

USS R9 South Asia Council

Election Plan for the 2027–2029 Term

For approval | October 2026

This plan establishes the arrangements for the first governing bodies of the USS R9 South Asia Council, including election organization, nominations, eligibility verification, voting, publication of results, objections and handover. It takes effect upon approval by the competent USS governing body. Any departure from the current charter requires the applicable amendment or authorization procedure before implementation.

1 Scope and principal arrangements

The plan covers nominations and elections for Chair, Vice Chairs, Standing Council Members and the Supervisor for the 2027–2029 term. It also addresses notification to members in the R9 region, confirmation of the Council membership of the founding members, election of the Supervisor and appointment of the Secretary General. Chair and Vice Chair correspond to Chairman and Vice Chairman in the division charter.

R9 covers Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. India serves as the initial preparatory hub; this does not exclude eligible members in other South Asian countries from standing for election.

The proposed term runs from 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2029, provided that the results have completed the required public comment process and become effective. The Chair serves a three-year term and may serve no more than two consecutive terms.

Milestone	Schedule
Nominations and candidate list	30 October 2026
Voting notice and opening	1 November 2026
Voting deadline	3 November 2026
Public comment on results	4–10 November 2026
Effectiveness of results	Proposed for 11 November, subject to completion of objections

All times are Beijing time, UTC+8. Nominations close at 12:00 on 28 October; the official candidate list must be published by 23:59 that day. Voting opens at 00:00 on 1 November and closes at 23:59 on 3 November. The results public comment period runs from 00:00 on 4 November to 23:59 on 10 November.

2 Election organization and responsibilities

For this first election, USS shall formally authorize the R9 Preparatory Committee to organize implementation. An Election Working Group shall operate under the Committee, with an Election Oversight Commissioner appointed by USS to supervise the entire process. If a duly constituted incumbent Council already exists, it shall organize the election under Article 17 of the division charter, supported by the Committee or Working Group.

Article 1 USS authorization and oversight

The competent USS governing body shall approve the plan, transitional arrangements, seats and electorate; establish the legal effect of any nomination-rule adjustment; appoint the Commissioner; receive election reports; publish results for public comment; and decide matters requiring USS determination. The authorization shall identify the competent body consistently where English source documents use differing governance titles.

The Commissioner shall oversee eligibility checks, candidate lists, electronic voting, counting and objections; verify the electorate and election thresholds; and confirm the validity of results. The Commissioner shall not stand as a candidate in this election. Ms. Cristina Brasi shall serve as the Election Oversight Commissioner for this election.

Article 2 Preparatory Committee and Working Group

The Committee shall mobilize members, collect materials and coordinate the first General Assembly and election. Announcement No. 1 names Dr. Prabagarane N and Dr. Kishore R as Conveners and Dr. Kishore R as Secretary. Actual officeholders shall be determined by the current valid USS authorization.

The Working Group shall assign eligibility review, voting administration, counting and records duties. It shall verify applications, maintain registers, publish lists, distribute voting credentials, consolidate results and prepare reports. Counting and scrutiny shall be performed separately by persons without conflicts, with at least two-person cross-checking.

Article 3 Conflicts and information management

Organizers may stand if eligible, but must not review their own nomination, decide objections involving themselves, access data linking individuals to voting choices, or count or scrutinize a round in which they stand. Close family or direct interests must be disclosed and managed by recusal.

Where the Election Oversight Commissioner has participated in a nomination in a capacity as a USS Director, or otherwise has a direct interest in a matter, the Commissioner shall disclose that position and recuse from the verification of that matter, which shall be handled by another person designated by USS. Recusals shall be recorded and retained.

Candidates shall receive the same presentation format, comparable space and common publication channels. Private telephone numbers, email addresses, dates of birth, dues records and full supporting CVs shall not be publicly released. Authentication records shall be stored separately from anonymous ballots.

3 Seats and formation of the first Council

Seats for this election are: one Chair, not more than two Vice Chairs, not more than six Standing Council Members, one Supervisor, and one Secretary General. Vice Chairs must not exceed eight and Standing Council Members must not exceed 32. Final seats, and whether Chair and Vice Chairs are included in the standing membership total, must be approved and announced before nominations.

The Supervisory Board for this term consists of one Supervisor, who also serves as Chief Supervisor. This differs from the division charter as to the number of Supervisors and requires prior approval by the competent USS governing body; where the approved arrangement provides otherwise, the approved arrangement prevails.

