

## 2022 Charter Amendments

### Proposal No. 4 - Change the Titles of DPCA Officers from “International” to “Global”

**Sponsor(s):** Adrienne George (Sweden); Christina Skovsgaard (Norway)

**Co-Sponsors:** Rick Wicks (Sweden)

**Purpose:** Confusing, incoherent use of mixed terms when essentially the same thing is meant.

**Affected Sections:** Sections 2.2(c), 2.4(a), 2.4(c), 3.1, 3.2, 3.3(a), 3.3(b), 3.4, 3.5, 3.7(c), 3.7(d), 4.1(a), 4.3(a), 4.3(c), 4.4, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10, 4.11, 4.12, 5.2, 5.4(a), 5.4(b), 5.4(c), 5.4(f), 5.4(g), 5.5, 5.8(b), 5.9(a)(i), 5.9(b), 6.3, 7.1(a), 7.2, 11.2.

**Text:**

WHEREAS we are a global organization, with global committees, caucuses, task forces, and annual meetings;

WHEREAS we currently style the leaders of our global organization anachronistically as “international” officers, dating from when DA was founded in 1964 and had only two country committees (when it would have been ludicrous to style them as “global” officers);

WHEREAS DA is organized by country committees purely as a matter of convenience, so that when we get together at global meetings we’re not representing the countries where we live but merely groups of Americans who happen to live in those countries;

WHEREAS DA has members all over the globe including in areas, such as Antarctica, which are not “nations”;

WHEREAS “international” titles worked fine internally – because we understood that DA is largely a collection of country committees; we enjoy meeting in each other’s country or region; we compete to see which country committee has the best data clean-up; in all those respects we can be considered “international” – nevertheless our organization has gone global, and our terminology for external use hasn’t kept up;

WHEREAS the mixture of the terms “international” and “global” in the Charter (e.g., “global party” in sections 5.8 and 5.9) and in common usage among DA members is confusing both inside and outside of DA;

WHEREAS it’s important that we communicate clearly who we are when, for example, our global Taxation Taskforce submits to Congress or to the Treasury Department evidence of harm to Americans abroad from U.S. tax regulations, and our suggestions for remediation;

WHEREAS it can only be confusing to Congress or the Administration, when we communicate with them, to see our emails signed by “international” officers (aren’t they dealing with Americans, about American policy?);

WHEREAS we have Global Presidential Primaries because representing them as “international” would only confuse media and the Democratic Party to whom the results are presented;

WHEREAS having “international” officers present those results to media and the Party can only seem incoherent;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Charter of Democrats Abroad shall be amended to refer to “Global” rather than “International” officers.

**Markup:**

**Section 2.2(c)**

the ~~Global International~~ Chair, ~~Global International~~ Vice Chair, ~~Global International~~ Treasurer, ~~Global International~~ Secretary, ~~Global International~~ Counsel, the Regional Vice Chairs and any other elected officers of the DPCA.

**Section 2.4(a)**

A member may resign from the DPCA by written notice to the ~~Global International~~ Chair, and such resignation shall be effective immediately;

**Section 2.4(c)**

After notice and opportunity for hearing and upon grounds found by the DPCA to constitute good and sufficient cause, it may remove a member by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote. The Executive Committee shall adopt such rules of procedure as it deems necessary to ensure that the removal hearing is conducted in a fair manner, which rules will include timely notice to the member’s Country Committee in addition to notice to the member in question. In the event of the removal of the Chair, Vice Chair or Voting Representative of a Country Committee, such removal shall only result in removal from membership in the DPCA and shall not affect the member’s position within the Country Committee in question; based on this removal from the DPCA, under the guidance and notification by the Regional Vice Chair and ~~Global International~~ Counsel, the Country Committee should take whatever action it deems appropriate, in conformity with its charter and bylaws, to remedy the issues that resulted in such removal, including further removal and replacement of the member in question from Country Committee positions.

