

Germany would like to thank the delegation from Belgium for submitting document ISBA/25/C/22 which proposes and explains a procedure for the election of members of the Commission. This paper addresses a very important topic and the issue as such definitely is crucial for our joint way forward.

At the same time, it is all but an easy task.

In the past, as to the knowledge of my delegation, discussions in this respect have been – as pointed out by the ambassador from Brazil – tough, lengthy and very complicated. At any instance, a solution on a more global and abstract level could not be realized. Under these premises the document by Belgium provides indeed a very helpful first step.

We would also like to thank Algeria for submitting on behalf of the African Group and GRULAC their draft proposal, which equally highlights and points to the importance of the subject at hand.

Taking all this into account, Germany feels that more thought should be given to the overarching and fundamental questions first, before turning to the details of how to exactly structure this election procedure.

Questions which Germany considers crucial in this regard are:

- 1) How does the LTC itself and its Chair feel about the existence and availability of specific expertise and knowledge in this body? How can it be ensured that the important upcoming and very challenging tasks such as the development of standards and guidelines can be fulfilled adequately?
- 2) What has been the procedure in the past, in the event a lack of specific knowledge was recognized? Has this been a feasible and reasonable procedure, in the view of the Chair of the LTC?
- 3) What is the experience of the LTC with regard to the current size of the Commission, i.e. 30 members. Is this size feasible, should it be increased or might a reduction even be advisable?

Thank you.