

MINUTES 2 (Part 1)

Election Committee Session Held for Election of Civil Society Members of MCA-Armenia Program's Stakeholder Committee and Governing Council On May 18, 2010

The Session was attended by Mr. Artak Saribekyan, Chairman of Election Committee of Civil Society Members of MCA-Armenia Program's Stakeholder Committee and Governing Council, Ms. Marianna Yeghyazaryan, Secretary of the Election Committee, as well as members of the Election Committee, including:

Hamazasp Danielyan, Gayane Arsenyan, Vahagn Asryan, Mariam Osipyan, Lilit Kamalyan, Amalya Balabekyan, Anahit Hakobyan, Gayane Gevorgyan, Khachatur Barseghyan, Tatevik Avagyan.

The Session was also attended by:

Ester Hakobyan, Coordination Officer of MCA-Armenia SNCO,
Victoria Grigoryan, Stakeholder Committee Assistant.

As Tigran Shahinyan was not attending the Session, Victoria Grigoryan, the Stakeholder Committee Assistant, informed that during the telephone conversation Tigran Shahinyan had let her know that he withdrew from EC membership.

It was suggested to contact T. Shahinyan directly by phone and hear about his decision to withdraw. T. Shahinyan informed that he decided to withdraw the membership for couple of reasons. A discussion was held regarding accepting T. Shahinyan's withdrawal. M. Yeghyazaryan stated that the Election Committee lacked authority to accept the withdrawal of any of its member. It was rather the authority of MCA-Armenia SNCO Chief Executive Officer. The Assistant to the Stakeholder Committee informed that the Election Procedure does not establish any provision for accepting the withdrawal of the Election Committee Members and suggested for the Election Committee to discuss and present its position with regard to the issue. It was suggested to vote for the issue of T. Shahinyan's withdrawal in consideration of the fact that MCA-Armenia SNCO representative was attending the session and would inform in a due manner about the working process as relevant. The issue was put on for voting and was accepted by 11 votes for, 1 against and 0 abstaining from voting.

The Session continued its activities with 12 Election Committee Members. However, couple of minutes later Hamazasp Dalielyan, Member of the Election Committee also put forward his withdrawal. Mr. Danielyan stated that his decision was due to the fact that the Committee conducts its works in a non-productive manner. The issue of H. Danielyan's withdrawal was put for a vote and was accepted by 11 votes for, 0 against and 1 abstaining from voting.

Thus, the Election Committee as of that time consisted of 11 Members, including Mr. Artak Saribekyan, Chairman of Election Committee of Civil Society Members of MCA-Armenia Program's Stakeholder Committee and Governing Council, Ms. Marianna Yeghyazaryan, Secretary of the Election Committee, Gayane Arsenyan, Vahagn Asryan,

Mariam Osipyan, Lilit Kamalyan, Amalya Balabekyan, Anahit Hakobyan, Gayane Gevorgyan, Khachatur Barseghyan, Tatevik Avagyan.

The initial version of Agenda of the Session elaborated by Secretary of the Election Committee was discussed in the first place. As a result of the discussion the agenda was further elaborated. The Election Committee Members adopted the final version of Agenda of the Session, which is presented below:

AGENDA

Session of the Election Committee of MCA-Armenia Program's Stakeholder Committee
Held On May 18, 2010

No.	Issues to be addressed	Implementer	Time
1.	Elaboration of the activity plan	Members of the Election Committee	17:00
2.	Discussion and elaboration of procedural issues	Members of the Election Committee	17.20-18:00
3.	Initial summary of submitted applications	Members of the Election Committee	18.00-18:30
4.	Discussion of valid applications, applications submitted with deficiencies, candidate applications and approval thereof	Members of the Election Committee	18.30-18:50
5.	Finalization of the submitted applications	Members of the Election Committee	18:50-19:30
6.	Other pending issues	Members of the Election Committee	19:30-20:20

On the first Agenda item

The Assistant to the Stakeholder's Committee took the floor for the first issue in the Agenda and spoke about the issue of participation required from Members of the Election Committee on May 21, i.e. the day preceding the elections and on May 22, the day of the elections. V. Grigoryan stressed in particular that participation of everyone on those two days was mandatory.

A number of issues were discussed regarding the activity plan, in particular:

- it was established a schedule for May 21, according to which the Members of the Election Committee would be present at copying of ballots, put their signatures on those, as well as would participate in the signing process for candidates, to be held at 15:00-16:00.

Thus, the following schedule was accepted:

09:30 – Artak Saribekyan, Amalya Balabekyan, Vahagn Asryan, Anahit Hakobyan, Marianna Yeghyazaryan;

15:00 – Tatevik Avagyan, Mariam Osipyan, Khachatur Barseghyan, Lilit Kamalyan, Gayane Arsenyan, Gayane Gevorgyan;

- task sharing at the elections and logistics in general: it was decided that the Chairman and a number of Members of the Election Committee would participate in preparing the Hall for the elections;
- the Agenda of May 22 was discussed.

On the second Agenda item

It was suggested to discuss the issue of applications submitted with deficiencies and actions on the part of the Election Committee in regard to such applications e.

