ICC WCF General Council Elections

Guidelines

The ICC WCF General Council elections guidelines will provide you with an overview of the structure of the Governing Bodies of ICC WCF and all the information needed to participate as a candidate and/or voter.
The ICC World Chambers Federation (WCF) is ICC’s unique and truly global forum connecting, leading and inspiring the global network of chambers and their respective business communities. While strengthening links among chambers, WCF also helps individual chambers become more productive.

As a non-political, non-governmental body, WCF is the backbone of the chamber community, providing a platform for chamber leaders to communicate and collaborate with each other on matters of mutual interest and facilitate beneficial partnerships. WCF’s extensive chamber membership plays a pivotal role in connecting ICC to SMEs worldwide and in promoting the important role SMEs play in the global economy. Recognising this valuable role, WCF provides chambers with support they need to help SMEs face the challenges and opportunities of globalisation.

“As ICC’s specialised body bringing chambers worldwide together, WCF not only plays a crucial role in attending to chamber’s demands and helping them fulfil their needs, it also works to consolidate them as relevant actors in facing the world’s most lingering issues.”

Nicolás Uribe Rueda
WCF Chair and Executive President of Bogotá Chamber of Commerce

“As we bridge ICC’s relation with over 1,200 chambers and more than 45 million businesses worldwide, WCFs work will be crucial in helping business thrive in today’s global context, as it provides chamber leaders with the tools they require to face the world’s most pressing issues.”

Marie-Christine Oghly
WCF Deputy Chair and Vice-Chair of International Development of the Paris Region Chamber of Commerce
WCF Governance

WCF governance comprises the WCF Chairmanship, WCF Executive Committee, and the WCF General Council. Governing bodies work together to pursue the WCF mission to:

1. Empower and strengthen the role of chambers of commerce around the world
2. Enable the WCF network and services to remain relevant, inclusive and visionary
3. Respond to the needs of chambers’ local businesses and communities

WCF Structure

WCF Chairmanship
- Nicolás Uribe Rueda
  WCF Chair
  Executive President, Bogotá Chamber of Commerce, Colombia
- Marie-Christine Oghly
  WCF Deputy Chair
  Vice-Chair of International Development, Paris Region Chamber of Commerce, France

WCF Executive Committee
- Hamad Buamim
  WCF Honorary Chair, Past President & CEO, Dubai Chambers
- Nola Watson
  WCF Vice-Chair—Oceania and Southeast Asia; President of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Dario Gallina
  WCF Vice-Chair—Europe; President Torino Chamber of Commerce
- Todd Letts
  WCF Vice-Chair—the Americas; CEO of the Brampton Board of Trade
- Hassan Al Hashemi
  WCF Vice-Chair—MENA Region; Vice President of International Relations at the Dubai Chambers
- Toki Mabogunje
  WCF Vice-Chair—Africa; Past President and Honorary Life Vice President of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Yu Jianlong
  WCF Vice-Chair—Asia; Secretary-General at the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade; Executive Vice Chairman at the China Chamber of International Commerce
- ATA and Certificate of Origin Chairs
- WCF task force Chairs
- Ex-officio member

WCF General Council
- WCF Executive Committee members
- Elected members
- Co-opted members
- Transnational chambers
WCF Governing bodies

WCF General Council

Members of the WCF General Council are chamber leaders who commit to protecting the concept and role of chamber of commerce in their respective chamber community and support the role of WCF in representing global interests of chambers within the ICC.

WCF General Council members support and cooperate with chambers to better serve their business members and play a driving role in WCF taskforces to address specific issues arising from the WCF programme of action.

As a WCF General Council member, you will have the benefit of:

- Actively participating in the development of the WCF action plan
- Meeting with chamber leaders from around the world and exchanging best practices and knowledge
- Participating in taskforces and work on innovative and creative ideas for the chamber community and its network of businesses.

WCF General Council membership:

• Terms of service
  Members of the WCF General Council are elected for a three-year term, twice renewable in accordance with the current WCF Bylaws (noting that a revision of these Bylaws is currently under consideration). This time, exceptionally, the term will be two and half years to align with the term of the WCF Chair and WCF Vice-Chairs.

• Time commitment
  Members of the WCF General Council are expected to actively participate and attend WCF General Council meetings which are generally held twice a year, in Spring and Autumn. Members also commit to serving on task forces which provide platforms to discuss and move forward on key areas in line with the WCF strategy. They also commit to being available to members and staff.