The first Council is constituted by the 26 R9 founding members, who automatically become members of the first Council and obtain Council membership for the term. The number of voting Council Members is therefore N=26. The founding members are the 26 records in the filtered Preparatory Committee Member Application sheet, confirmed record by record; any record failing verification is not counted towards N, and USS shall fill the shortfall through the applicable procedure.

With N=26, verified attendance in each leadership round must be at least 60% of 26, rounded upwards, namely 16. Where attendance is insufficient, the threshold must not be lowered by reducing the number of members due to attend.

After the first Council is constituted, additional Council Members may be added under the procedure prescribed by the division charter, in order to achieve the country and disciplinary coverage required by the objectives for this term. The procedure, the list and the effect on N shall be announced separately.

The objectives for this term have been fixed and apply as structural constraints on the formation and operation of the first Council:

No.	Objective for this term
1	Full country coverage across the R9 region for members and Council Members
2	Council Members covering more than 10 disciplines
3	Not fewer than 20 brand events in the region, involving not fewer than 6 disciplines
4	Not fewer than 1 journal initiated in the region
5	Not fewer than 3 collaboration projects initiated

These objectives are directly linked to seat allocation, regional and disciplinary distribution, and the work plans of candidates. Candidates shall submit a work plan aligned with the objectives for this term. Verification of regional and disciplinary coverage is carried out during candidate eligibility review.

4 Voter and candidate eligibility

Article 4 Registers and transitional arrangements

Separate registers shall be maintained for valid R9 members, voting members or delegates of the first General Assembly, and voting Council members. Applicant, preparatory committee, discipline coordinator or executive workstream status does not automatically confer a Council vote.

The first Council is not elected. R9 founding members automatically become members of the first Council upon verification, and constitute the body of the register of voting Council Members, that is, N=26. The function of the first General Assembly is limited to confirming Council membership, electing the Supervisor and dealing with authorized matters; it no longer has the function of electing the first Council.

Council members shall elect the Chair, Vice Chairs and Standing Council Members; the Supervisor shall be elected by the voting members or delegates of the first General Assembly. As the Constitution and the division charter provide that Supervisors may not concurrently serve as Council members, Supervisor candidates shall be selected from outside the 26 founding members, subject to prior USS approval.

To support leadership voting on 1–3 November, verification of the 26 founding members and effectiveness of their Council membership must be completed by 31 October. The transitional procedure and effectiveness arrangements require prior USS approval. If this cannot be achieved, an ineffective Council register must not be used for leadership voting; USS shall announce revised arrangements.

Article 5 Eligibility standards

Voters and candidates must hold valid USS membership, complete R9 registration and meet applicable dues obligations. Student and honorary members do not have electoral or voting rights under the USS Constitution. Representation and voting entitlements of institutional or society members must be specified separately; additional individual votes must not be assumed.

Candidates shall support USS purposes, have a good reputation and capacity to serve, consent in writing and undertake to observe the charter and perform their duties. A division head must not exceed age 70. Supervisors are subject to the approved age and incompatibility provisions. Candidates for Chair, Vice Chair and Standing Council Member must obtain membership of the incoming Council before their respective votes.

Supervisors must be independent and must not concurrently hold incompatible Council or other offices. Drawing on the Constitution, the R9 rules shall specify restrictions involving Council members, executive officeholders, finance personnel and full-time Secretariat staff. A person nominated for incompatible positions must select a compatible candidacy before publication of the official list.

Article 6 Notification to R9 regional members

All members in the R9 region shall be notified of this election. Notification shall be issued through the USS membership system, the official website, the R9 official digital platforms and the contact channels recorded at membership registration, and shall at the same time be posted on the USS website in a form that remains available for reference. The notice shall state the election matters, positions and seats, the term, the key schedule, eligibility requirements, nomination routes, submission arrangements, the objection channel and contact details for enquiries.

Notification shall give members in every country or area of the region an equal opportunity to participate, and shall not limit the right of eligible members in South Asian countries other than India to stand, India being the preparatory hub. The representation and voting entitlements of institutional, society and group members must be specified separately; additional individual votes must not be assumed.

Notification and registration do not confer eligibility. A candidate must still hold valid USS membership, have completed R9 registration, and have met applicable dues obligations; student and honorary members do not have electoral, candidacy or voting rights under the USS Constitution.

R9 founding members automatically become members of the first Council upon verification, and must still complete nomination and submission of materials under Articles 8 and 9 to stand for office in this term; founding member status does not exempt them from the procedure.

Records of notification, the scope of distribution and feedback received shall be retained for audit, and shall form part of the materials against which compliance with this plan is reviewed.

