



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Europe, Middle East, Africa and Northern Asia

Founded 1950



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SUBJECT	Changes to IARU & Region 1 Constitutions		
Society	RSGB	Country:	United Kingdom
Committee:	C3	Paper number:	24
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Introduction

The Radio Society of Great Britain has for some time been concerned with the election process as laid down in the Constitutions of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) both at Regional and International Level. The RSGB feel that the time is right to review the constitutions with the aim of introducing a more democratic system for the election of certain posts within IARU.

Background.

IARU is divided into four elements, an International body and three Regions whose boundaries are aligned with the regional boundaries of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) which itself is an arm of the United Nations. National Amateur Radio Societies, usually referred to as Member Societies, are entitled to membership of the Region of IARU in which their Country falls.

Each of the three regions conducts elections, normally at a pre-arranged Conference, to determine the persons who will be responsible for the running of the Regional affairs of IARU between conferences. Such elections are usually by an agreed form of secret ballot conducted by an oversight committee appointed by that Region, which in Region 1 is the Election and Ballot Committee (EBC). Each member society receives from the EBC two voting papers. The first vote is to elect the officers, President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. The second voting paper is for the persons to serve in the other EC vacancies. The group of people so elected may be referred to as a Board of Directors or as an Executive Committee but their terms of reference and duties are broadly similar. The important matter to note is that the elections decide the identity of any successful candidates. However, by default, it appears that the successful candidates to the offices of President and Secretary of a region automatically become the Administrative Council members despite the International Constitution Article III, par 2, allowing any two persons to be members of the Administrative Council providing they are from the regional organisation.

The international arm, formally called, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has as its membership all of the National Amateur Radio Societies, also referred to as Member Societies. It also has a Constitution by which it governs its affairs. However, the Constitution of the International arm differs dramatically from the regional constitutions in that the member societies can only vote to ratify the selection of a candidate to serve in the posts of President or Vice-President on the international executive committee known as the Administrative Council.

At the present time all member societies may nominate candidates to the Administrative Council. However, only the International Secretariat (This position currently held by ARRL) can choose the persons to be put forward for ratification as the new President or Vice President. Once the list of candidates has been passed to the International Secretariat the member societies have no further say other than to ratify. This process covering the period for the initiation of discussions up to a nomination to the Administrative Council is closely monitored by the ARRL International Affairs Vice President.

The International Secretariat is a member society elected from within the member societies' that is willing and capable of serving in that position.

The Secretary to the Administrative Council is a non elected position, the post holder is appointed by the Society serving as the International Secretariat and as a full member of the Administrative Council has a vote.

Some deep concerns have been expressed in recent times that the inability of Member Societies to determine the identity of one or both of these post holders by a secret ballot has led to a perception that democracy is being denied. This has also diluted the level of confidence in the entire process.

Intent

It is the intention within this paper, to seek a way to allay those concerns, to introduce a more formal path of progression to the post of International President governed by secret ballot, to establish wider transparency in the election process, to ensure all Member Societies have ownership of the voting system and to restore confidence.

Proposal

The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) believes that the selection procedures that in the past were seen as acceptable have, over time, eroded confidence and must now be modified to restore that confidence. The members of the Administrative Council are the President, the Vice-President and two members from each Regional body, making a total of eight persons all assisted by the Secretary. By default the current practice within all three regions appears to be that the President and Secretary automatically represents their respective regions on the Administrative Council, whilst the two senior post holders are selected by the International Secretariat. (International Constitution, Article III, Part 2 et seq)

We wish to adapt the voting procedures of the Regional IARU bodies so that they can be used at the International level without diminishing the influence of any region. The thrust of this proposal is that by means of a transitional process associated with the next election for the Administrative Council a President is elected. The single post of Vice-President is replaced by three Vice-Presidents, one from each region, each of whom is also elected.

Each Region also elects one additional member, reducing the total Administrative Council membership from eight to seven. We would expect each region to vote for its Vice-Presidential candidate and its additional candidate by secret ballot. We would then wish to see the post of President elected from the pool of Vice-Presidents by a secret ballot in which every Member Society has one vote. We wish to remove the process of nomination by the International Secretariat followed by ratification. Any change to a Vice-President would trigger an election in his or her region.

To complement these changes we believe that the international Vice-President representing a Region must not be the President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer of his or her Region (or similar title within any region). Such persons do not need to be a currently elected member of a regional executive committee (or similar) but must have had previous experience of serving at the executive level of a region.

The RSGB also believes that the holder of the post of Secretary to the Administrative Council, being an appointee and not an elected member of that body, should be one of impartial non voting advisor to the AC and not as is the current position a full voting member.

Recommendation

That the conference adopts the proposals outlined above namely

- a) Selection and ratification of the International President be stopped and replaced by election
- b) The post of Vice-President be replaced by three elected Vice-Presidents one from each region
- c) The total elected membership of the Administrative Council be reduced to seven
- d) The International President be elected from within the Vice-Presidents by secret ballot amongst all Member Societies
- e) The regional Vice-President shall not be an office holder in his/her region.
- f) The elections of a regional Vice-President and the additional regional member be by secret ballot.
- g) The Constitutions of the International IARU and all three IARU Regions be amended accordingly.
- h) That if these proposals are adopted by conference, the Region 1 Executive Committee is directed to canvas for these changes to be adopted by Regions 2 and 3 and the Administrative Council.