

Election to the Membership of the Commission on Sustainable Development

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1993/207, the Commission on Sustainable Development consists of one representative from each of 53 members elected by the Council from among the Member States of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

- (a) Thirteen members from African States;
- (b) Eleven members from Asian States;
- (c) Six members from Eastern European States;
- (d) Ten members from Latin American and Caribbean States;
- (e) Thirteen members from Western European and other States.

The term of office is three years. There are no term limits, i.e., members whose terms are expiring are eligible for re-election.

Elections are held annually during the resumed organizational session of the Economic and Social Council, usually in May. Information on the current membership of the Commission, as well as on the number of vacancies within each regional group to be elected for a term beginning in 2010 is available on the [ECOSOC website](http://www.un.org/ecosoc/meetings/election2009.shtml) - <http://www.un.org/ecosoc/meetings/election2009.shtml>, as well as in the Note by the Secretary-General on the election of members of the functional commissions of the Council, contained in document [E/2009/9/Add.1](#).

Member States wishing to be candidates for membership in the Commission may present their candidatures in one of either two ways: they can seek the endorsement of their respective regional group for presentation to the Council, or they can present their own candidatures without having received the endorsement of their respective regional group.

Owing to the staggered term lengths of the first members of the Commission, each year since then, membership terms expire for a certain number of Member States from all five regional groups. Information on expiring terms may be found in the above-mentioned documents. Those seats that become vacant are therefore open for election. Election officers in the Permanent Missions to the UN normally deal with the issues of candidacies for the relevant vacancies at their meetings. The chairs of the regional groups usually correspond with their respective constituencies concerning forthcoming vacancies to solicit the interest of Member States in becoming candidates.

For further information please contact the Secretary of the Commission on Sustainable Development:

Ms Vivian Pliner

Tel. 212 963 5724

E-mail: pliner@un.org