

Fellow Science Journalists.

First allow us to introduce ourselves.

Each of us helped create the World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ) in its earliest days. Our role now, as the three members of the Nominating Committee, is to facilitate you, our members, to nominate candidates and then choose four of them to be your representatives on the WFSJ Executive Board.

We are independent of the Executive Board and will run the election along strict guidelines fairly and transparently on your behalf.

### **Kindness**

When a group of us created the World Federation, we did so on the principle of kindness: to bring together the community of science journalists, so that we may help each other, so that we may all be enriched, and, importantly, so those with the least would benefit the most from our collaboration. We came together, nearly a quarter of a century ago, to act not in our narrow national interest, but selflessly and ambitiously: to benefit the entire world community of science journalists.

It is our sincere hope that these founding values, and in particular the principle of **kindness** on which the Federation was founded, will form the basis of this process as we begin a new chapter in our great endeavor.

### **Procedure**

This is a two-stage process: the first is for each of you to select and then nominate a candidate for election to the board.

The candidate must be a science journalist of good standing that you believe will make a positive contribution to the board of the WFSJ. We expect that this process will be conducted in consultation of your respective boards and as many of your members as possible.

It is our hope that you will consider the founding principles of the WFSJ as you judge your candidates for nomination for the election process.

The second stage is the voting process.

The onus will be on you to question the candidates selected and, again in consultation with your board and membership, select four that you feel share the values of kindness and collaboration that are central to the Federation's work. We ask you to vote as custodians of the Federation as well as representing the interest of your own association.

As part of your decision, we request that you elect a board that has wide regional representation and a fair gender balance.

### **Nomination Phase**

The four new board members you will be electing will be in addition to the continuing board members. These are:

Ximena Serrano Gil, who is from Colombia and identifies as female.

Harry Surjadi who is from Indonesia and identifies as male.

Joseph Mbeng Boum, who is from Cameroon and identifies as male.

Lesley Ogden Evan is from Canada and identifies as female.

Jean Marc Fleury is from Canada and identifies as male.  
Chhatra Karki who is from Nepal and identifies as male.  
Ben Deighton from the UK and identifies as male.

A reminder that two Canadian representatives are required on the Executive Board by law to maintain WFSJ's charitable status in Canada.

You will see that there is currently an overwhelming majority of male members on the continuing board. With your efforts, we wish to give you the opportunity to redress this imbalance.

To this end, we will allow each association to put forward a maximum of two candidates, at least one of whom must identify as female.

If the association puts forward only one candidate, we kindly request that you consider submitting a female candidate. We recognise that this may not always be possible, especially for new and smaller associations, so we will accept a single male candidate if we receive an email from the voting representative explaining why a female candidate cannot be put forward on this occasion.

Those associations which already have representation on the board may not put forward candidates – but will of course be encouraged to participate in the voting phase.

It is also in the remit of the Nomination Committee to identify regional and gender imbalances once the nomination phase is complete and, with your help, seek out and appoint candidates to redress any imbalance.

All times will be given in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), which is the time astronauts typically use and is the same as GMT.

Nominations are open from today and can be sent to [WFSJNomCom@gmail.com](mailto:WFSJNomCom@gmail.com) and will close at 23:59 UTC on Friday October 4.

Nominations are open to any science journalist belonging to a Full Member association of the World Federation.

They must provide a CV, a letter to voting members setting out what they should bring to the board of no more than 600 words. This should include their vision for the Federation, their skills and experience and we request a few lines on how they would promote the Federation's founding values of kindness and collaboration as board members.

Candidates should also submit a photograph, two letters of recommendations, one of which should be from a senior member of their national association, two examples of their work, minutes that show that their candidature has been supported by the board of their national association *and most importantly a contact email address.*

The Nomination Committee will contact any individuals if there are issues with their applications and give them five days to provide any additional information.

Candidates will be announced at 0900 UTC on Monday 21 October.

## **Voting Phase**

Candidate manifestos, documents and their contact details will be emailed to voting representatives and the voting phase will begin. We encourage you to email questions to the candidates.

You will list four candidates that you wish to become board members. We request that you consider the overall regional and gender representation of the new board as well as their suitability for the WFSJ board as you make your selection.

If there are a large number of candidates, we will have two or possibly three rounds, with the candidates in the top half of the ballot going through to the next round.

If we require three rounds of voting:

The deadline for the first voting phase is **23:59 UTC Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November**. The results will be sent to all voting members, candidates and all the continuing members of the WFSJ board by 0900 UTC on Monday 4 November and the second voting round begins immediately. Note that WFSJ continuing board members are not able to cast votes.

The deadline for the second voting phase is **23:59 UTC Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November**. The results will be sent to all voting members, candidates and board members by 0900 UTC on Monday 11 November and the third voting round begins immediately.

The deadline for the final voting phase will be **23:59 UTC Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November**.

The names of the four candidates who receive the most votes will be emailed to all voting members, candidates and WFSJ board members simultaneously in time for the beginning the World Federation's General Assembly on Wednesday 20 November. This may be well ahead of the meeting if the board wishes to invite the new board members to attend the meeting.

Finally – please note that like all of you we on the Nominating Committee are busy full time science journalists doing our very best to ensure that you have a smooth, transparent and trustworthy process. It's therefore a possibility that, despite our best efforts, we will get things wrong, or be late with some of the deadlines we have set ourselves because of our work or family commitments.

Should this happen we ask for your trust, understanding and kindness.

We are after all, all friends working together, freely and in good faith, towards a glorious common purpose.

If you have questions or comments, please email us on [WFSJNomCom@gmail.com](mailto:WFSJNomCom@gmail.com)

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With respect and kindness

Lisbeth Fog, Diran Onifade, Pallab Ghosh  
Nomination Committee Members.