

**PROTOCOL FOR ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF
THE RESIDUAL SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
Adopted on 27 February 2026**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this protocol is to establish the procedures governing the election of the President and Vice President of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (the Court), as provided for under Rules 18 and 20 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence. The Protocol aims at strengthening the Rules of Procedure and Evidence and ensuring that the elections for the offices of President and Vice President, are conducted in an orderly, accountable, transparent, fair, and effective manner, consistent with the principles of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The elections shall be conducted every two years, or such period as the Judges may resolve by majority, to ensure leadership continuity and effective governance of the Court.

2. Eligibility Criteria

The President and Vice President shall be elected from among the Roster of Judges of the Court (Judges) who have not previously served in those respective offices.

- (a) In the case of the office of President, an eligible candidate must be a Judge of the Court who has not previously held the office of President.
- (b) In the case of the office of Vice-President, an eligible candidate must be a Judge of the Court who has not previously held the office of Vice-President.

3. Nomination and Election Process

- A. Elections for the office of President and Vice-President, shall be held at a plenary meeting of the Court convened by the President for that purpose, which meeting shall be attended and held in person by the Judges (the "Elections Meeting"). The Elections Meeting shall be held on the last day of the plenary meeting of the Court.
- B. The nomination and election process shall be conducted by or under the supervision of the Returning Officer who shall be the Registrar of the Court or such other officer as the plenary of Judges may by majority vote appoint. The Returning Officer shall be responsible for distributing, collecting and counting Nomination Forms and ballot papers, and declaring the outcome of the election.

3.1 Nominations Procedure

- A. The Returning Officer shall, within 21 days of the date of the Elections Meeting convened by the outgoing President, notify all Judges of the

names of Judges that are eligible to be voted for such office under Rule 18D and Rule 20A of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence.

- B. Nominations for the position of President and Vice-President shall be by secret ballot.
- C. Any eligible Judge not wishing to be nominated for either the office of the President or Vice-President, as the case may be, shall notify the Returning Officer of such wish in writing, and the Returning Officer shall notify the Judges of this fact ahead of the submission of nominations. Such Judge shall not thereafter be nominated for the office so indicated.
- D. Any eligible Judge may be nominated by other Judges or nominate him/herself for election to the office of President or Vice-President.
- E. All nominations shall be made on the Nomination Forms which shall be circulated to Judges by the Returning Officer ahead of the submission of nominations. Such Nomination Forms may be in electronic or physical form.
- F. The Nomination Form shall:
 - (a) indicate the Judge being nominated and for which office, and
 - (b) be seconded by one other Judge of the Court.
 - (c) contain the confirmation by the nominated Judge of his/her acceptance of the nomination.
 - (d) be contained in envelopes marked only with the words "Nomination Form - President" or "Nomination Form - Vice-President" as the case may be. Such envelopes shall not contain any other marking.
- G. Nominators of Judges for either President or Vice-President shall submit their Nomination Form(s) to the Returning Officer within 7 days of the Elections Meeting. The nominations shall be held in secret and shall remain in the custody of the Returning Officer and shall not be opened or otherwise interfered with until the Elections Meeting.

3.2 Elections

- A. The Returning Officer shall, on the instruction of the outgoing President, and in accordance with Rule 18C of the Rules and in full sight of the Elections Meeting, open and count the Nomination Forms balloted for each nominee for the respective Offices, and notify the Elections Meeting of the results.
- B. Elections for the position of President and Vice-President shall be by secret ballot.
- C. In the event a Judge is absent from the Elections Meeting, he/she may authorise another Judge in writing, to vote on their behalf at the Elections Meeting.

D. The Judges shall cast their votes for the candidates with the two highest nominations. If one of the two candidates declines his or her nomination, the remaining candidate shall be declared elected.

3.3 Voting Process:

- A. Each Judge shall write down the name of their chosen candidate for each office on a separate ballot paper and cast it in the ballot box.
- B. The cast ballot papers will be collected, counted, and validated by the Returning Officer.
- C. The successful candidate for each office must receive a simple majority of votes cast to be elected.
- D. The candidate with the highest number of votes cast for each office shall be elected to that office.
- E. In the case of a tie, a second round of voting will occur between the two highest-scoring candidates.

4. Assumption of Office:

The newly elected officers shall assume their duties immediately following the announcement of the results and shall hold office for the term set out in the Rules, or until their successors are elected.

5. Effective Date

This Elections Protocol will take effect immediately upon approval by the Judges at a plenary meeting held for that purpose.



Justice Richard Lussick
President