members appointed as per article 15.2.3. So, that's what we have. I think he does take care of all their contributions.

(SG) I assume that the amendment to this article has been approved. And we will rewrite this article as you discussed and concluded.

(India) In fact, some of the Executive Board members are not here also, and for us also Election Commission of India. Whatever agenda were circulated, we got the mandate on that agenda. So, we are not opposing this, not approving this. We will certainly convey you through email, just after reaching our country. Because we have to get the concurrence of our full commission, three member body, if it is okay.

(Malawi) The views that have been specified by India, I should think what is happening now, the Executive Board is just endorsing the amendments. And then, there will be a time when they are presented before the General Assembly that will be voting. I should think that's when maybe countries will be expressing their views whether they agree or not. Because, what is happening now is not like this has already been adopted and you start applying because we still have to present it before the General Assembly. But if you remember what I said, we are doing this because the article that I cited before I started my presentation requires that all amendments must first be endorsed by the Executive Board meeting. That is what is happening here, not really voting as making these the amendments. It's not like we are saying the Charter has been amended by the Executive Board.

I think there was a few that was being raised on 14.2.1. Without actually reopening because I would suggest that maybe this meeting should not degenerate into the meeting that we already had yesterday where we debated each and every point. Otherwise, there would be no point of having constituted this special committee to do this and then only come here, we start debating each and every point, line by line, sentence by sentence. So, I would propose that if members really have burning issues and radical suggestions on how certain provision that have been presented for endorsement have been presented,

maybe we should hear such kind of proposals, but there is a proposal raised from Bangladesh about 14.2.1. But we shouldn't start debating each and every sentence, each and every word. Otherwise, the Special Committee would not have any value whatsoever. That's my suggestion, Secretary General.

(SG) Of course, even though the Special Committee for the Charter amendment discussed and decided among themselves but if some members of the Executive Board have a question or if there is something the members don't understand, we can still have a discussion. But I hope we will do the discussion a little bit more speedily. So, I ask you for cooperation. The background of the draft of the revision 14.2.1 is that the Secretariat has difficulty meeting the quorum for the General Assembly and Executive Board meeting. So, we made it possible that some members who can not participate in the meeting can be deemed as present by sending a letter or an email to the Secretariat. But if you look at the current Charter 14.2.1, it is mandate to other members or Secretary General, which has some problems. Some people say that this article has some problems, because the countries who got mandate from some countries absent may arbitrarily cast vote. That's why we have revised this amendment. Please understand the background of this revision.

(Bangladesh) Secretary General, I'm not convinced. David, thank you very much for your deliberate work. You have worked a lot and you considered everything. I appreciate it. But still I am on this point that if you are so much liberal on the presence of the members of the Committee, then some will find that only Secretary General and 3 or 4 members of the Executive Board will be there and other people will just keep sending their email and suggestions on the table. So, I think there should be some realistic measures, if any member does not come and attend the meeting in consecutive 2 or 3 occasions, then there should be some measures against them. They will lose their membership or they will be deferred from being the member of the Executive Committee. So, if you were liberal in that magnitude, then I apprehend that the time will come when you will find not even 20 percent or 10 percent, 5 percent will be there, you will have to discuss the issues on email and send written proposals. My

apprehension is there.

(Romania) Thank you very much. I totally support what you have said because if we are looking at A-WEB as a serious organization, we should commit to participate at these meetings. My proposal is not to have a proxy voting method or delegation of voting right. If we want to be serious about A-WEB, we should be here present at everytime we have a meeting. We can speak, because we are almost in 2020, about having video calls, and that's a way to be present in this kind of meeting. Because, we have budget for ICT matters supporting other countries, but delegation of voting to the Secretary General or sending an email, it is not feasible for this organization in the future. We, Romania, will not support that. Our proposal is to delete the 'delegate the right to vote to the Secretary General'. Thank you very much.

(SG) I know that you are right in principle, but in order to meet the quorum for the General Assembly, we have to pay airfares for the members who can not participate. For example, in the last meeting in Romania, we paid airfares for maybe about 10 members. But we managed to meet the quorum. Just two member over the quorum, only two countries above the quorum. If we fail to meet the quorum, we will have to cancel the meeting, even though many people participate in the meeting. So, please understand our real situation.

(Romania) I know the history. That is quite right, but then let's change the definition of the quorum. The majority of the members which are present in the room, maybe we can discuss of what percentage. 40 percentage of the members of the Association. But they must be in the room to make a decision. It's not okay to send an email, and not to be present to sustain your opinion. Because the opinion during the meeting might change. So, we can work about changing the definition of quorum being members which are present or we can have one fourth of the members of the Association and that's the quorum.

(Uzbekistan) Good afternoon, ladies and gentleman. First of all, I would like to thank CEC of Bulgaria for hosting this meeting and Mr. Kim Yong-Hi. Nothing is perfect. We have enough time until the General Assembly and I think we have

time to work on this documents on the amendments. I, myself, think Bangladesh Mr. Nurul Huda is right, because I think that there should be a certain number of people to conduct the meeting and the discussions. If we will move to the electronic email voting, email-sending on the issues of agenda, there will be a lack of discussion in the activity of the Executive Board. We think that we should adopt this document today and also we should continue working on this amendment. Having this chance, I want to go back to some history. About 8 years ago, we met with Mr. Kim Yong-Hi when he was the Chairperson of the National Election Commission of Korea. He shared his opinion about organizing this kind of organization like A-WEB. Today we have this organization, and this organization has its own honor and it is respected by countries. That is why I think we should express our gratitude to Mr. Kim Yong-Hi for the great organization, A-WEB. That's why it was hard to hear that Mr. Kim Yong-Hi is going to resign. I hope we would like to have him in this organization, and we would hope that he will continue to work within this organization. Because by your initiative this organization was organized, and this is the result of your job. Our friends from the Authority of the Korea state and NEC, they should also note Mr. Kim Yong-Hi's situation. There is good tradition in international organizations. For example, there is, as you know, Venice Commission which works with election bodies properly, and the person who organized the, Election Commission of India, also recognized your role. You have built up a big building of A-WEB with your hard work, consistent and persistent effort. We recognize your role very much. I'm just coming to Article 15.1.1. Yesterday during this Committee meeting, there were two things I think it should be noted. First of all, when it has been decided that any member can be appointed as per Article 15.2.3, means extraordinary contribution, maybe it is financial contribution and other contribution, he may be the member. Then we think that member organization of the country hosting the Secretariat should not hold a permanent seat first of all. And secondly, the Secretary General suggested yesterday on 19.1 which would otherwise not come into this agenda because it is related 'the Secretariat shall be situated in the

Republic of Korea’. And Honorable Secretary General has suggested ‘or any other country as decided by the Executive Board’ may be added into this as proposal. Thank you.

(Malawi) Secretary General, I would suggest that we, members, aren’t comfortable because as we have noted Romania, Bangladesh, and then Uzbekistan, I’m not so sure who else about the quorum. Maybe it may not be a bad idea to put it quorum as percentage of the members, total members of A-WEB. But now with your explanation where we are coming from, from the history, I would say maybe what we have now might be the best we have. We can observe what would happen and if we see the fears of the members coming to being proved, they may suggest to further amend it to make the quorum as percentage. But maybe for information sake, if you could get the actual number of the members, then maybe we decide what that quorum if it should be represented as percentage would look like. We can include it here. How many members do we have so far as members of A-WEB, how many members do we have so far as members of the Executive Board because it’d apply both of the General Assembly and the Executive Board because they’re reading almost like the same in terms of the quorum. Thank you.

