

Dear GYA members,

Every year, the General Assembly of the GYA needs to elect two co-chairs and 9 further members of the Executive Committee (EC) (§5.1 and §6.2 GYA constitution) at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) (§8.1), or in case the AGM fails to achieve a quorum of at least 1/3 of the GYA members attending (§4.9), at a subsequent Special General Meeting (SGM) (§8.1). Given the current circumstances, the elections will have to take place during a virtually-convening meeting (§4.6), which, pending changes to the GYA constitution, will be an AGM taking place 8-12 June 2020, or that failing an SGM shortly thereafter.

The election process will be administered by a Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC) (§8.9), to which the Executive Committee appointed Mona Khoury-Kassabri (Chair), Anina Rich, and Vinitha Thadhani, which will be assisted by the NEC e-Support Committee, consisting of Martin Dominik (Chair), Michal Biron, and Alberto Vomiero.

Here, we outline the roles of the EC and Co-Chairs, the anticipated commitment, and relevant details of the nominations procedure.

### **Eligibility**

Every GYA member is eligible to be elected as Co-Chair or further member of the Executive Committee (§5.1, §8.2). The term of office begins with the conclusion of the election and expires with the conclusion of the subsequent elections for Co-Chairs and further members of the Executive Committee at the next AGM. They keep their function until the expiration of their term of office, even if their GYA membership term expires earlier. Multiple reelection is possible as long as the candidate remains an active GYA member (§8.2).

No further criteria or restrictions apply. In particular, the eligibility to be elected co-chair or further member of the EC is not conditional on attending the General Meeting.

*Summary: You are eligible if you became GYA member in 2016 or later (or in 2015 if you took a one-year membership leave, §3.9).*

### **Role of the Executive Committee and co-chairs**

According to the GYA constitution, the Executive Committee is in charge of developing the strategic direction of the GYA and shall hold overall responsibility for the programmes and activities (§6.3). However, its decision powers are restricted to management and administration tasks (§6.4), while the highest decision-making body of the GYA is the General Assembly (§4.1), whose decisions the EC is obliged to implement (§6.5.4).

The Co-Chairs are members of the Executive Committee with just three further roles:

- presiding over the meetings of the EC and the GA (§5.2),
- supervising the functions of the administrative staff (§5.3),
- representing the GYA (§5.3).

### **Past working practice of the EC and commitment**

The EC needs to form a management team, which will have to deal with enquiries and share the responsibility for ensuring that the GYA runs smoothly. This requires strategic thinking and engagement, keeping the fingers on the pulse of what the GYA is and wants to be, so that our actions, statements, fundraising, visibility, etc., align with our goals and visions of our shared organization. In the past, the EC usually convened monthly via telecon for a 2-hours session, while additional decisions have been taken by e-mail poll, sometimes on time-scales

as short as 48 hours. The EC also aims to meet in person for a few days once during its term of office. It is expected that members of the EC regularly draft and review documents for decision. The time commitment is highly variable, from a minimum of about 4 hours/week to occasionally more than 15 hours/week, with co-chairs being able to spend at least 3 hours (on average) per day and to make themselves available on short notice to enable prompt responses on time-scales of 24 hours and less.

For further detailed information, please feel free to get in touch with current or past co-chairs or other members of the EC.

## **Nominations**

We rely on the GYA membership to identify good candidates for the Executive Committee and the two posts of Co-Chair. Therefore, please contact anyone who you would consider well-suited and encourage them to step forward.

We invite members to nominate themselves as candidates for Co-Chair and/or other EC positions<sup>1</sup> via e-mail to the NEC ([gyavote2020@gmail.com](mailto:gyavote2020@gmail.com)) providing the following information:

- Name (as it should appear on the ballot) Please underline the given name that you are commonly known by, **embolden** surname or equivalent, and *italicise* patronym/matronym, e.g. Simon Alvarez Duarte; **Zhang Yufeng**; Mohammad Javad Ansari; Haraldur Ólafsson
- Country of ordinary residence (c.f. §8.3)<sup>2</sup>
- Motivation statement (limited to 200 words, co-chairs: 400 words)
- Recorded candidate pitch (video) of 1 min (co-chairs: 3 min)
- Photograph

The country of ordinary residence will affect the evaluation of votes according to the rules requiring quota for developed/developing countries.

The candidates will be listed on the ballot in the order of their full nomination being received.

## **Release of details and nomination deadline**

Details about the candidates will be released to the GYA membership on **Tuesday, 2 June 2020, at 9:00 UTC**. We encourage you to submit your nomination ahead of that time, because it will take some time for the NEC and GYA Office to release your details.

Nominations will close on **Tuesday, 9 June 2020, at 9:00 UTC**, with the election process starting shortly thereafter.

Any questions? If you have any questions, or would like to raise any issues, please get in touch with the Nominations and Elections Committee at [gyavote2020@gmail.com](mailto:gyavote2020@gmail.com).

The NEC shall decide upon procedural and other disagreements (§8.9).

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<sup>1</sup> If you are standing as candidate for Co-Chair, please indicate whether you would want to seek election as other member of the EC in case you are not elected Co-Chair.

<sup>2</sup> We consider the ordinary residence of a member as normally being the country where the member has lived and worked for the majority of the last four years. We also include the case when a member is moving for long-term period in the country. Questions over the residency of election candidates shall be resolved by the Nominations and Election Committee (§8.3).