Article 7 Verification of existing applications

The Committee shall use the filtered application sheet as a contact and verification source, obtaining each applicant's membership number, category, dues status, date of birth, regional connection, consent and independent voting contact. Its 26 records constitute the composition of the first Council for this term; Council membership is confirmed on this basis following record-by-record verification, and the record set must not be treated as an already confirmed Council or voter register.

The original sheet still includes non-South-Asian applications and must not be combined with the filtered sheet to duplicate records. Inconsistent country and institution entries, and submission email addresses shared by different applicants, require individual verification. Citizenship, institution name or shared submission email alone must not determine eligibility or justify deletion.

Register checks and appeals shall be handled on 29–30 October. Registers shall be finalized by 31 October, with appropriate verification access for voters. Changes require supporting reasons, records and oversight confirmation.

5 Nominations and publication of candidates

Article 8 Nomination routes

Candidates for Chair, Vice Chair, Standing Council Member and Supervisor may be jointly nominated by at least two USS Directors, or by at least one USS Chair and at least one USS Director. The second route requires two distinct individuals; one person holding both titles cannot count as two nominators.

USS Chair and USS Director refer here to headquarters officeholders. Any extension to division officeholders requires express USS authorization in the nomination notice. Nominators shall provide verifiable appointment details and written recommendations.

This is the proposed nomination rule for this election. For Chair and Vice Chair, it differs from Article 18 of the division charter and requires the applicable charter amendment or valid authorization by the competent USS body. A Working Group decision alone cannot replace that procedure.

Article 9 Materials and submission

Each candidate shall provide: an application and nomination form; membership and Council eligibility evidence; appointment details and confirmations from both nominators; written consent; a CV and work plan; conflict and concurrent-office disclosures; and consent for publication. Supervisor candidates shall also provide an independence and incompatibility declaration.

Materials shall be submitted through the designated official channel, with receipt time recorded and acknowledged. R9@ussociety.org is the proposed submission address, subject to availability and confirmation in the official notice. Objections shall be received through an independent oversight channel and shall not be handled by a candidate who is the subject of the complaint.

Applications shall be reviewed as received. Submission closes at 12:00 on 28 October. Requested corrections must be supplied by 18:00 that day; corrections must not introduce a new candidate or substitute the substantive nominating parties after the deadline. Review and oversight verification shall be completed that day, with publication by 23:59.

Article 10 Candidate list and eligibility objections

The list shall show names, institutions, countries or territories, positions sought, standardized profiles and work plans, without private contacts or evidential documents. Candidates shall be ordered using a neutral method announced in advance.

Eligibility objections shall be accepted on 29–30 October and determined, with necessary corrections published, by 31 October. Typographical corrections do not reopen nominations. Withdrawals, disqualification or material list changes require oversight verification and reasonable review time for voters; affected voting arrangements may be adjusted if necessary.

Withdrawals require written confirmation. Fewer candidates than seats does not create automatic election or permit unapproved substitutions. Approval voting, vacancies or subsequent elections shall follow the approved rules.

6 Voting and election thresholds

Article 11 Electronic voting

The voting notice shall be published and electronic secret voting opened on 1 November, closing at 23:59 on 3 November. Electronic meetings and voting shall be organized in stages, with Chair, Vice Chair and Standing Council Member rounds in sequence. Supervisor elections shall use a separate electorate and ballot. The 1 November notice must specify every round's window; all rounds must end by 3 November.

Each eligible voter has one valid ballot per round; proxy voting is not permitted. The system shall authenticate voters, prevent duplicate voting, retain audit records and separate identity from choices. Electronic attendance and voting recognition require USS approval. Receipt of a voting email alone does not establish attendance.

Article 12 Attendance and election thresholds

Under Article 19 of the division charter, each leadership round requires verified attendance of at least 60% of all eligible voting Council members, rounded upwards. For this term $N=26$, so verified attendance in each round must be at least 60% of 26, rounded upwards, namely 16. Attendance shall be checked for every round. Absent members must not be deleted to reduce the denominator. The first Assembly shall follow the Constitution's attendance requirement of more than two thirds of delegates, as confirmed in the transitional rules.

With one or two Chair candidates, the candidate receiving the highest number of affirmative votes and more than half of the Council members present is elected. With more than two candidates, a contested election is required and the highest-polling candidate must obtain more than two thirds of valid votes. This plan also proposes retaining the majority-of-those-present condition; USS must confirm the applicable interpretation before voting.

Vice Chairs shall be elected seat by seat using the corresponding Chair rules. For Standing Council Members, a limited-choice ballot is proposed: selections cannot exceed available seats; candidates must receive affirmative votes from more than half of the Council members present, then rank within the available seats. This supplementary procedure requires approval.