(SG) I was proceeding in English, which is not my mother tongue, and it was quite difficult. So I will proceed from this point on forward in Korean. I think that we have been discussing this for too long because we are all talking about all of the points that have been raised and I have to say that if we proceed in this manner, we will not be able to come to a conclusion today. So I think that we must first agree that we must come to agreement on this Charter amendment, that is, we will reach an agreement so that this can be tabled at the General Assembly. So how about we put a vote for the articles that have majority support we will endorse and for items or provisions that we do not have majority support we will exclude from this Charter amendment. So I would like

to suggest that we move forward in this manner. So we will hold a vote and for the items that we have a majority we will proceed, for those items we do not have a majority we will exclude and move on. Do you agree with this method? I assume that everybody agrees to this method and we will now proceed in this manner. So we will start from the beginning.

(Dominican Republic) Now I understand what kind of proposal you would like to have. So what would you like us to vote for?

(SG) So, we will start at the beginning and we will hear your opinions and then we will do a vote. And so if we have a majority over a certain provision, we will adopt the provision. For those items we cannot reach a majority, we will drop those items so that we can proceed. So you all agreed with this method.

So let's begin with 14.2.1. It says here, it reads here 'A quorum shall be a majority of the members of the Association. Members unable to attend the General Assembly may express their approval or disapproval to each agenda tabled at the General Assembly by writing or sending an email to the Secretariat. The members who have notified the Secretariat of their intention on each agenda a week prior to the General Assembly shall be deemed present at the meeting.' So with this amendment, if you are for this amendment, please raise your hand. We will count. We will place this on a vote. One thing I would like to mention before we carry out this vote is that only Executive Board members will have the right to vote. So again if you are for amendment for 14.2.1, I would like to ask you to raise your hand. Again voting is open to the Executive Board members only. (counting) Also those members who are opposed to this amendment, please raise your hand. (counting) If you drop this article, the current article will remain. Do you understand what I said? O.K. Now we have to drop the revision of this article. Because the majority spoke against this provision, we will not be amending the



Article 14.2.1 and we will be leaving it as it is in the current Charter. Moving on to Article 15.1.1...

(Malawi) Mr. Secretary General, I think we don't have to vote on each and every Article. We should only vote on those Articles that people have actually expressed reservations. So the voting happened on 14.2.1 and this one is actually reading word for word with the one on the Executive Board meeting, which is also talking about emails, which is 15.4. So I'm assuming members that expressed reservations on 14.2.1 will also express reservations on 15.4 which is also talking about members sending emails and attending by emails or letters. So on these ones since these ones people voted, we maintain the current provision. I think 15.4 members also have the view that the current one should also remain. And then maybe we should also pose a question whether members also have reservations on any other provision and then move forward. But otherwise I think those are the only reservations that we had. Thank you.

(SG) O.K. Anyway as he mentioned, we dropped 14.2.1. The revision of article 15.4.1 should be dropped because they are related. Next revision of Article 15.1.1. If you approve the revision of this article, please put your hand up. So with this provision when we were discussing 15.1.1, I believe that we agreed that the Executive Board will be comprised of 20 member organizations plus other members. We will revise the provision as such. So if you agree with this revision, please raise your hand. I believe that all members agree with the revision we just discussed. So we will make those necessary changes to the wording. For those of you who have opposing views, I'd like to remind you that you have a couple of more opportunities such as the General Assembly and the Extraordinary Executive Board meeting to air your concerns or your opposition. And 15.1.2 also reflects the changes of 15.1.1. So without a vote I think we can safely assume everybody has the same opinion regarding 15.1.2. We will not hold a vote for that. I assume everybody

was in agreement. And why don't we vote on 15.2.2? So all in favour of Article 15.2.2 as in the amendment, please raise your hand. (counting) And this article is also related to the previous provisions. So I'm sure that there are no objections regarding the amendments of this provision.

(India) O.K. This majority decision is O.K. But we have reservations on this. That should be noted. Thank you.

(SG) And then next is 15.4.1 and this provision is regarding decision-making. I think we've already discussed it. So we will drop the revision for 15.4.1. And then next is Article 18.1. We will have a discussion about this: 'A candidate for Secretary General shall be nominated by the Executive Board and the appointment of the candidate to Secretary General shall be approved by the General Assembly. The Secretary General shall have a term of office of 3 years and serve up to two (2) consecutive terms.' With regard to this provision, please raise your hand if you are for the revision of 18.1. (counting) I think the majority of you agree with this amendment.

And then next one is 18.2: 'Applicants for Secretary General shall submit their application to the Secretariat with the recommendation of at least three members of the Executive Board no later than ninety (90) days prior to the General Assembly or no later than the date set by the Executive Board.' So regarding provision 18.2, with regard to the revised article, we will vote now. So if you are for 18.2, please raise your hand, if you are for the revised 18.2. (counting) So I think...

(Bangladesh) I think that David told us we need not go by article by article. The articles we shared around this question on the meeting, opposing or accepting, those articles can be approved by raising our hands. Otherwise, other articles are not disputed.

(SG) I think if we go through each of these provisions, it is not a big problem because we only have a few more provisions to vote for. So I

ask for your kind patience because I think it will not take too much time to vote for each provision. So continuing, I think for 18.2, most of you agree with the revision. So we will adopt it as it is. Why don't we now move on to 18.3?: 'The Executive Board shall nominate the final candidate for endorsement by the General Assembly. The endorsement shall be made by a simple majority of the members present at the General Assembly.' So with regard to this revised provision, it's just talking about the basic principles. I'm sure the majority of you agree. Yes? O.K. We will adopt the revised provision 18.3 as it is.

(Palestine) You are going to nominate two candidates? I heard you saying that in the beginning. Am I right? So you nominate one or two?

(SG) In the current Charter we nominate two candidates, but in the revised and amended Charter we propose that the Executive Board nominate the final candidate. If you look at the current Charter...In the draft of the revision of the Charter, the Secretariat has no right to narrow candidates down to two candidates. So I will announce that we have endorsed 18.3 and I'd like to move on to 18.4: 'The Executive Board shall table the reappointment of the Secretary General at the General Assembly for endorsement' And again I believe that there will be no objections to this amendment. If you have any objections, can you please raise your hand? No? So we have endorsed Article 18.4. Moving on to 18.7 'Roles of the Secretary General', 18.7 stipulates the roles of the Secretary General and it specifies the role of the Secretary General and I believe based on our discussions before nobody has any objections to the amendments to Article 18.7. So please raise your hand now if you have any objections to the amendments made to this article. No objections? Yes. So we have endorsed the Article 18.7 as well.

Next, Article 22 'Operation of the Secretariat'. 22.2 has been added, it says 'The Secretary General shall obtain approval from the Executive Board for enactment or revision of rules and regulations of the

Secretariat. Do we have any objections regarding this Article? Since there is no objection, we approve this article.

