

13th CONGRESS

Rules of Procedure of Congresses – Proposal

19.12.1

Article 12
Decisions at Plenary Session

CHINA, NEW ZEALAND

Amend as follows:

2005 Seoul Text

The Congress shall endeavour to secure the greatest measure of common agreement on all matters discussed.

Proposed Text

1. The Congress shall endeavour to secure the greatest measure of common agreement on all matters discussed. **Questions which cannot be settled by common consent shall be decided by vote.**

2. **Votes shall be taken by the traditional system or by the electronic voting system. They shall normally be taken by the electronic system when that system is available to the meeting. However, in the case of a secret ballot, the traditional system may be used if one delegation, supported by a majority of the delegations present and voting, so requests.**

3 **For the traditional system, the methods of voting shall be as follows:**

3.1 **by show of hands. If there is doubt about the result of such a vote, the Chair, if that person so wishes, or if a delegation so requests, may arrange for an immediate roll-call vote on the same question;**

3.2 **by roll-call, at the request of a delegation or if so decided by the Chair; the roll shall be called according to the English alphabetical order of the countries represented, beginning with the country whose name is drawn by lot by the Chair; the result of the vote, together with a list of the countries grouped according to the way they voted, shall be included in the report of the meeting;**

3.3 **by secret ballot, using ballot papers, if requested by two delegations, or as prescribed in documentation supporting an agenda item for which a secret ballot is to be conducted; in this case, the**

Chair of the meeting shall appoint three tellers, and make the necessary arrangements for the holding of a secret ballot.

4 For the electronic system, the methods of voting shall be as follows:

4.1 non-recorded vote: it replaces a vote by show of hands;

4.2 recorded vote: it replaces a roll-call vote; however, the names of the countries shall not be called unless one delegation, supported by a majority of the delegations present and voting, so requests;

4.3 secret ballot: it replaces the secret ballot by ballot papers.

5 Regardless of the system of voting used, the secret ballot shall take precedence over any other voting procedure.

6 Once the voting has begun, no delegation may interrupt it, except to raise a point of order⁶ relating to the way in which the vote is being taken.

7 After the vote, the Chair may permit delegates to explain why they voted as they did.

⁶ A point of order on the way in which a vote is taken can only be accepted by the meeting if it deals with an incorrect process / procedure being followed. In this regard, the correct process / procedure for voting is set out in the Congress RoP. If a point of order is raised but the RoP have not been breached, then the point of order cannot be accepted.

Reasons. – The APPU seeks to make decisions at a Congress through consensus (i.e., the greatest measure of common agreement). No other method of decision-making is covered in the APPU RoP.

The UPU RoP also specifies the consensus method as its first option for decision-making. However, the RoP then provide for decisions by voting using either the:

- traditional system (show of hands, roll-call, secret ballot); or
- electronic system (non-recorded vote, recorded vote, secret ballot).

In addition, the UPU RoP cover miscellaneous points about voting:

- secret ballots take precedence over other forms of voting;
- voting cannot be interrupted except for related points of order; and
- delegates may explain why they voted as they did.

The Sub-Group considered whether the APPU RoP needed to include any reference to voting. The current text could be read as saying that the only decision-making process is by consensus (meaning that voting is not undertaken). However, that would not be a correct interpretation. For example, APPU Constitution Article 19, § 1 states that “proposals to amend the Constitution must be approved by two-thirds of the member-countries of the Union”. By prescribing the majority required, it follows that voting is a possibility. Accordingly, the current text of APPU RoP Article 12 is incomplete.

The Sub-Group also noted that the EC RoP include an Article on voting (i.e., Article 14). This is further evidence that the Congress RoP may be incomplete on the matter of decision-making.

On the basis of the above, the Sub-Group has recommended that reference to voting be included in the APPU RoP.

Asian-Pacific Postal Union
13th Congress
29 August - 2 September 2022
Bangkok, Thailand