  Please note that WCF General Council members have to be endorsed by the chamber. They also cannot be represented by another individual at meetings, the individual is elected and not the chamber. Members may be accompanied by a chamber colleague at meetings as an observer, subject to the WCF Chair’s approval.

  If a member is unable to participate in two meetings in a row, that member should consider tendering their resignation from the WCF General Council.

• Reimbursement
  Members are responsible for their own travel to and from meetings of the Council. There is no financial compensation for serving on the WCF General Council.

• In case of resignation/departure from the Chamber
  In the event that the WCF General Council member leaves the chamber, the member can retain their position on the WCF General Council provided that the chamber continues to express its support.
WCF Executive Committee

The WCF Executive Committee of the General Council is composed of the WCF Chair, WCF Deputy Chair, WCF Honorary Chair, WCF Vice-Chairs, Chairs of ATA Carnet Council, Chair of ICC WCF International CO Council and Chairs of WCF Committees and task forces. The ex-officio members of the Executive Committee are the ICC Secretary General and WCF Director.

The WCF Executive Committee takes actions and decisions for meeting the objectives of WCF and, in particular:

- Prepares reports on the activities and decisions for meeting the objectives of WCF
- Works with the WCF Secretariat on the strategic development of WCF in line with the vision, mission, purpose and values of ICC
- Develops projects and initiatives that will benefit and support WCF members.

World ATA Carnet Council

WATAC is a Specialised Council managed by ICC. The day-to-day operation of WATAC is undertaken by the WCF Secretariat. The WCF Chair, in consultation with ATAC and the WCF Secretariat, will designate the WATAC Chair and the WATAC Vice Chair for election by WATAC.

WATAC is the forum that brings together national guaranteeing associations (“NGAs”) of the ICC ATA Carnet International Guaranteeing Chain (“Guaranteeing Chain”). The Guaranteeing Chain refers to a guaranteeing scheme administered by ICC to which all NGAs appointed by customs authorities are affiliated for the operation of the Customs Convention on ATA Carnets for the temporary admission of goods (Brussels, 6 December 1961) and / or the Convention on Temporary Admission (Istanbul, 26 June 1990). Issuing associations (“IAs”) under the NGAs’ umbrella are affiliated directly or indirectly to the Guaranteeing Chain as well, however only NGAs are accepted as members to WATAC.

The mission of WATAC is to promote the use of the ATA Carnet to facilitate international trade and to ensure the integrity and sustainability of the Guaranteeing Chain. WATAC supports ICC in the operation, management and expansion of the Guaranteeing Chain, in the promotion of best practices and in ensuring that NGAs comply with their responsibilities in relation to the ATA Carnet Guaranteeing activities and ATA Carnet issuing activities.

International CO Council

The Certificates of Origin (CO) Council is a Specialised Council managed by ICC. The day-to-day operation of the CO Council is undertaken by the WCF Secretariat. The WCF Chair, in consultation with the CO Council and the WCF Secretariat, will appoint the Chair of the CO Council and three Vice-Chairs of the CO Council.

The CO Council is the forum that brings together chambers of commerce with an interest in CO issuance. The CO is an important international trade document that certifies that goods in a particular export shipment are wholly obtained, produced, manufactured or processed in a particular country. They declare the ‘nationality’ of the product and also serve as a declaration by the exporter to satisfy customs or trade requirements.

The mission of the CO Council is to enhance and promote the unique position of chambers of commerce as the natural agent in CO issuance and origin of goods related matters, and to ensure the integrity and sustainability of the International Certificates of Origin Accreditation Chain.
WCF Elections

1. Application process

Chambers from the WCF community will be invited to present their candidacy for the upcoming WCF General Council elections. Candidates can submit their application until **15 October 2022** by email to helene.kolmodin@iccwbo.org. Upon confirmation, the candidate will receive more information regarding registration at the AwardStage voting platform and complete the application form for the WCF General Council elections.

2. Candidate profile

The ICC World Chambers Federation seeks Council members who demonstrate a commitment to protecting the concept and role of chambers of commerce in their community. Council candidates must support the role of WCF in representing the global interests of chambers within ICC, as well as support and cooperate with fellow chambers to strengthen their capacity to serve their business members.

The role of the WCF General Council calls for members with strong strategic vision and leadership capability. As such, an emphasis is placed on candidates who hold the position of chamber President, Chair, Chief Executive Officer, Vice President, Vice Chair, and Senior Chamber Management. As part of ICC’s broader efforts to promote gender balance in its working bodies, we strongly encourage female candidacies.