Article 23.5 'Members' funds for holding A-WEB meetings, such as General Assembly and Executive Board meeting, and for operating training centers and observation programs may be regarded as contribution to the A-WEB's activities'. So I would like to ask your opinion regarding Article 23.5. Is there any objection? No? We have endorsed Article 23.5. Moving on to the ADDENDA, as you can see, there are two bullet points. Do you have any objections?

(India) In fact, our objection was this as present basically. All member EMBs are required to pay annual membership fee, 10,000 dollars. So I think A-WEB Secretariat may constantly remind the members to pay their membership fee. If they regularly pay their membership fee, so we will hardly depend on any other entity other than this. And second thing, any expenditure on any training, any election observation program or anything, it is done by host country. So only basically this is the cost of the Secretariat, which is important. That expenditure of the Secretariat. I think 10,000 dollars regularly paid by everybody, it will be sufficient and we will not be dependent on other sources. And one more thing, General Assembly or Executive Board meetings, it is also borne by the host country like they're hosting, they're expending the money.

(Mr. Tselane) I think we should adopt what have here and leave it at the level of contribution as indicated, but just to clarify the point raised by India, the 10,000 dollars that members are contributing, we had previously said that that is the money that is not going to be going into the administration of the Secretariat. But in the light of what we currently have, I think it is a matter that perhaps we need to raise with the General Assembly so that people understand that their money or contribution will go to the activities of the organization, particularly the management of the Secretariat, because the current arrangement was that

when you make contribution, you will also have access to that contribution. So we've got to change the rules and inform the General Assembly that the money now will be utilized for the purpose of strengthening the Secretariat and that every member must now contribute as per the Charter.

(Bangladesh) This is very important. Because if you're a member of this Association and if you do not pay, then how would this organization run? I think India is very correct that we should have some mechanism of persuasion very regularly. I think many of us, including Bangladesh, do not regularly pay because there is no reminder, there is no persuasion. It is important that very close persuasion should be there, reminder from time to time should be there. Then I think money will be collected and it will increase the capacity of A-WEB. It is important. Money is important certainly. Certainly the A-WEB should not depend on a particular country for regular inflow of fund from a particular country.

(SG) Thank you for your wonderful input. Most of our budget was procured from NEC and the Korean government. The use of the budget is very strictly limited. As the representative of Palestine mentioned, we think that from this year we need to diversify our projects. I said that it was not going to be easy to diversify or change our projects because when we allocate the budget, we have very clear sort of restrictions on where we can use that money. There are limitations. So far our Secretariat in order to become more independent from the Korean government, we do need voluntary funding and membership fees from our member organizations. Only then can we survive. Currently we are relying much of our funding from the Korean government and so we can only use our money based on what the Korean government says. So the basic operation of the Secretariat even has to be confirmed when we use this budget. So in reality, to be honest, there are not a lot of member organizations that can pay the 10,000 dollars. Last year only 11

members were able to pay their membership fees. Out of 110, only 11 were able to pay their membership fees. Even those member organizations that live in relatively well-off countries have a hard time paying their membership fees because of their domestic legislation and regulations. So for whatever reason, they have a hard time procuring the membership fees because there are domestic regulations and mechanism in place. If you look at countries in Latin America, due to domestic legislation they also sometimes face challenges when paying membership fees. They want to, but there are legal restrictions. So in order to address this type of issues for those countries, we have to find a way for them to make contributions to A-WEB. For example, airfares, logistic cost, stay expenditure that can be borne by us and we can invite them to meetings and attend the meetings. Then they can make contributions to A-WEB. So what I was saying is although those countries do not pay their membership fees, they were able to use money for A-WEB members. That is why we included this provision. I think that this amendment should be adopted as it is and another thing is the membership fees that members need to pay. At the next General Assembly, maybe the membership fees that member organizations pay, we use it for their travel cost. But we are now going to ask them so that we can use it for the operation of the Secretariat taking into consideration what was proposed here. So if you agree, I would like to ask for your support if you agree we will raise this at the General Assembly. I believe that the Election Commission from India is still opposed to this idea but we will write that down in the minutes and proceed.

Moving on, I'd like to address ADDENDA 1 and 2. If you don't have any other comments or opposition, we will assume that we endorse these two items. And now we have articles that we need to discuss further. They are Articles 18.5 and 18.6. The Special Committee on Charter Amendments, I believe, discussed these two articles yesterday. But there

was a lot of controversy and they could not come to a consensus regarding these two articles. They decided to bring these to the Executive Board for further discussion. In yesterday's Special Committee meeting, many ideas and opinions were put forth. Let me first read 18.5: 'In the case that the Secretary General is regarded as being unable to fulfil his/her duty for a considerable amount of time or as having seriously violated the Charter,' So I Just read the first part of this Article. There were opinions that this was very subjective. How can we evaluate the situation? Who and how can we evaluate whether the Secretary General has or not fulfilled his or her duty? It's not objective. The issue was raised that the criteria was quite subjective and not objective. I would like to put this on the table so that we can discuss this article here. If we still face many oppositions, we will simply drop this article from the Charter amendments. We will strike it from the Charter amendments. Can we endorse Article 18.5 as presented by the Special Committee?

(Mr. Tselane) Chairperson, I want to suggest the following. On the second sentence 'the Executive Board may suspend the Secretary General from duty by its decision and appoint the second highest person', I was going to say that it should read as follows: 'the Executive Board may suspend the Secretary General from duty and use its discretion to appoint an acting Secretary General'. The reason I am saying this is because then the Executive Board has got its discretion that it can exercise to appoint anybody to be acting. For instance, if the Executive Board feels that one of the members in the Executive Board can actually act as the acting Secretary General, then the Board is not constrained in doing so. Because the current arrangement means that if the Secretariat is based in Rwanda, it means then Angola must then find the highest ranking person there to act. So I'm suggesting that the Executive Board should not abrogate its responsibility of appointing and it must use its discretion to appoint. And hence, the provision that I am putting in there. But in

relation to the concern you raised earlier on about under what circumstances and what criteria will the Executive Board be using to come to a determination on whether to establish whether the Secretary General has fulfilled responsibilities or not, I think we should leave it like that because in any case, in any organization Chief Executive is still accountable to the Board and the Board gives the mandate to this Chief Executive. If the Chief Executive does not fulfil the expectation of the Board, then the Board has got the powers to part with the Chief Executive. So that provision basically is saying this Board has got the powers to appoint and therefore, in a situation where the Board feels that its activities are compromised by the Secretary General, then they have a duty to suspend the Secretary General. But I know that it is not going to be an easy decision. The Board will not just wake up one day and decide that they are going to be removing the Secretary General. It must be under exceptional circumstances that the Board comes to the conclusion.

(Bangladesh) I think Terry has spoken correctly because the removal of the Secretary General unhesitantly or some filthy reason should not be adopted. There should be careful examination on the performance of the Secretary General and there should be some criteria based on which the Board decide that he or she did not or could not perform her or his responsibilities suitably. I think this amendment should be examined further. Today it is very critical because questioning the credibility of the Secretary General should not be an easy task or easy job for anybody of the Executive Board. So if we'd like to go and have this amendment, then allow us time to examine it and fixing up the criteria on which Secretary General's role will be questioned and necessity of his or her removal. Thank you.