One Supervisor shall be elected by the first General Assembly through a secret ballot, and is elected where the candidate obtains affirmative votes from more than half of the voting members or delegates present; that Supervisor shall also serve as Chief Supervisor. As Supervisors may not concurrently serve as Council members, Supervisor candidates shall be selected from outside the 26 founding members. These procedures require approval.

Article 13 Ballots and exceptional cases

Ballots shall offer explicit abstention. It is proposed that properly completed affirmative, negative and abstention ballots from eligible voters count as valid; blank and over-selected ballots are invalid. USS must confirm the valid-vote denominator before voting. Abstention, invalid ballots and non-voting do not count as affirmative votes and do not reduce verified attendance.

A tie affecting election requires another vote among the tied candidates. If nobody meets the threshold, the pre-announced repeat-vote procedure applies; the highest vote total alone is insufficient. Unsuccessful Chair candidates may consent to stand for Vice Chair or Standing Council Member, and unsuccessful Vice Chair candidates for Standing Council Member, subject to the relevant nomination and eligibility requirements.

System failures shall be recorded and reported immediately. The Commissioner shall assess the impact and determine suspension, resumption or a fresh vote. If repeat voting cannot finish by 3 November, affected vacancies and revised public comment arrangements shall be announced separately. Thresholds must not be lowered and results must not be backdated.

7 Counting reporting and public comment

Article 14 Counting and reporting

After each round, counting staff shall consolidate results and scrutiny staff verify them. Records shall show eligible and present voters, ballots cast, valid, invalid and abstention ballots, affirmative votes per candidate and the threshold applied. The Commissioner shall verify system records and sign the validity confirmation.

Results must be reported to USS within three business days after the election. To begin public comment on 4 November, the Working Group shall consolidate results immediately after voting closes and obtain oversight confirmation, submit the report and secure USS publication review before the public comment period begins. If this cannot be completed in time, USS must announce an adjustment; the start must not be backdated.

The report shall include the approved plan and authorizations, eligibility report, final voter and candidate lists, nomination evidence, meeting and attendance records, round-by-round counts, oversight confirmation, and records of exceptional events and objections.

Article 15 Public comment and objections

USS shall publish results under Article 25 of the division charter for seven calendar days, from 4 to 10 November 2026. The notice shall state proposed officeholders' names, institutions, regions, positions and term; election date; attendance and necessary count data; oversight findings; and the objection channel.

Officeholders shall be described as provisionally elected during public comment. Objections may concern eligibility, nomination authenticity, procedure, counting or conflicts. They should state the facts and provide evidence where possible. Objections shall be logged and acknowledged promptly; the Commissioner shall arrange investigation, with recusals and USS determination where needed.

Verified clerical errors shall be corrected. Material objections potentially affecting election shall suspend effectiveness for the affected position. Expiry of 10 November does not make an unresolved disputed result effective. USS shall announce any recount, new election or renewed public comment process.

Article 16 Effectiveness appointments and handover

Where there are no objections, or objections have been resolved, the results shall become effective through the charter procedure, with formal notice proposed for 11 November. Effectiveness is distinct from taking office on 1 January 2027. The body holding valid preparatory authority shall continue transitional duties while incoming officeholders participate in handover.

The Secretary General shall be nominated by the elected Chair and appointed following Council review and approval; USS may appoint directly in special circumstances. The Secretary General is not included in the direct ballots for the four position categories. The appointment resolution shall specify effective and commencement dates.

Within ten business days of effectiveness, documents, registers and official account access shall be handed over against a written record. The incoming governing bodies shall approve the 2027 work plan within their respective authority.

The R9 Council has not yet been established, so there is no handover of finances or assets in this term. The divisional financial system will be established and completed during the term and, once completed, shall be filed with the USS Council for record and audit in accordance with Article 20 of the division charter.

Article 17 Executive Committee and secondary committees

After the first Council is constituted, Council Members other than the Chair, Vice Chairs, Standing Council Members, the Supervisor and the Secretary General do not thereby lose their Council

membership or voting rights. In order that they may carry specific responsibilities, the Council shall, under Article 8 of the division charter, prepare a proposal for the establishment of an Executive Committee together with its management rules, which shall be submitted to the USS Council for approval before implementation.

The Executive Committee is established for operational management needs. The proposal shall state the number of members, the scope of responsibilities, rules of procedure, term of office, and the allocation of powers as against the Council and the Standing Council. No Executive Committee arrangement may be implemented without the approval of the USS Council.