3. Validation of candidacy

The nomination of the candidate will be validated upon reception. Should there be more than one candidate from the same country, a local election will take place first under the supervision of the designated organisation to elect the preferred candidate.

Candidate criteria:

- Chamber President / Chair / CEO / Vice-President / Vice-Chair / Senior Chamber Management
- Able to participate, commit time, present at meetings
- Proven leadership expertise
- Strong decision-making skills
- Global perspective
- Visionary—can identify and articulate opportunity
- Creative thinker and open minded
- Results oriented
- Strong problem-solving skills
- Integrity and strong ethics
- Connected to resources and/or external environment
- Interest in advancing the chamber movement
- Experience with and good knowledge of ICC and WCF work is a plus
- Committed to working according to ICC values—Connected, Pioneering, Liberated, and Generous
4. Voting instructions

As a WCF member, it is also important that your chamber casts its vote online in November 2022 to select its preferred candidates to serve on the WCF General Council. Whether you choose to stand as a candidate or not, your vote counts to ensure that the WCF General Council comprises the right mix of chambers to represent the breadth of our global community. Details on how to vote will be communicated in due course.

Each ICC WCF Chamber member, from every member country, shall elect their 20 preferred candidates from the global WCF election ballot. The results of each chamber’s vote shall be totalled, selecting each country’s preferred 20 candidates.

Each country’s preferred 20 candidates for the WCF General Council shall be allocated one to three votes, depending upon the total number of chambers which are members in their country.

Vote distribution:
- From 1 to 15 chamber members
  1 vote
- From 16 to 30 chamber members
  2 votes
- More than 30 chamber members
  3 votes

5. Election process

To facilitate the election process, we use a platform called AwardStage. AwardStage provides the opportunity to enter your candidacy with all the information needed for our chamber community to choose you as their preferred candidate. Upon receiving your interest, the WCF Secretariat will provide all information needed to connect to AwardStage and the nomination of your candidacy which will be available for the chamber community during the elections. Campaigning is possible within the rules of data privacy and protection through the Chambers Connect WCF General Council space, as well as your chamber space.

As for voting, the chambers that are eligible to vote will have access to the nomination of the candidates in AwardStage, as well as the campaigns in the Chambers Connect spaces. Once the candidates have been finalised, chambers will receive the final slate of candidates and the voting instructions in due course. The elections for the new WCF General Council will take place from 1-30 November 2022 online and are coordinated by the ICC WCF Secretariat and AwardStage. It is extremely important that chambers take this opportunity to vote for their 20 (no more, no less) preferred candidates to serve as the new WCF General Council for the upcoming mandate and to make sure that the geographical and diversity balance is respected. WCF Chair will receive the election results and appoint additional candidates for co-opted places, taking diversity into consideration. The final results will be finalised and presented to the chamber community in December 2022.
Elections timeline

- **July 2022**  
  Official call for candidates

- **October 2022**  
  Candidates to register before 15 October 2022  
  Final slate published  
  Voting instructions issued to members

- **November 2022**  
  Elections: 1–30 November 2022

- **December 2022**  
  WCF Chair receives election results and appoints additional candidates for co-opted places to WCF General Council  
  Announcement of 2023-2025 WCF General Council

- **January 2023**  
  Start of new mandate on 1 January 2023 until June 2025

Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Can ICC national committees vote?**

**A:** No, only chambers that are members of ICC through their NCs or Direct Members (where no NC exists).

**Q: How many votes can my chamber cast?**

**A:** One vote per chamber

**Q: How many candidates can be presented from one country?**

**A:** One candidate from each country

**Q: How many times can a WCF General Council member present a candidacy?**

**A:** According to the current Bylaws, a WCF General Council member can serve three terms (noting that a revision of these Bylaws is currently under consideration).

**Q: What is the difference between an elected member and a co-opted member?**

**A:** An elected member is part of the 20 members that received most votes. A co-opted member is recommended by the WCF Chair from the pool of election candidates to ensure balance in geography, gender, size & type of chamber and other criteria in the WCF General Council.

Additional information

**Governance of the World Chambers Federation**

Please click [here](#) to see the World Chambers Federation’s governance structure and its WCF Executive Committee and WCF General Council members.

**Contact**

If any questions or difficulties arise, please do not hesitate to contact Hélène Kolmodin, WCF Coordinator, at [helene.kolmodin@iccwbo.org](mailto:helene.kolmodin@iccwbo.org).