(India) I agree with Excellency Honorable Chief Election Commissioner of Bangladesh and Excellency Terry. In fact, there should be a mechanism for removal or another thing. So it should not be taken a decision in



haste. Maybe actually the Executive Board is the body where as the amendment says that 'the Secretariat shall immediately notify'. Who is the Secretariat? Working under the Secretary General, Secretariat officials can dare to report immediately or notify? No. So as our Honorable members are saying, there should be a mechanism. After all, the Executive Board is responsible for all appointment or taking any action. Not the Secretariat will notify. There should be a mechanism for this, proper mechanism. And then accordingly, you can take decision. Thank you.

(SG) Are there any other opinions?

(Dominican Republic) At the meeting yesterday I took the floor several times. We decided to not do it today. Let me remind everyone here not only the members of the Special Committee that were present yesterday, but also the Secretary General. Let me remind you that we did not achieve any consent on this issue as well as we had to postpone our decision. In order to present all the members that we did not reach any consent yesterday during the session of the Special Committee yesterday. That is why we decided to raise this issue today. What I can see from the comments made by some of the members, I believe that it would not be possible to reach any consent even during this session. That is why I believe that this issue should be left open. It should be left open on the table for further examination. There are many other issues that we wanted to examine yesterday but we couldn't reach a consent so that they had to be postponed. Therefore, we should use the same criteria. We should not discuss any issues that we have not reached consent about. Let me just remind you that this is not a final version. Yesterday we decided just to raise it today.

(SG) I was trying to reach an agreement. Why don't I offer my personal opinion to facilitate that? First of all, issues were raised with how we can objectively evaluate the Secretary General's situation. I believe that

the Executive Board can deliberate on a situation and they can reach a conclusion and that conclusion would be deemed as objective criteria. If the Executive Board members deliberate on the issue thoroughly and if they reach a conclusion, I think that that in itself would be criteria enough. It would be objective enough. And as for what Terry mentioned, in appointing the acting Secretary General, if we appoint the second highest person within the Secretariat, there will be limitations, I agree with Terry on that point. The second highest person was originally appointed to his post by the Secretary General. Suppose that now the Secretary General has an issue and for the issue he or she has been suspended. It is paradoxical to appoint the Second highest ranking person, who was appointed by the Secretary General, to be the acting Secretary General during the time the Secretary General is suspended for an issue.

I think it is also problematic for the Secretariat to notify the Executive Board of the Secretary General's misconduct. In this regard, I believe that it would be good for the Executive Board to select and appoint an acting Secretary General using its discretion. If an issue surrounding the Secretary General is raised by an Executive Board member, all members will discuss this issue. To sum up, why don't we leave the first part of this article unchanged and change the last part, say, 'In the case of that the Secretary General is regarded as being unable to fulfil his/her duty for a considerable amount of time or has having seriously violated the Charter, the Executive Board can nominate an acting Secretary General before the new Secretary General is elected by the General Assembly.' I would like to ask your opinions on what I've just suggested. Unless majority of you agree with my suggestion, the amendment to this provision will drop. Those of you who object to my suggestion, please raise your hand.(counting) Let me ask you this way. Those of you who agree to my suggestion, please raise your hand.(counting). Let me make it clear again. We will leave the first part of the provision unchanged,

‘In the case of that the Secretary General is regarded as being unable to fulfil his/her duty for a considerable amount of time or has having seriously violated the Charter’. We will keep this sentence and we will add ‘the Executive Board can nominate an acting Secretary General’. That is my proposal. If you are for this revision, please raise your hand. (Counting) We have a majority vote for this revision.

(Bulgaria) I’m very happy that this amendment has been approved. I have an organizational question. We should have been finished at 12:30. We have a briefing scheduled for 1pm. This is why I’m kindly asking you that we break for luncheon in order to allow for the mass media representatives to take their seats in the hall. I kindly ask the representative of Romania and the representatives of the continents as well as the representative of Croatia, South Africa and everybody who is willing to take part in this press conference. I kindly ask you to stay in the conference room for a briefing with mass media.

(SG) Yes. I noted that there is a press briefing. So we have to adopt the revised provision for 18.5 and then let’s just look at one more provision or should we just go straight to lunch. O.K. We go straight to lunch. There is only one provision left. I think that this provision after we vote on it, there will still be further things to discuss. I think we will conclude our morning session and then go straight to lunch and after lunch we can address the remaining provision.

(Emcee) Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, we will now have luncheon prepared by our host, CEC of Bulgaria. Please remember that the meeting will resume at 2:30 pm.

**(The meeting resumes)**

(SG) Please be seated. The meeting resumes. We finished the morning session with one remaining provision for revision. Now we are looking at Article 18.6 which reads ‘In the case of Secretary General’s decease,

resignation or removal, the Chairperson shall immediately notify the Executive Board of the case. The Executive Board shall appoint the highest ranking person within the Secretariat as the acting Secretary General and commence the appointment process for the next Secretary General within one hundred and eighty (180) days from the occurrence of the vacancy’. Do you have any opinions about this provision?

(Mr. Tselane) Chairperson, I suggest that the logic we use for 18.5 must also be applicable in 18.6. In other words, the Executive Board must have the discretion to appoint any person as the acting Secretary General. If we agreed on that one in 18.5, I suggest that we include it again in 18.6.

(SG) We agree with you. Any other questions?

(Croatia) Because it was in a rush, just 18.5, we’re saying O.K. in case this and this. But we must say that the previous Secretary General will be taken of the duty. I don’t know if this was in the first paragraph. So 18.5 ‘In the case of that the Secretary General is regarded as being unable to fulfil his/her duty for a considerable amount of time or has having seriously violated the Charter, the Executive Board may suspend the Secretary General from duty’. This must go in, because we cannot appoint another person before we suspend the previous Secretary General. This is a strictly technical thing.

(Bangladesh) I think the proposal under 18.5 and the proposal under 18.6 are not the same. Because 18.6 is something else. The Executive Board should take into consideration the technical term the position of the Secretary General may fall vacant due to his illness or due to his death or inevitably resignation from the position. So 18.5 and 18.6 cannot be considered equally. But in the morning session we proposed that 18.5 is a little bit critical and also we need some time for further discussion and further assessment and to put it in the next Executive Board meeting for taking decisions. But 18.6 is very much relevant proposal

because any time the position of the Secretary General may fall vacant. So how to be done at that stage should be considered right now. Thank you.

(SG) If we are unable to reach a decision right now, then in order to table this agenda item on the General Assembly, before the General Assembly we have to prepare and distribute the necessary materials. So if we can't reach an agreement today, we'll have to drop it and it would not be tabled as an agenda item during the General Assembly. With regard to 18.5, in the morning I think we were able to share our thoughts. So we can proceed as we agreed or just drop 18.5.