V. Grigoryan spoke out about the issue. She informed that she contacted a number of applicants, whose applications were submitted with deficiencies and, as previously asserted by Chairman of the Election Committee such applicants were informed thereon in a due manner. It was discovered as a result of phone calls though that many of such applicants (most of them) were not informed that there existed deficiencies in their applications. There were applications submitted with no contact information therein. Some of the missing contacts were discovered from the lists of participants of the Stakeholder Committee elections held during previous years. The Assistant to the Stakeholder's Committee stated that a whole bunch of applications with deficiencies were submitted from the City of Gyumri and in this regard the Chairman of the Election Committee recommended the participant representing Gyumri to coordinate the process of filling out the applications. A. Saribekyan stated that the lack of information among a number of applicants was due to the fact that he gave calls to those applicants whose applications were already put aside as being deficient. It was possible that in the end of the working day other similar applications were put aside who were contacted by the Assistant to the Stakeholder's Committee the next morning.

A. Saribekyan addressed also the issue of applications containing deficiencies. In particular, he distinguished separate groups of deficiencies as discovered in the applications. The most common mistake was in connection with point 1.3 (the date of state registration of an organization does not comply with the date as stated on the copy of the certificate).

The Chairman suggested to consider the applications with inconsistencies under point 1.3 as minor and non-material mistakes and recommended to consider them as acceptable.

The issue suggested by the Chairman was put for a vote and was accepted with 10 votes for and 1 abstaining from the vote.

L. Kamalyan spoke about the applications. She stated that her observations so far revealed that in a number of instances one and the same person acted as the president of two and more organizations and/or holds a managerial position in such organizations. L. Kamalyan brought an example, stating, "Community Initiatives and Advocacy Center" NGO (the authorized representative of the NGO is G. Gevorgyan, member of EC, who is authorized by M. Zadoyan) and "Mashtots School of Gyumri" NGO (M. Zadoyan, who was director of the NGO submitted a application) is managed by one and the same person – Marzpetuni Zadoyan. L. Kamalyan stated that such an approach failed to ensure equal conditions for applicants and was in violation of the principle of one vote. She called upon and recommended to accept only one application filed by the applicants, by prohibiting participation of others, given the interconnectedness between them and the candidate. The other members also spoke about the issue.

T. Avagyan stated that by the act of accepting the given recommendation they would deprive the other NGOs from their right to participate, which would not be correct.

K. Barseghyan also spoke against the recommendation. He explained his position by supporting it with the fact that the NGO Board rather than its president takes a decision about the position of the NGO.

The Chairman and the Secretary were also against the recommendation proposed by L. Kamalyan.

M. Yeghyazaryan provided an explanation for the situation saying that in the above described cases the right to “one vote” was not violated. The principle of “one vote” would be violated in case EC was guided by the principle of natural persons and thus would deprive the participation of a respective NGO. M. Yeghyazaryan also supported her point by saying that NGOs rather than natural persons were to participate in the elections.

A. Hakobyan stated that persons having taken greater efforts in establishment and development of civil society should respectively have more opportunities.

Victoria Grigoryan, Stakeholder Committee Assistant mentioned in her speech that she considered the position voiced by L. Kamalyan as having a conflict of interests, which in case of M. Zadoyan was more evident and unacceptable, as the representative of the organization managed by M. Zadoyan was also a member of EC. And according to the election procedure, the organization representing an EC member should not nominate another candidate. Although indirectly, she considered the other cases as containing a conflict of interest as well.

By summarizing the discussions held on the issues, the Chairman put the recommendation for voting.

The issue was as follows: whether or not two different organizations shall be entitled to participate in elections in case there was evidence that one and the same person acted as the chairman of an organization and at the same time held a managerial position in another organization.

There were 7 votes for, 2 against and 1 abstaining from voting.
Thus, the issue voted for was considered acceptable.

Lilit Kamalyan’s statement is attached.

The following item put for voting: whether or not an application, in which point 2.4 of the application (contact information) was missing and not filled out by participants, should be considered as valid.

There were 10 votes for and 1 vote against.

Thus, in case point 2.4 of the application was not filled out by the applicant the application was considered as acceptable and valid.

The following item was put for voting: whether or not an application should be considered valid in case the application was submitted with point 1.6 (fields of activities of an organization) missing some information, provided a person, having submitted the application, was considered as a voter.

There were 10 votes for and 1 vote against.

Thus, in case point 1.6 is not filled out by an applicant voter, the application should be considered as valid.

On the third Agenda item:

Summarizing of applications revealed the following results: there were 220 valid applications, 18 amended applications and 32 applications submitted with deficiencies.

On the forth Agenda item:

Upon scrutinizing the information available in the applications submitted, the issue of considering the application submitted by “Union of Officers Drawn to the Army” NGO as unacceptable was considered. The following grounds were provided: the application did not include the registration certificate, in regard to which a reference was submitted. L. Kamalyan expressed an opinion about the issue and stated that a relevant statement of information should be submitted in case of absence of a registration certificate.

There were 9 votes for, 1 vote against and 1 abstaining from voting.

Thus, the application submitted by “Union of Officers Drawn to the Army” NGO was considered as unacceptable.

It was decided to continue the session the next day at 16:30.

Signed by

A. Saribekyan, EC Chairman

M. Yeghyazaryan, EC Secretary

M. Osipyanyan, EC member

G. Arsenyan, EC member

May 18, 2010