

Divisions and Commissions Officers Election – 2026

GUIDELINES

Every four years elections of the officers for Divisions and Commissions take place. According to the IUSS Statutes and Bye-Laws (both versions Oct. 2024) voting by Members shall be conducted using a procedure developed by the National Society or adhering organization to the Union. Results of the election will be reported by the National Society or adhering organization to the Electoral Committee via the President. The number of votes casted within each country shall be based on a true and fair ballot of their national membership.

With the latest amendments to the Statute and Bye-Laws (Articles 12 and following), starting with this election tournament, Vice Chairs of the Committee may automatically assume the position of Chair by expressing their intention to the Division Chair and the Electoral Committee. In this case, only the Vice Chair position will be considered as vacant. If this facet does not occur, both positions (Commission Chair and Vice Chair) will be regarded as open.

Concerning the Chair and Vice Chair of a Commission converted from a Working Group, they can hold their position until elections (2026) when they will be eligible to subsequently hold one (1) elected term-of-office as Commission Chair or as Commission Vice-Chair (succeeding to Chair) (Bye-Laws 12.1 c). Therefore, their candidacy can be submitted by Council Members, or current IUSS Division/Commission/Working Group officers (as per IUSS Bye-Laws 12.6 paragraph e.) for the above positions for the 2026-2030 term. In alternative, only the current Vice Chair may automatically assume the position of Chair, while the current Chair can be nominated by a Full Member as candidate for the position of Vice Chair. The objective of this structure is to balance the need for continuity in the leadership of Commissions, with the opportunity for broader participation and contribution.

It is reminded that Division Chairs and Commission Chairs can hold their position only once (Bye-Laws 12.1)

The ballots (list of nominated persons and the corresponding biographies) provided by the Divisional Nominating Committees and the Electoral Committee are the basis for the election.

The Electoral Committee shall receive all the ballots from all the voting constituencies. There will be one vote for each Full member and not adjusted in any manner to reflect the number of members in a National Society. Elections will be decided by a simple majority of votes cast.

Those having the majority of votes cast will then be declared elected. The names of those elected shall be notified officially by the President and shall be published in the Bulletin and on the IUSS Website.

The Presidents of the National Member Societies are kindly requested to send the results of elections to the Secretary of the Electoral Committee, Prof. Edoardo A. Costantini eac.costantini@gmail.com (CC to the President of the Electoral Committee, Prof. Victor O. Chude, vchude@yahoo.co.uk, and the Secretary, Dr. Irene Fabbri, iuss.secretariat@crea.gov.it).



International Union of Soil Sciences®

IUSS Electoral Committee

Nominations

Based on the available positions, the Full Members will provide candidates for each position, together with the Nomination Form for each one of them. The candidacies will then be evaluated by the Divisional Committee and then by the Electoral Committee to assess their adequacy according to Bye-Laws (12.3 -b). Once the Electoral Committee has approved the candidate lists, each Full Members will carry over with the election. The results will be communicated to the Electoral Committee and the Secretariat via e-mail.

Therefore, the following dates have been set:

Nomination of the candidates by the National Societies: outcomes to be sent to the Divisional Committee within September 30, 2025

Divisional Committees scrutiny of the candidates: October 31, 2025

Electoral Committee scrutiny of the candidates: November 30, 2025

Opening of the voting system for your society members: December 20, 2025

Closing of the voting system for your society members: March 20, 2026

Notification to the Electoral Committee and Secretariat: within April 30, 2026

Winners' announcement: within May 31, 2026

Summary of steps to be taken by National Societies:

- 1) **Nomination of the candidates by the National Societies:** outcomes to be sent to the Divisional Committee within September 30, 2025;
- 2) Build up a voting system at national level;
- 3) Distribute the ballots to the individual members;
- 4) Collect the votes from the individual members;
- 5) Provide the IUSS with the name of the candidate for each position (namely the one who received most votes in the national voting - Excel list only).