(Malawi) Thank you very much, Secretary General. I think what I recall in the morning we said only the mechanism of suspending the Secretary General needs more discussion and consultation. But we can't leave just the way it is. I remember we agreed to say that 'In the case of that the Secretary General is regarded as being unable to fulfill his/her duty for a considerable amount of time or having seriously violated the Charter, the Chairperson shall immediately notify the Executive Board of the case'. And then 'the Executive Board, now including what Croatia is saying, may suspend the Secretary General from duty by its discretion and appoint an acting Secretary General'. But now we said how do we now suspend, the mechanism, how do we dismiss, do we suspend. That part now requires further consultation. Not the whole provision should be pended and wait for further consultation. I think that's what I recall. Thank you.

(India) To resolve this issue, I think as Mr. David is saying, further consultation may be done on this and let everybody think on that, and for that if we need an extra meeting, we're going to have an extraordinary meeting in India just before the General Assembly. Until then, we can always think of all these combinations, omissions and moreover, the mechanism how to remove or should be, the mechanism

can be thought of.

(SG) First of all, as mentioned by the representative of Malawi, I believe that we all agreed during the morning that we need a mechanism. I mentioned that it'd be difficult to come up with that specific mechanism today because we will have to take into consideration many different scenarios. I'm fully aware that there is a little controversy as to what can be regarded as criteria or standard to determine whether the Secretary General is regarded as being unable to fulfil their duty. But as I mentioned earlier in the morning, if the Executive Board identifies an issue and believes that the Secretary General should resign, if they convene a meeting and deliberate on this and they reach a conclusion that the Secretary General cannot fulfil his or her duty, that should be enough criteria in itself. And we were talking also about a suggestion that perhaps we should convene an extraordinary session of the Executive Board meeting. But in order to table this provision at the General Assembly, I understand that we have to complete the draft proposal at least 45 days before the General Assembly. So realistically speaking, I believe that it will be very difficult to convene another extraordinary Executive Board meeting before the General Assembly. So what I'm trying to say is that it will be difficult to discuss this matter at length at the Executive Board meeting slated for the day before the General Assembly and it will also be difficult to organize another Executive Board meeting other than the extraordinary session that we have already slated. It is very costly to convene an Executive Board meeting and also it takes a lot of time. This meeting was organized thankfully with the support of the Bulgarian Central Election Commission. Given all of this, I believe that we should deal with this item at this meeting.

I understand and fully agree with what has been raised by the representative of Croatia. Normally, the Executive Board will appoint an acting Secretary General to investigate whether the Secretary General

should indeed be relieved of their duty or not, I think that is why the sub-committee came up with this wording. That's why they use the word 'suspend' so that the Executive Board can have time to evaluate and consider whether they should actually force the Secretary General to resign or dismiss the Secretary General. I believe this is the reason behind the wording. That is why they want to appoint an acting Secretary General to figure out whether they must dismiss the Secretary General.

With regard to the amendments, in this case, I will take it that all of you have agreed to the revision for this particular item. With regard to 18.6, as Terry just mentioned, 18.6 is in a sense in line with 18.5. It talks about appointing the second highest ranking person within the Secretariat and so we should strike this sentence from this provision as we did in 18.5 and we will change it to 'The Executive Board shall appoint the acting Secretary General and commence the appointment process for the next Secretary General'. So as we did in 18.5, we will strike the part about appointing the second highest ranking person within the Secretariat. We will make a slight revision to the wording of 18.6. This was Terry's opinion and I agree with him. Does anybody oppose this proposal? If not, we will pass this item as proposed. So I take it you all agree to the revision just proposed.

We discussed other matters related to the Charter at the meeting of the Special Committee. I would like to explain it a little bit. If you look at the current Charter, Article 19.1, it stipulates that 'the Secretariat shall be situated in the Republic of Korea'. Korea is the host of the Secretariat. There have been opinions especially by India that it is unfair for the Republic of Korea to automatically be an Executive Board member. So we agree that we will keep the provision that allows the host of the Secretariat to be an Executive Board member. But we will revise 19.1 and stipulate that the Executive Board will decide on the location of the Secretariat. However, the representative from Korea's

National Election Commission voiced very strong opposition to revising Article 19.1. Actually I made the proposal for the revision to 19.1. The staff of A-WEB told me and advised me that it was not wise for me to make this proposal because it would aggravate the already soured-relationship between Korea's National Election Commission and A-WEB. And they also mentioned that it would actually be worse for A-WEB to secure more funding. I would like to apologize that given the situation, I took out 19.1 from the Charter amendments. In conclusion, to explain my position I would like to keep 19.1 as it is. There have been a series of discussions and opinions, but at the end of the day we believe that we want to keep 19.1 as it is.

(Dominican Republic) I understand very well, Secretary General, your position regarding the amendment to 19.1. This is the provision regarding the headquarters of the Secretariat. If the text remains as it is, it will be contrary to Article 15.1. This Article allows the headquarters of the Secretariat to be in another country other than Korea. In this situation, we may end up with a contradiction between Articles in the Charter.

(SG) I don't think these provisions clash with each other. If you look at 15.1.1, it does not directly refer to Korea. It just says that the country hosting the Secretariat would be a member of the Executive Board. It does not directly refer to Korea. So I believe that the current provisions do not clash. Are there any other thoughts?

(Palestine) I think the issue of moving A-WEB to another place is very unrealistic at this moment since we don't have any problems to have A-WEB in Korea. I don't think this is an issue right now to be discussed. We should be realistic. We have the whole infrastructure in Mr. Shin. We have staff in Korea. We don't have any problem right now currently with the Commission in Korea. We are hoping that the whole problem will be solved and we have a good relationship with them in the future. So I don't think we should raise such an issue right



now and start to think of moving A-WEB somewhere else. If there's a problem in the future, we change this Article in the future, if something happens seriously. The NEC of Korea understands where this issue came from and independency of A-WEB as an entity. Thanks a lot.

(SG) Thank you very much for your remarks. I believe that all members have agreed with what I have just said. We will leave 19.1 as it is. I think what's important is that we had this discussion and I believe that it will also send a warning to the NEC of Korea. I think that the country that is hosting the Secretariat cannot be a permanent Executive Board member or cannot permanently host the Secretariat forever. If they have done something wrong, if they do not have the respect to members, then at anytime the Secretariat can move to another country. I believe that the fact that we had discussion in itself is very meaningful and it sends a warning to the NEC and other parties. If there are no other different opinions, there are no oppositions? (no oppositions) In that case we will leave 19.1 as it is presented in the Charter. With regard to the Charter amendment, are there any other opinions? If not, I think we will conclude our discussions on Charter amendment.

(India) When we have amended Article 15 where the Secretary General has only the voice not the vote, so 29.1 should also be accordingly amended. Because here 'An amendment to the Charter may be proposed by no less than ten(10) members or the Secretary General', so the word 'Secretary General' should be removed from here. Amendment to the Charter should be done by no less than ten Executive Board members, only ten members. So here also, Article 29 Procedures, the word 'Secretary General' should be removed. We have already amended the part of the Charter where the Secretary General has only voice not the vote, without voting right in the Board. So here accordingly, Secretary General cannot propose this change, only Executive Board.

