

General Conference

GC(64)/12
Date: 24 July 2020

General Distribution
Original: English

Sixty-fourth regular session

Item 5 of the provisional agenda
(GC(64)/1 and Add.1)

Arrangements for the Conference

1. Following a series of Member States' consultations conducted by the IAEA Secretariat on the arrangements for the 64th regular session of the General Conference, Member States have agreed by silence procedure on 24 July 2020 to these arrangements so that the General Conference can pursue its work in the current circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. The arrangements provide the framework for the conduct of the General Conference and are set out in the Annex to this document.
2. This document is intended to enable the General Conference to approve the above-mentioned arrangements and to apply them during the 64th regular session of the General Conference.

Arrangements for GC (64)

The Secretariat has received a number of queries from Member States about the arrangements for the 64th regular session of the General Conference (GC), in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this context, to facilitate Member States' planning for the GC, the Secretariat wishes to inform Member States that the GC will take place starting on 21 September 2020 at the VIC, as already scheduled. The Director General has sent the corresponding official invitations to all Member States as per usual practice. Given the current Austrian health and safety measures and restrictions in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is expected that the GC will be held with a smaller number of participants physically attending the GC meetings. Should the situation change at any stage before the Conference, there may be a need to revise these arrangements accordingly.

On the basis of the current situation, the Secretariat expects:

Participation and attendance in the Plenary and the Committee of the Whole meetings

- I. The number of participants (e.g. representatives of Member States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other observers) physically attending meetings of the GC plenary would be in accordance with the Austrian requirements on COVID-19 related measures to be applied such as physical distancing. These requirements provide that indoor meetings and gatherings up to 500 participants simultaneously may be organized with the necessary physical distancing and health precautions.
- II. On this basis, and considering the available space at the M building of the VIC, and the necessary physical distancing and health precautions, the following is envisaged¹:
 - Each Member State may include in its delegation members of its respective Permanent Mission accredited to the Agency and two more delegates. Each Member State shall indicate a Head of Delegation and alternate(s) in its delegation list.
 - However, at any given time a maximum of only two delegates per each Member State can be physically present at any of the GC meetings.
 - Given the need to avoid increased physical presence on the VIC premises, Member States are urged to keep the number of their delegates accessing the VIC for the purposes of the GC to a minimum.
- III. In view of space limitations imposed by COVID-19 restrictions, it is envisaged that the Committee of the Whole meetings will take place in the Plenary Hall when the Plenary is not in session. The Plenary Hall will be sanitized between all meetings of the Plenary or the Committee of the Whole taking place in this room. The Secretariat will update Member States regarding this arrangement in due course.
- IV. Member States are requested to limit their respective statements delivered in the general debate to 3 minutes. A time limit of 3 minutes has been proposed in view of the general streamlining of the GC and reducing its overall duration, taking into account health concerns that have been raised by several Member States.²

¹ The arrangements would require agreement by the 64th General Conference to suspend Rules 23-25 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference.

² The arrangements would require agreement by the 64th General Conference to modify General Conference decision GC(60)/DEC/8 "Streamlining the work of the General Conference".

- V. Member States may wish to use the option of sending pre-recorded videos (also limited to 3 minutes) of their statements to the general debate. These video statements will be submitted by the respective Member States to the IAEA Secretariat by 9 September 2020 at the latest. This is to provide additional flexibility to Member States regarding delivery of their statements in the general debate. The Member State representative delivering the video statement will need to be included in the List of Participants under the delegation list of that Member State indicating that “A video statement to General Conference under the item of the General Debate will be delivered by”. As per past practice, delegations can also provide the Secretariat with pdf versions of national statements, including fuller versions, in order for them to be uploaded on the GC webpage. Further guidance on this matter will be elaborated by the Secretariat in due course. All such statements will be reflected in the official records of the Conference.
- VI. Member States will also be able to follow all the Plenary proceedings through the live streaming of the GC in all official languages. The proceedings of the Committee of the Whole will also be live streamed in order to allow Member States representatives to follow the Committee’s deliberations.
- VII. The scheduled working hours for the GC will be 3 x 2-hour sessions or 2 x 3-hours sessions per day. Both options will allow for cleaning of seating areas and sanitizing the meeting rooms, and to ensure that delegates are not seated in the meeting rooms for extended periods at a time. Member States will be duly informed on this matter shortly.

IGOs, NGOs and other Observers

IGOs, NGOs and other Observers will be represented by only one delegate each.

Other Events held in conjunction with the IAEA General Conference

In view of the Austrian requirements and space limitations in the VIC due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat has proposed that:

Side Events

- Only virtual side-events will be held. It is the responsibility of Member States wishing to hold them to make the appropriate arrangements with the Secretariat in line with Secretariat guidelines. In order for these events to be included in the GC list of side-events and made public on the IAEA GC webpage, an update on the current Secretariat procedures in this regard will be provided.

Exhibitions

- No exhibitions will be held at the VIC premises during the GC.

Scientific Forum

- Physical participation will be limited to one delegate per Member State.