



**International
Confederation
of Midwives**

Strengthening Midwifery Globally

Electronic ICM Council Meeting 26th June 2020

Dear Member Associations,

On 12th March we announced the postponement of the 32nd ICM Triennial Congress in Bali, Indonesia due to the risks associated with the Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. The Congress will now take place in 2021. You can read the full statement on [ICM's website](#).

As announced, there will be an electronic Council meeting held on **26th June 2020** instead of the face-to-face meeting that was to take place in Bali, 17-19th June 2020.

This electronic Council meeting will include those agenda items that have to be addressed this year according to the Constitution and By-Laws, and those that are important to keep the Confederation moving forward. Details of how this meeting will be conducted are outlined below.

Nomination of Council delegates and observers for the electronic Council meeting 2020

Many of you had nominated delegates and observers to attend the Council meeting in Bali this year but may want to change your delegates and/or observers now that the meeting will take place electronically.

Others did not yet nominate delegates or observers, for example because of not being able to physically attend the meeting in Bali. Now that the Council meeting will take place electronically, you may be able to attend.

To accommodate these possible changes, we have attached the nomination forms for delegates and observers to this letter.

Therefore:

- If you did not yet nominate Delegates, and wish to attend the electronic Council meeting, please do so by sending the completed nomination form to council@internationalmidwives.org by **20th April 2020**.
- If you did nominate Delegates but wish to replace one or both with other representatives of your association, please do so by sending the completed nomination form to council@internationalmidwives.org by **20th April 2020**.
- If you do not want to change your Delegates or Observers, you do not have to do anything.

Please note that Observers will only be invited to attend the electronic Council meeting on 26th June 2020. Observers will not get access to the electronic Council platform. Delegates may of course discuss any items with members, and can download documents, but are asked to not share their log-in details.

Face to face Council meeting 2021

A face-to-face Council meeting will take place in Bali on 26 – 28 May 2021 prior to the rescheduled Congress. A new call for nomination of Council Delegates and Observers for the face-to-face meeting 2021 will be sent out towards the end of 2020.



Process for electronic discussion and voting on Council papers

Having an electronic Council meeting means the agenda items will be discussed and voted on *before* the actual meeting takes place. The meeting on 26th June will be to notify the Council delegates of the voting results, and to share other important information. The process for discussion and voting is further described below.

- 24 April** All Council papers are available on the closed online Council platform. Each Council delegate will have received a personal user account to access the platform.
- For each paper which requires discussion, an online discussion forum is available on the Council platform.
- 15 May** All comments posted in the discussion forums until 15 May will be summarised and translated (to be shared back onto the platform for all Council delegates in all three ICM languages). The discussion forums will stay open, but any comments made after 15 May will not be translated.
- 22 May** A summary of the comments in the discussion forums will be shared with Council delegates in all three ICM languages.
- 29 May** Discussion forums close.
- Electronic voting opens. Instructions for voting are available on the Council Platform.
- 19 June** Electronic voting closes.
- 26 June** Electronic Council meeting at 12.00 CET. The voting results will be presented at the meeting.

Process for Strategy Development (2021-2023 Strategy)

- 24 April** Pre-reading and video introductions to the pre-reading (by President and Chief Executive) are available together with Council papers on the online Council platform.
- Strategy Development Survey opens (open until 10 May). Members asked to identify
- The 10 most important strategic issues they believe ICM must address in the next triennium
 - The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats they think ICM currently has
- 15 May** The results of the survey are announced on the Council Platform. Videos of Board Members presenting the 10 themes that have arisen from the survey results are uploaded to Council platform. Council Delegates are informed via email.
- 15-28 May** Electronic Regional meetings are held between 15th and 28th May, via Zoom, to discuss the top 10 themes. These discussions will take place at the same meeting as the election of regional Board Members (see following section of this letter).
- 29 May** Electronic voting opens (open until 19 June). Delegates vote for top 3 or 4 strategic directions (from the 10 chosen through the survey); vote to give mandate for the ICM Board to develop the strategy.
- 19 June** Electronic voting closes.



26 June Electronic Council meeting at 12.00 CET. Top 3 or 4 strategic directions are presented at the meeting.

Post-Council meeting activities to finalise the new strategy

Board members will collect input from their regions about ideas for implementation of the identified top 3 or 4 strategic directions during July – October 2020. ICM hopes to provide regional meetings via Zoom to facilitate this discussion. The ideas from the regions will be used in the strategic planning process of the ICM Board during October/November 2020. The new strategy will be released in January 2021.

Process for Board Member elections

1. Election of Regional Board Members

Nomination forms and nomination videos of each nominee are already available on the online Council Platform and can be accessed by all Council Delegates.

15-28 May ICM Head Office will organise ten (10) virtual regional election meetings to give the opportunity to each nominee running for Regional Board Member, to make their statement to their sub-region (5 minutes) and respond to the delegates' questions (5 minutes). The meeting will be run in English or French or Spanish, as per the main ICM language in the sub-region. The aim is to reflect the same process that would have taken place at the face-to-face regional meeting.

These regional meetings will also enable regional Midwives' Associations to discuss the top 10 strategic directions that have been identified via the Strategy Development Survey (see previous section of this letter). A second round of regional meetings to discuss the regional workplans and other issues of the regions will be scheduled later in 2020 when the new Board has been elected.

29 May The binding nomination of a Regional Board Member for each region will be announced on the online Council Platform. Electronic voting for endorsement by Council is open 29 May – 19 June.

19 June Electronic voting closes.

26 June Electronic Council meeting at 12.00 CET. The voting result for endorsement of Regional Board Members is announced at the meeting.

2. Election of President, Vice President and Treasurer

Nomination forms and short (2 min) nomination videos of each nominee are already available on the online Council Platform and can be accessed by all Council Delegates. Nominees will be asked to make a longer video (max 5 min) of themselves where they make their statement to the Council.

24 April Statement videos of each nominee (with subtitles) are made available on the online Council Platform. An email address to each nominee will be available in case Council Delegates would like to ask questions to the nominees.

29 May Electronic voting opens.

19 June Electronic voting closes.



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26 June Electronic Council meeting at 12.00 CET. The voting results for election of President, Vice President and Treasurer are announced at the meeting.

Process for selecting two top bids to co-host the Triennial Congress 2026

24 April Video presentations from each bidding association are available on the online Council platform (with subtitles).

29 May Electronic voting opens (open until 19 June). Council Delegates will vote on the top two bids to be further investigated. Final decision will be made by the ICM Board (as per standard procedure).

19 June Electronic voting closes.

26 June Electronic Council meeting at 12.00 CET. The top two bids are announced at the meeting.

Approval of Position Statements

Both the approval of updated existing position statements and discussion and voting on new proposed position statements are postponed to 2021 as these are not business continuity issues.

Support to Council Delegates

ICM staff and regional Board Members will follow up and support Council Delegates individually to encourage active participation and clarify any uncertainty about the process, the timelines, the discussion forums, the regional meetings, the voting systems or other issues that may arise. We hope that with everyone's goodwill and flexibility we can have a successful electronic Council meeting and keep ICM moving forward despite the difficult times. We thank you in advance for your contribution.

A visual timeline of all activities described above is attached.

We hope to have informed you sufficiently with this letter. Should you have any questions regarding the electronic Council meeting, please send them to council@internationalmidwives.org.

Best wishes,

Sally Pairman
Chief Executive