(SG) Thank you for your proposal. Of course, as you know, I'm resigning

from this position. So I trust that you will not think that I have any ulterior motives with this comment. Please allow me to share my thoughts based on experience. The Secretary General operates and manages the Secretariat. He or she also engages with other members. The Secretary General, therefore, has a lot of information about the running of A-WEB. Even if the Secretary General does not have a voting right, he should be able to propose something. The Secretary General should be able to propose an item and the Executive Board members should vote on this. So I believe that the Secretary General should retain the right to propose something. Just because the Secretary General does not have a voting right, we should not limit his or her right to report or to propose new items to the Executive Board or General Assembly. Thank you. Any other questions?

(Dominican Republic) I agree with the formulation of Article 29.1. Let me just comment for our Indian friend. Yesterday we said that we would not bring forward the topics that are not included in the document that we have with ourselves. Any additional issues have to be discussed in each of the stages. I think that this discussion is not part of our work today. The proposal that you make is very good. It is completely reasonable. The Secretary General should not be excluded from the Executive Board. But this topic was not on the list of the written proposal for today.

(Mr. Tselane) I also agree with my friend, Joel, on this aspect. Because the Secretary General is the Chief Administrative Officer of our organization, and as the Chief Administrative Officer of our organization she or he will identify things that require attention from the Executive. He or she must not be constrained from having to make recommendations to the Board because on his or her own, the Secretary General cannot change any aspect of the Constitution without having to come here. So it is this Board first that has got to look at the issues that are presented to it. So we must not too much constraint on the capacity of the Secretary General to be able to raise the issues that will improve the functioning

of the organization.

(SG) Thank you very much. We will, in this case, wrap up our discussions on Charter amendments. We have deliberated on each of the Articles presented in the amendment documents put before us. The Secretariat will make the revisions that we all agreed to, and then we will distribute the revised version to all Executive Board members, of course, and also other members. We will try to do this as soon as possible. And with that, I would like to close the discussion on Charter amendment.

⇒ Conclusion : The Amendments to the Charter of A-WEB are approved as modified by the Executive Board members. With regard to Article 15.1.1, Article 15.1.2, Article 15.2.2, Article 18.5 and Article 18.6, the Secretariat has amended the wording to correspond to what was discussed and agreed by the Executive Board members. See the Final Proposal for the Amendments to the Charter of A-WEB attached with the minutes.

**□ Explanation for grounds for the agenda item (New Membership Application)**

(SG) Next, we will turn to the agenda on new membership application. Deputy Director Seung Kim will elaborate further concerning this agenda item.

(Seung Kim) Thank you. Allow me to explain the grounds for tabling the agenda item. According to Article 6.1 of the Charter, National election management bodies shall submit a request for membership in writing to the Executive Board and Article 6.3 of the A-WEB Charter states that prior to the approval of membership by the General Assembly, the Executive Board may assign temporary membership to candidate organizations. The agenda item is her Executive Boardy presented for

approval to grant temporary membership to the Electoral Complaints Commission of Afghanistan, Electoral Supervisory Board of Republic of Indonesia and Office of the Electoral Commissioner of Mauritius that applied for the membership after the 6th Executive Board meeting. Thank you.

(SG) Please have the floor if you have any comment or opinion regarding the new membership application.(no comments) If there is no more opinion or comment, I would like to announce the new membership applications are approved.

⇒ Conclusion : The New Membership Applications are approved as proposed.

**□ Explanation for grounds for the agenda item (Diversification of Revenue Sources of A-WEB)**

(SG) Next, we will turn to the agenda on diversification of revenue sources of A-WEB. Please allow Deputy Director Seung Kim to elaborate further concerning this agenda item.

(Seung Kim) Article 23 of the A-WEB Charter states that the sources of funds of the Association are the annual membership fee and contributions made by election management bodies, regional election associations, or international organizations. The total of 2018 revenue was 8 million(USD). 7.9 million(USD) came from the Korean government. The rest was the annual membership fees, which only amount to 120,000 US dollars. In general, only few members pay their annual membership fees. Moreover, the use of their membership fees is confined to covering the costs of their attendance in A-WEB meetings. In this regard, the annual membership fees do not contribute to the operation of the Secretariat.

Given the fact that there are not any donations from outside at all, the Secretariat is too much dependent upon the Korean government subsidy. We witnessed that the amount of the Korean government subsidy can decline anytime. Even if the amount is big enough, depending entirely on one member, one single revenue source, is not a healthy way of running an organization. The agenda item is hereby presented for discussion on ways of diversifying the revenue sources of the Association. Thank you.

(SG) I would also like to offer you further explanation regarding this item. When it comes to A-WEB budget, we need sufficient revenue. And the second point I want to raise is that we need more diverse revenue sources. This will prevent the organization from overly relying on one country's EMB for funding and, thus, be free from influence. A-WEB carries out many projects and we also spend a lot of money to carry out these projects. Being overly dependent on one country does not allow us the freedom to carry out various businesses. Earlier the representative of Palestine requested that we change the work plan for 2019, but we cannot because we depend on the subsidies from the Korean government. We cannot change one dollar of expenditure without reporting this to the National Election Commission. I think we need to diversify our revenue and second, we need to secure funds so we can have freedom to carry out and revise our own business plan. I think that the sufficient amount that we need to secure would be around one million dollars. In order for A-WEB to be truly an international organization, we need to secure funding. Without that, we will forever be controlled or be a part of one country's election management body.

(Mr. Tselane) Secretary General, I completely agree with you that we cannot depend only on one country. Earlier on we agreed that we were going to submit a proposal to the General Assembly in relation to utilization of the membership fees. This will be able to help for development of the Secretariat and achievement of our goals. I suggest that because I

don't think we'll have time here to be able to come up with clear strategies that perhaps the Secretariat should actually develop a document on fund-raising so that we begin to see what kind of direction we can take in terms of increasing the capacity of the organization. But having said that, there seems to be a problem in terms of the understanding of the relationship between the Secretariat and NEC of Korea. The Secretariat is accountable to the Executive. And the fact that we are receiving substantial resources from Korea does not make the Secretariat accountable to Korea because it will be a very unhealthy situation where we agree on resolutions here and we go to the General Assembly and find out those resolutions are not implemented because there is a constraint that has been put by the location of the Secretariat. So I think we need to define the relationship properly between ourselves as the Secretariat, as A-WEB and NEC. There needs to be a Memorandum of Understanding so that they set a clear definition of responsibilities and roles, and we don't end up in a situation where you cannot actually spend a cent because what is the use of us agreeing on our budget here, approving it here and taking it to the General Assembly for endorsement? It is endorsed but it cannot be spent because the NEC of Korea is uncomfortable with certain things. It's going to create a difficult relationship between ourselves and NEC of Korea. I don't think it is in our interest to be having tension between A-WEB and NEC OF Korea or any other countries in future that will be hosting the Secretariat if we change that particular provision. So the Secretariat again must develop proper terms of reference which will guide the relationship between the Secretariat which is basically the engine of A-WEB and the NEC so that those kinds of misunderstandings are dealt with. So in short, I'm making two suggestions. The first suggestion is that there's got to be a document that deals with fundraising strategies and all of us here can submit to the Secretariat ideas – who got those ideas or how this could be done - and secondly, the relationship between the

Secretariat and NEC of Korea must be reduced into paper so that there's a proper Memorandum of Understanding that is signed so that we can actually protect the independence of the Secretariat as well as our organization.