**Section 3.1**

Meetings of the DPCA may be called by the ~~Global International~~ Chair, or by at least one-fourth (1/4th) of its voting members, or by a simple majority of the Executive Committee. An annual Democrats Abroad Global Meeting shall be called in the first half of each year to approve the accounts of the previous year and take any such other action as may be appropriate and, in odd-numbered years, to elect officers. If, for whatever reason, the ~~Global International~~ Chair or ~~Global International~~ Vice Chair fails to call a meeting when required to do so, then the ~~Global International~~ Secretary shall call such meeting within thirty (30) days of the date required. Except as otherwise provided in Section 3.4, meetings of the DPCA may be held exclusively by, or in conjunction, with electronic participation, provided that, at a minimum, the technology used to conduct the meeting enables simultaneous aural communication (i.e., audio conferencing capability).

## **Section 3.2**

Upon proposal of the [Global International](#) Chair at a duly constituted DPCA meeting, and after having invited all Country Committees to submit non-binding bids, the date, time, and place of the annual DPCA meeting required under the previous Section shall be determined by majority vote of the Country Committees, DPCA Officers, and DNC Members present or represented at the meeting or participating by electronic vote (see Section 3.7). The Executive Committee may vote to change the date, time, or place for reasons it deems important.

## **Section 3.3(a)**

Notice of each meeting, containing the place and time of the meeting and the agenda, shall be sent or given by the [Global International](#) Chair to each DPCA Member not less than forty-five (45) days before the date of the meeting. Any DPCA Voting Member may request the [Global International](#) Chair in writing, not less than thirty (30) days before the meeting, to place additional items on the agenda, and shall simultaneously furnish the text of any resolutions proposed for adoption. The [Global International](#) Chair shall circulate such additional items and proposed resolutions, as well as other resolutions, to DPCA members not less than fifteen (15) days before the meeting. Items may be added to the agenda at the meeting by majority vote of DPCA members present or represented. To the extent not otherwise provided for herein, procedural questions shall be settled in accordance with the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

## **Section 3.3(b)**

The [Global International](#) Chair may name a Resolutions Committee for the meeting to review any resolutions presented to the Chair as additional items for the agenda. The duty of the Resolutions Committee shall be to refine the language of proposed resolutions and obtain approval of the refined language from the person(s)/committee(s) submitting the proposed resolutions and to advise and make recommendations to the DPCA concerning the substance of the resolutions.

## **Section 3.4**

A quorum for a meeting shall require the presence in person or on-line of:

- (a) the [Global International](#) Chair or Vice Chair of the DPCA; and
- (b) 40% of DPCA Voting Members (i.e. excluding DPCA Non-Voting Members and Alternate Members).

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the case of annual meetings under Section 3.1, a quorum shall require the physical presence or presence by proxy to a DPCA Member physically present of at least 20% of DPCA members as well as the physical presence of either the [Global International](#) Chair or Vice Chair. In addition, for quorum purposes, the individuals referred to in paragraph (b) must include DPCA Members resident in at least four (4) different countries and two (2) Regions.

## **Section 3.5**

The [Global International](#) Chair shall encourage DPCA Members and members of Democrats Abroad who are unable to be present in person at meetings to participate by telephonic or electronic attendance, whenever technically and economically feasible. The [Global International](#) Chair will inform DPCA Members of the telephone number to call and seek to

arrange means of communication by which all persons participating in the meeting are able to hear one another at the same time. Notwithstanding the foregoing, neither the [Global International](#) Chair nor the DPCA shall be obligated to pay for the telecommunications charges involved in participation by a DPCA Member or member of Democrats Abroad; all such line charges shall be for the account of the member choosing to participate by telephone. Participation by such telephone or electronic attendance shall constitute presence at a meeting for all purposes of this Charter, with the exception of establishment of a quorum or whenever presence in person is specifically required.

### **Section 3.7(c)**

Voting by proxy shall be permitted, subject to the limitations set out in this Charter. Proxies shall be in writing; shall name the person to whom the proxy is given; may be either general or limited to specific issues; may be either instructed or uninstructed. Proxies given as described below shall be notified to and received by the [Global International](#) Secretary at least three (3) days before the relevant meeting.