The Council may establish secondary professional or regional committees under the division charter. Under that charter, the chairperson of a secondary committee shall, in principle, be a Standing Council Member or a senior Council Member of the institution. Committee members are nominated by the Chair, or jointly recommended by more than two Standing Council Members, or recommended by five or more members of that committee, and are appointed after review and approval by the Council.

The establishment proposals for the Executive Committee and the secondary committees shall be aligned with the objectives for this term, cover the country and disciplinary distribution, and identify the persons undertaking each responsibility. The related proposals, rules and appointment documents form part of the records of this term.

8 Implementation schedule and records

Date	Action and output
19–23 October	Verify whether the August election already occurred validly; obtain USS authorization, rule adjustments and transitional approval; publish seats and nomination notice; notify all members in the R9 region of their participation.
24–27 October	Receive nominations; verify membership and appointments; complete verification of the 26 founding members; review applications as received.
28 October	12:00 nominations close; 18:00 corrections close; official lists for all four position categories published by 23:59.
29–31 October	Resolve eligibility objections; finalize electorate; complete effectiveness of the Council membership of the founding members; test the system and prepare ballots.
1–3 November	Publish voting notice and open voting on 1 November; conduct successive rounds; close by 23:59 on 3 November.
4 November	Complete counts, oversight confirmation, reporting and USS publication review before public comment begins.
4–10 November	Publish results and investigate objections; public comment closes at 23:59 on 10 November.
From 11 November	Give effect to eligible results and issue notice; complete Secretary General appointment and handover.
From effectiveness to 1 January 2027	The first Council prepares a proposal for the establishment of an Executive Committee and its management rules for approval by the USS Council, and drafts the establishment and membership proposals for the secondary professional or regional committees.

This schedule depends on approvals and on the Council membership of the founding members taking effect in time. A formal notice shall explain changes to the original 15 August 2026 application and Assembly dates and retention of earlier applications. If valid election results already exist, verify them before organizing another election for the same term and positions.

Article 18 Approval and interpretation

Nomination rules, recognition of electronic attendance and voting, confirmation and effectiveness of the Council membership of the founding members, the composition of the Supervisory Board, Standing Council Member and Supervisor procedures, vote-denominator interpretations and seats require approval before formal voting. Unapproved provisions cannot override the current charter. USS shall interpret the charter and decide major disputes within its authority.

The establishment proposals and management rules for the Executive Committee and the secondary committees shall be submitted to the USS Council for approval under Article 8 of the division charter and implemented only after that approval; this plan or any working arrangement may not substitute for that procedure.

Article 19 Records and governing references

Maintain nomination, review, list-version, voting, counting, oversight, reporting, public comment, objection and handover records under USS records and personal-information procedures. Public documents require authorized review.

References: USS Constitution V1.0 provisions on member rights, subsidiary governance and supervision; division charter Articles 3, 8, 17–20, 23 and 25–27; the R9 Establishment Proposal;

Establishment Announcement No. 1; and the objectives for this term. The application workbook supports verification only and is not evidence of confirmed office or electoral rights.

Annex Candidate nomination and review record

For Chair, Vice Chair, Standing Council Member or Supervisor. Submit one record per candidate, with separate signatures or verifiable electronic confirmations from the candidate and nominators. The detailed English Candidate Application Form may be used as the submission form.

Item	Information to complete
Candidate name and USS ID	Name: _____ Membership number: _____
Institution and region	Institution: _____ Country / territory: _____
Position and Council status	Position: _____ Council election / appointment reference: _____
Eligibility evidence	Attach membership category and status, dues verification, age eligibility and regional connection evidence.
Nominator 1	Name: _____ USS office: _____ Appointment reference: _____ Signature and date: _____
Nominator 2	Name: _____ USS office: _____ Appointment reference: _____ Signature and date: _____
Nomination route	☐ At least two USS Directors jointly ☐ At least one USS Chair and one USS Director jointly
Candidate declaration	I consent to stand, confirm that my information is accurate, undertake to follow USS rules and perform my duties, and disclose conflicts and concurrent appointments. Signature and date: _____
Attachments	CV; work plan; membership and appointment evidence; conflicts declaration; publication consent; independence declaration for Supervisor candidates.
Eligibility review	Received: _____ Corrections: _____ Decision and reasons: _____ Reviewer and date: _____
Oversight review	Comments: _____ Commissioner signature and date: _____

Public disclosure is limited to the candidate-approved name, institution, region, position sought, profile and work plan. Nominator evidence, private contacts and qualification documents are for internal review.