(SG) Thank you for your comment. If I could add to what Terry said, first of all, we need to diversify our funding sources, and the Secretariat will come up with plans and create reports, and the members could give us their input. With that proposal, I fully agree. Before the next Executive Board, we will try to come up with some concrete plans and share with you. As part of that initiative if you look at the Charter amendments 23.5, in our member countries we can have various training programs, observation programs implemented or maybe we can operate local offices in the member countries. So if members use their own funds, we can create report that will be integrated into our overall budget. So it will be a contribution. Then I think it would help to address the image or the perception that we get all of our funding solely from the Korean government. Not only Korea, but India, South Africa, Mexico and other member countries could operate international education centers and provide training opportunities, and those types of expenditure could be included in our budget. And Latin American countries, they have many observation programs and educational programs that are operated during election periods. If we can get a report on those expenditures included as part of our budget, then I think statistically at least it would help us to diversify and expand A-WEB's finances. That is why we propose 23.5.

The second thing you pointed out was the Secretariat of A-WEB and NEC of Korea, maybe these two parties could sign an MOU to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each party. With regard to this, there is a Korean domestic law that we have to take into consideration. A-WEB is not recognized as an international organization. It is recognized as an NGO under the Korean law. So within the legal framework the A-WEB

Secretariat is not on an equal level with NEC of Korea. You also have to look at the budget and accounting laws in Korea. The organization that provides budget has responsibility to supervise the recipient organization. So even if we sign an MOU, the MOU would be within the boundaries of these legislations. So the A-WEB Secretariat would not be able to gain full independence just through an MOU. I think that in order for the A-WEB Secretariat to gain independence and autonomy, the NEC of Korea must voluntarily limit its control and authority over the A-WEB Secretariat. For non-governmental organizations I think that each country has different laws governing over non-governmental organizations. In some countries NGOs are recognized as equal to their counterparts such as international organizations. In Korea we do not have legislations to support NGOs. So we have to look at the unique legal situations in Korea at the same time. But anyhow, in the future the NEC of Korea said that they would try the best of their abilities to guarantee the independence and autonomy of the Secretariat, and if possible, I have also asked them to give their pledge or promise in a written document. But within the legal framework of Korea we will try to guarantee the independence and autonomy of the Secretariat to the best of our ability. Maybe the representative of NEC could say a word on this.

(Mr. Shin) I am from the NEC of Korea. I recognize your struggles. I think any organization or any individual for that matter faces a lot of difficulties when they cannot secure their own funding. I recognize this difficulty. I just want to say that we believe that A-WEB contributes to free and democratic elections, and we have high regards for A-WEB since its launch up until last year. We do not interfere with any of the operation of A-WEB. I would like to take note that under Korean law the funding provided to A-WEB is provided as ODA and Korean NEC is named as a partner for providing this ODA. As a partner of ODA, we have been granting full autonomy to A-WEB. But some domestic law that governs our relationship stipulates that we audit and supervise



the way the budget is used. I think this is the source of conflict or difference of opinions between A-WEB and NEC. We believe that the funding should be used to benefit as many countries as possible. That is why we believe that programs need to be diversified moving away from certain projects that can only benefit few countries. That is the source of the conflict of last year, but nevertheless, I hope that the conflict we overcame recently will be able to re-establish our relationship in the future, and I'd like to offer a pledge and commitment to support you as long as we keep within the goal of promoting democracy and free elections to as many countries as possible.

(Uzbekistan) I have some concrete proposals. The first one is from this meeting we could just make letter to member organizations of A-WEB and call all members states to conduct annual fees to A-WEB. It could be done in the manner the letter is sent to member organizations from the Executive Board. And the second proposal is we should find different sources of funds. It could be international funds. The second source could be international organizations, and also states. Thank you for attention.

(SG) Do we have other opinions or comments? If not, we will accept the proposal made just now by the representative of Uzbekistan and we will prepare a letter. And it was mentioned by some other Board members but we will also address the issue of the usage of the annual membership fees. As I mentioned earlier, we will table this item at the General Assembly and we will try to gather opinions on the issue of using of annual membership fees for the operation of the Secretariat. We will conclude the discussions on how we can diversify revenue sources and we will move on to the next item on our agenda.

⇒ Conclusion : In order to secure and diversify revenue sources, the Secretariat will prepare the followings: a letter of requesting all members to pay their annual membership fees which to be sent

out under the name of the Executive Board; an agenda item on the use of annual membership fees for the operation of the Secretariat to be tabled at the coming General Assembly; and a plan and a proposal for fundraising with donor organizations.

**□ Explanation for grounds for the agenda item (Election of the Next Vice-Chairperson of A-WEB)**

(SG) Next, we will turn to the agenda on Election of the Next Vice-Chairperson of A-WEB. Please allow Deputy Director Seung Kim to report on this agenda item.

(Seung Kim) Allow me to explain the grounds for tabling this agenda item. According to Article 15 of the Charter, the head of the Election Management Body (EMB) hosting the next General Assembly shall serve as the Vice Chairperson of A-WEB. From January 08, 2019 to January 28, 2019, the A-WEB Secretariat has taken applications from member EMBs wishing to host the next General Assembly. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Bolivia has expressed their interest to host the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly scheduled for 2021. Prior to electing the next Vice Chairperson at the 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in accordance with the Article 14.1.6 of the A-WEB Charter, the agenda item is hereby presented for report of the current application to the Executive Board and, if necessary, for discussion on the election of the next Vice Chairperson. Thank you.

(SG) In January, the Secretariat received the application for hosting the General Assembly. But just Bolivia submitted the application. The deadline for submitting the application has not finished yet. So, we will receive the application until the coming General Assembly. And I hope that the next General Assembly will be held in one of African Countries. Because, until now the other continents have hosted the General Assembly in turn, but no African

countries have hosted the General Assembly. So, I hope one of the African countries tries to host the next General Assembly.

(Mr. Tselane) Indeed, Secretary General, we agree that we've got to encourage African countries to take advantage of this platform. But for now, if Bolivia has already expressed an interest and there is not a country from the African continent that does express any interest, perhaps we should go along with what is before us. But it's a matter that I think I will communicate very strongly with the continent so that, perhaps after Bolivia, the next host should actually come from Africa. But I think it's a very positive recommendation that we are making. We've got to try to make sure that we are able to go to every part of the world and the African continent must also have this opportunity.

(SG) Anyway, the Secretariat will receive the application until the coming General Assembly, and we can discuss this item at the coming Extraordinary Executive Board meeting and General Assembly again. This agenda item is closed.

⇒ Conclusion : The Secretariat will continue to receive applications and the Election of the Next Vice-Chairperson will be discussed again at the coming Extraordinary Executive Board meeting and General Assembly.

**□ Explanation for grounds for the agenda item (Election of the Next Executive Board members)**

(SG) Next, we will turn to the agenda on Election of the Next Executive Board members. Please allow Deputy Director Seung Kim to report on this agenda item.