### **Section 3.7(d)**

The vote of a DPCA Member may not be divided among multiple proxy holders. Proxies shall be given for the full vote of a DPCA member. If a proxy holder cannot accept a full proxy due to the limitations imposed by Section 3.6(e) or Section 3.7(g), the [Global International](#) Secretary may assign a proxy of partial voting weight.

### **Section 4.1(a)**

The elected officers of the DPCA shall consist of:

- (a) the [Global International](#) Chair, [Global International](#) Vice Chair, [Global International](#) Treasurer, [Global International](#) Secretary, and [Global International](#) Counsel, no more than two (2) of whom shall be from the same Country Committee at the time of the election. Such offices shall be held by individuals from at least two (2) different Regions; and
- (b) the Three (3) Regional Vice Chairs.

However, if there is no other candidate for any position, a candidate who would otherwise be ineligible under the previous sentences of this Section 4.1 may be elected. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of these eight (8) elected Officers of the DPCA.

### **Section 4.3(a)**

Prior to the election meeting, the [Global International](#) Chair shall appoint, after consultation with the Executive Committee, five (5) members of Democrats Abroad as a Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC), at least three (3) of whom shall not be DPCA Members. Members of the NEC shall not be candidates for office nor be elected to office.

### **Section 4.3(c)**

The names of the qualified individuals placed in nomination with the NEC shall be forwarded in writing to the [Global International](#) Chair and other DPCA Members by the NEC, after their qualifications have been determined, at least forty-five (45) days in advance of the scheduled election meeting of the DPCA. Nominations of qualified candidates for office may be made from the floor at the election meeting. The elections shall be conducted by the NEC.

#### **Section 4.4**

The [Global International](#) Chair and [Global International](#) Vice Chair shall be from different Country Committees and shall be of different sex, as declared by each candidate in advance of the election. For the purposes of this section and Section 5.2(d)(iv), the term “sex” is defined as male, female, intersex, or any other classification of sex or gender that is legally recognized by any state or federal jurisdiction within the United States of America.

#### **Section 4.6 (Responsibilities of the [Global International](#) Chair)**

The [Global International](#) Chair shall be responsible for the carrying out of the programs and policies of the Democratic Party and Democrats Abroad. The [Global International](#) Chair shall preside at all meetings of the DPCA, establishing meeting agendas, and implementing decisions taken during DPCA meetings. Following consultation with the Executive Committee, the [Global International](#) Chair may appoint deputies or assistant officers (such appointments shall be promptly notified to the DPCA) and conduct the day-to-day business of Democrats Abroad. The [Global International](#) Chair shall be the chief spokesperson for the organization. The [Global International](#) Chair may, after consultation with the Executive Committee, create or terminate committees, task forces, caucuses and councils, determine their composition and purpose and appoint their chairs or co-chairs. The [Global International](#) Chair shall *ex officio* be a non-voting member of all committees, task forces, caucuses and councils.

#### **Section 4.7 (Responsibilities of the [Global International](#) Vice Chair)**

The [Global International](#) Vice Chair shall replace the [Global International](#) Chair whenever the latter is absent or is incapacitated, and shall have such other duties as may be prescribed by the [Global International](#) Chair.

#### **Section 4.8 (Responsibilities of the [Global International](#) Secretary)**

The [Global International](#) Secretary shall keep minutes of DPCA meetings (taking particular note of all Standing Resolutions) and Executive Committee meetings, circulate minutes and records of action to DPCA Members, be responsible for maintaining all the administrative files and records and membership lists and databases of the DPCA and Democrats Abroad, and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the International Chair.

#### **Section 4.9 (Responsibilities of the [Global International](#) Treasurer)**

The [Global International](#) Treasurer shall keep the financial records of the DPCA, establish a budget for approval of the Executive Committee, oversee its bank and other financial accounts, make an annual financial report to the DPCA, and ensure that any necessary reports or filings with the DNC or the governmental authorities of the United States of America and the several States, are timely made.

#### **Section 4.10 (Responsibilities of the [Global International](#) Counsel)**

The [Global International](#) Counsel shall be a qualified legal practitioner available for consultation on legal and procedural questions relating to Democrats Abroad and its activities, and the interpretation of and compliance with the Charter and Bylaws of the DNC, the Charter of Democrats Abroad and the bylaws of Country Committees, and serve as Parliamentarian at DPCA meetings. The [Global International](#) Chair may appoint a separate individual to serve as Parliamentarian.

#### **Section 4.11 (Responsibilities of the Executive Committee)**

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the conduct of the affairs of Democrats Abroad in accordance with policies of the DNC and the DPCA. The Executive Committee shall establish its own rules and, when convened by the [Global International](#) Chair or one third (1/3rd) of its members, may act in a meeting, by telephone or electronic means. The Executive Committee shall adopt a budget for Democrats Abroad prior to the first meeting of the DPCA each year. Except as provided in the following sentence, decisions taken by the Executive Committee shall be by simple majority vote of those members present in person or by instructed proxy given to another member of the Executive Committee or, if such vote is taken in electronic or written form, by simple majority of the entire Executive Committee. By a two-thirds (2/3rds) majority of the entire Executive Committee, the Executive Committee may overrule any decision or action of any Officer.

#### **Section 4.12 (Executive Director)**

Following consultation with the Executive Committee, the [Global International](#) Chair may name an Executive Director to perform such duties as the [Global International](#) Chair may prescribe.

#### **Section 5.2**

To be admitted to Democrats Abroad as a Country Committee, a group must make application to the [Global International](#) Chair containing the following information:

- (a) a membership list, certifying that the group is composed of at least fifty (50) U.S. citizens of voting age having their principal residence in that defined geographical area and who adhere to the principles of the Democratic Party of the United States of America;
- (b) a copy of the Bylaws of the applicant committee adopted in conformity with the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States of America, the DNC, and the Charter of Democrats Abroad and certified by the duly elected Chair and another duly elected officer of the applicant committee;
- (c) copies of publicity providing reasonable notice to U.S. citizens in that defined geographical area of the organization and election meeting(s) of the applicant committee, as well as a list of officers elected and their full contact information;
- (d) a copy of the minutes attested to by the Chair and another elected officer of the applicant committee for the meeting(s) in which officers were elected who (i) at the time of their election and thereafter have their principal residence in that defined geographical area; (ii) have been elected for a term of office not exceeding two (2) years; (iii) are eligible to serve in the same office no more than two (2) consecutive terms; and (iv) include a Chair and Vice Chair (or First Vice Chair) of different sex.

#### **Section 5.4(a)**

Each Country Committee shall hold an Annual General Meeting on or before June 30th of each calendar year and shall provide minutes of the Annual General Meeting to the [Global International](#) Secretary and the Regional Vice Chair at such time as determined under paragraph (c) of this section.

#### **Section 5.4(b)**

By February 20th of each year, each Country Committee shall furnish to the [Global International](#) Counsel, [Global International](#) Secretary, and Regional Vice Chair a copy of the Country Committee's Bylaws, indicating any amendments made during the year.

#### **Section 5.4(c)**

Country Committees shall hold their elections no later than June 30th of odd-numbered years. Within fifteen (15) days of any election held by a Country Committee, the Secretary of such Country Committee shall certify the results of the election to the [Global International](#) Secretary and forward the minutes of the election meeting, with full address and contact information of the office holders so elected.

#### **Section 5.4(f)**

By February 20th of each year, the Secretary or Chair of each Country Committee shall certify to the [Global International](#) Secretary of the DPCA that, as of January 31st, the membership database containing the names and such other information as the DPCA Executive Committee shall require is current and correct for certification of the number of members of Democrats Abroad, and such certification must be attested to by the Secretary or Chair of such Country Committee. The database referred to in the previous sentence shall be in the format from time-to-time prescribed by the Executive Committee.