(Seung Kim) Allow me to explain the grounds for tabling this agenda item. According to Article 15 of the Charter, the Executive Board shall be comprised of heads or duly designated representatives of not more than 20 EMBs elected at the General Assembly, guaranteeing a well-balanced representation. As

Burkina Faso, Kenya, Argentina and Albania which have served two consecutive terms can no longer take over the position of a member in accordance with Article 15.2.2 of the Charter, there will be vacant positions for Executive Board members from African(2), American(1) and European(1) Continent. Therefore, the item is hereby presented for report of the remaining terms of the incumbent Executive Board members and election procedure of the next Executive Board members to the Executive Board and, if necessary, for discussion on the election of the next Executive Board members. Members of the Executive Board with or without intent to serve for a second term, please inform the Secretariat now or after this meeting. Thank you.

(SG) As Mr. Seung Kim mentioned, it is the General Assembly that elects Executive Board members. Would anyone like to make comments or ask questions? (No comments) Actually, the Executive Board member has to be elected by the General Assembly and the term of all Executive Board member ends at the point the General Assembly takes place. So, we, all of Executive Board members, have to be elected as an Executive Board member again at the General Assembly. But usually, the General Assembly approves the second term of the Executive Board members. So, we need to know the intention of the Executive Board member if he or she wants to continue to serve as an Executive Board member or not. We will report to the General Assembly and the next coming Extraordinary Executive Board meeting those Executive Board members who want the renewal of their term.

The election of the Executive Board takes place at the General Assembly. All members participate in the General Assembly, and then we have the time in the middle of the General Assembly to have a discussion and elect candidates by continent. We table the candidates nominated by continent and the General Assembly approves the election of the Executive Board members. Any questions or comments about this? (No comments) We have closed this agenda.

⇒ Conclusion : The next Executive Board members will be elected at the coming General Assembly. The incumbent members

of the Executive Board will inform the Secretariat if they intend to serve their second term.

**□ Explanation for grounds for the agenda item (Election of the Next Oversight & Audit Committee members)**

(SG) Next, we will turn to the agenda on Election of the Next Oversight & Audit Committee members. Please allow Deputy Director Seung Kim to report on this agenda item.

(Seung Kim) Allow me to explain the grounds for tabling this agenda item. According to Article 15 of the Charter, the members of the Oversight and Audit Committee shall serve for a single term of three(3) years. Henceforth, the term of the incumbent OAC members will terminate as of October 13, 2019 (appointed on October 14, 2016), and new Oversight and Audit Committee need to be organized. While Article 15 and 26 of the A-WEB Charter stipulate that one of the functions of the Executive Board is to establish an Oversight and Audit Committee, and the Oversight and Audit Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Board. Therefore, the agenda item is hereby presented for report of the remaining terms of the incumbent Committee members to the Executive Board and for discussion, if necessary, on the election of the next Committee members. Thank you.

(SG) We will be holding an Extraordinary Executive Board meeting before the General Assembly. As you know, I believe it will be held a day prior to the General Assembly this year. We must elect the new audit members at that meeting. Of course, procedurally speaking, there is no problem and electing audit members at the meeting today. But I believe our members do not have enough information to do so, I would like to propose that we elect new audit members at the next Extraordinary Executive Board meeting that will be held one day before the General Assembly. There are countries who will not be able to serve on the Executive Board because they have served one

consecutive term. Those countries can actually take part as Audit Committee members and also in your regions and continents, if you know of any other member that would be interested in taking part as OAC members. Please encourage them to take part. So, I would like to propose again that we deal with this item in the Extraordinary Executive Board meeting. If there are no more comments or questions, we will close the discussions on this item.

⇒ Conclusion : The Election of the Next Oversight & Audit Committee members will be discussed again at the coming Extraordinary Executive Board meeting.

**□ Explanation for grounds for the agenda item (Host of the Next EB meeting)**

(SG) Last item on the Agenda is about the EMB to host next Executive Board meeting. Mr. Seung Kim will elaborate further concerning this agenda item.

(Seung Kim) Allow me to explain the grounds for tabling the agenda item. According to Article 15 of the Charter, the Executive Board shall decide on the member to host the next Executive Board meeting. Article 25 stipulates that the costs of holding either the General Assembly or the Executive Board meeting shall be borne by the host EMB. Thank you.

(SG) I would like to make it clear that we are going to hold an Extraordinary Executive Board meeting in September this year in India, the day before the General Assembly. Now we are discussing the 8th Executive Board meeting which will be held in 2020. We may decide the host country now or at the Extraordinary Executive Board meeting in September. Please have the floor if you have any comment or opinion regarding this agenda.

(Mr. Tselane) I want to suggest that we deal with it at the next Executive Board meeting so that there is an opportunity to consult a little bit and see who will be able to take advantage of that.

(SG) If there are no further opinions, we do have some time before we need to reach decisions. So, maybe at the September Extraordinary Executive Board meeting we can decide on who will host the 8<sup>th</sup> Executive Board meeting. Mr. Shin from NEC told me before that the NEC might be able to hold an Executive Board meeting in Seoul, Korea if the Executive Board agrees to have the meeting in April. I would now like to hand the floor over to Mr. Shin.

(Mr. Shin) If there are no specific country who wants to host the Executive Board meeting, then in order to demonstrate our support for A-WEB, I would like to maybe suggest that we host the next Executive Board meeting in Seoul in April. It's very beautiful time and we also have General Elections, so we can also have an Election Observation Program at the same time. I think that usually the Executive Board meetings are held in March, but we will have to maybe delay for about 15 days in order to host it in April. So, if the members allow, we will be able to host the Executive Board meeting in Seoul.

(SG) Thank you for the very generous offer. We will continue to collect more thoughts on this item, and we will decide on the host of the 8<sup>th</sup> Executive Board meeting at the Extraordinary Executive Board meeting that will be held in September. If we do not have any countries that express their wish to host Executive Board meeting, we will take up the offer presented by Korea's NEC.

⇒ Conclusion : The Secretariat will continue to receive applications for the host of the next Executive Board meeting until the coming Extraordinary Executive Board meeting. In the case that there are no members who wish to host the meeting, the NEC of Korea will be the host of the next Executive Board meeting.

(Emcee) Now we have reached the end of the seventh Executive Board meeting. Mr. Muhulet, Would you please announce the closing of the seventh Executive Board meeting.

## □ Closing

**(Romania – Mr. Marian Muhulet)** I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you all for participating in the discussion and meeting despite the fatigue caused by the long trip to Bulgaria. I would like to declare the meeting closed. Thank you very much.

**(India)** Honorable Chair of the A-WEB, Secretary General, host Chief Election Commissioner of Bulgaria. It is my pleasure and privilege to join you all in this meeting. The Election Commission of India is one of the founding members of A-WEB, and an Executive Board member since its inception in 2013, and has always played an active role in promotion of Association of World Election Bodies. I would like to comment and thank the Executive Board members as well as Oversight & Audit Committee members for their valuable professional contribution in the working of the A-WEB during their terms in Executive Board and Oversight Committee. I would also like to welcome you all to the forth General Assembly to be held in New Delhi later this year. Lastly, I would like to thank host Ms. Ivilina Aleksieva, Chairperson of Central Election Commission of Bulgaria, and her colleagues for their warm hospitality making us as well as other delegates from member EMBs feel very comfortable during our stay in Sofia, and also for the excellent arrangements made for the Executive Board meeting today. Thank you very much. All of you are welcome to India later this year. Thank you.