#### **Section 5.4(g)**

Each Country Committee shall provide within the required time such documents or information concerning the activities of the Country Committee as may be reasonably required by the [Global International](#) Chair or the Executive Committee.

#### **Section 5.5**

A country organization meeting all the requirements of Section 5.2 and having less than fifty (50) members of Democrats Abroad may, upon application to the [Global International](#) Chair of Democrats Abroad, be admitted as a Committee in Formation and thereafter may participate in activities of Democrats Abroad without the right to vote.

#### **Section 5.8(b)**

If in the judgment of the [Global International](#) Chair a Country Committee Officer is guilty of serious and highly unacceptable conduct that, if continued, would irreparably damage any of the aforesaid interests, the Chair may immediately issue a temporary order of suspension, indicating the grounds for such action, and shall simultaneously inform the DPCA Executive Committee of such action and the reasons therefore. Within seven (7) days the DPCA Executive Committee shall either schedule a hearing under the foregoing subparagraph or shall terminate the temporary order.

#### **Section 5.9(a)(i)**

fails to hold an election of officers within six (6) months following the date prescribed by the Country Committee's Bylaws. Any Country Committee or Committee in Formation suspended under this paragraph may be reinstated to full rights by the DPCA upon filing an application with the [Global International](#) Chair accompanied by a copy of the minutes of a valid election meeting certified as true by the Country Committee's Chairperson and Secretary; or

### **Section 5.9(b)**

If in the judgment of the [Global International](#) Chair a Country Committee or Committee In Formation is guilty of serious and highly unacceptable conduct that, if continued, would irreparably damage any of the aforesaid interests, the Chair may immediately issue a temporary order of suspension, indicating the grounds for such action, and shall simultaneously inform the DPCA Executive Committee of such action and the reasons therefore. Within seven (7) days, the DPCA Executive Committee shall either schedule a hearing under the foregoing subparagraph or shall terminate the temporary order.

### **Section 6.3**

The Regional Vice Chairs shall, under the direction of the [Global International](#) Chair, promote cooperation among the Country Committees in the respective Regions and implement any Regional programs or plans adopted by the Regional Committees, provided such programs or plans have been approved by the International Chair in consultation with the Executive Committee.

### **Section 7.2**

Each of the six (6) elected DNC Members shall be eligible to serve in such position for no more than two (2) consecutive full terms and shall be elected for a term of four (4) years at a meeting of the DPCA to be held during the year of the National Convention, to be chosen as follows:

- (a) At Regional Conventions held pursuant to a duly authorized and accepted Delegate Selection Plan, the delegates to each Regional Convention elected under the Plan shall elect one (1) DNC Member from that Region by majority vote of delegates physically present;
- (b) The remaining DNC Members to represent Democrats Abroad shall be elected by majority vote of the Democrats Abroad Convention (excluding the incumbent elected DNC Members);

The [Global International](#) Chair and [Global International](#) Vice Chair of the DPCA may not cumulate membership as *ex officio* members and as elected DNC Members. Elected DNC Members need not be DPCA Members. All Democrats Abroad DNC Members must have their principal residence abroad and their number shall be equally divided between men and women.

### **Section 11.2.**

Within 30-days of any amendment to this Charter that is duly passed by the DPCA according to Section 11.1, the [Global International](#) Secretary, or the secretary designated to record such amendments, shall submit the minutes and record of such amendments or changes to the [Global International](#) Counsel. Within 15-days of receipt, the [Global International](#) Counsel, in consultation with the Bylaws Committee (or other relevant committee as constituted at the time of such amendments), shall review, revise, and correct the text to accurately reflect the amendments as voted upon by the Members. The [Global International](#) Counsel shall then certify and provide a final,

date-stamped, version of record of this Charter, shall post it in appropriate archives (such as the Democrats Abroad Wiki Documentation Archive), and shall circulate such to all DPCA members.