

General Conference

GC(65)/GEN/OR.1

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Sixty-fifth regular session

General Committee

Record of the First Meeting

Held at Headquarters, Vienna on Monday, 20 September 2021, at 12.20 p.m.

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¹ GC(65)/25

Attendance

Chair

Mr MARAFI (Kuwait), President of the General Conference

Members

Mr DINESEN (Denmark), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr ANING, representing Mr AFRIYIE (Ghana), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr HUSSEN (Iraq), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr CABRERA DUARTE, representing Mr FACETTI (Paraguay), Vice-President of the
General Conference

Ms KROIS, representing Mr KURTYKA (Poland), Vice-President of the General Conference

Ms SRISWASDI (Thailand), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr BONO, representing Ms GRANHOLM (United States of America), Vice-President of the
General Conference

Mr NGUYEN (Viet Nam), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr BILODEAU (Canada), Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Ms RODRIGUES COELHO (Angola), Additional Member

Ms MOUCHART, representing Mr VERLINDEN (Belgium), Additional Member

Ms KRALEVA, representing Mr BACHIYSKI (Bulgaria), Additional Member

Ms MELI DAUDEY, representing Mr BARTOLO (Malta), Additional Member

Mr CHIRÚ OCHOA (Panama), Additional Member

Secretariat

Ms JOHNSON, Director, Office of Legal Affairs

Mr GOIIA, Credentials Officer

Ms RAYOS NATIVIDAD, Secretary of the Committee

– **Adoption of the agenda for the meeting**
(GC(65)/GEN/1)

1. The CHAIR said that the provisional agenda for the meeting contained two sub-items under the item ‘Arrangements for the Conference’, namely ‘Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items for initial discussion’ and ‘Closing date of the session and opening date of the next session’.
2. The agenda was adopted.

5. Arrangements for the Conference

(a) Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items for initial discussion
(GC(65)/1 and Add.1 to 4)

3. The CHAIR noted that the Plenary had approved document GC(65)/17, ‘Arrangements for the Conference’, which provided a framework for the conduct of the current regular session of the General Conference in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. He reminded the Committee that it was considering only the question of whether or not to recommend the inclusion of items in the agenda, their allocation for initial discussion and the suggested order of the items. In accordance with Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure, members of the Committee should not engage in a discussion of the substance of any item, except in so far as it was relevant to the question of whether to recommend that item’s inclusion in the agenda.
5. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that the agenda for the current session should consist of all the items listed in document GC(65)/1 and the supplementary items contained in documents GC(65)/1/Add.1, Add.2 and Add.3.
6. It was so decided.
7. The CHAIR took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference the suggested allocation of items for initial discussion as contained in documents GC(65)/1/Add.1, Add.2 and Add.3.
8. It was so decided.
9. The CHAIR took it that the Committee was satisfied with the order of items suggested in documents GC(65)/1/Add.1, Add.2 and Add.3.
10. It was so decided.

(b) Closing date of the session and opening date of the next session

11. The CHAIR suggested that the Committee recommend to the General Conference a closing date for the current session of Friday, 24 September 2021.
12. It was so decided.

13. The CHAIR proposed that the Committee recommend to the General Conference an opening date for the next regular session of Monday, 19 September 2022.

14. It was so decided.

28. Examination of delegates' credentials

15. The CHAIR proposed that the General Committee meet as a credentials committee and take up the examination of delegates' credentials.

16. Drawing attention to a draft report prepared by the Secretariat regarding the credentials of the delegation of Myanmar, he requested the Agency's Legal Adviser to present the issue to the Committee.

17. Ms JOHNSON (Director, Office of Legal Affairs) said that both the Agency and the United Nations in New York had received credentials signed by the Union Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Vienna, and credentials signed by the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the National Unity Government of Myanmar from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations in New York. In addition, the Agency had received a communication via the Permanent Mission in Vienna from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar requesting the Agency to prevent the 'National Unity Government of Myanmar', the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and their affiliated persons and organizations from participating in the sixty-fifth regular session of the General Conference.

18. In accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 396(V), it was for the UN General Assembly to consider cases where more than one authority claimed entitlement to represent a Member State in the UN System, and the attitude that it adopted should be taken into account by other UN bodies and the specialized agencies.

19. The Credentials Committee of the seventy-sixth session of the UN General Assembly had not been convened and no meeting was currently foreseen. Furthermore, the credentials committees of the World Health Assembly, the International Labour Conference, FAO Conference and other UN organization assemblies had decided to defer their decisions on Myanmar pending guidance from the UN General Assembly, on the understanding that Myanmar's seat would be left empty. She therefore proposed that the Committee recommend that the Plenary do the same.

20. Responding to queries from Ms SRISWASDI (Thailand) and Mr NGUYEN (Viet Nam), she clarified that, while it was standard practice for all the Agency's Member States to be invited to the General Conference, they must be accredited to be able to participate. According to the information held by the Secretariat, Mr Min Thein, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission in Vienna, had been invited to the General Conference and credentials had been received for him. The issue was not, however, who had been invited to submit credentials, but which authority represented Myanmar within the UN system — President Win Myint and State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi of the National Unity Government remained Myanmar's official contact points in the official documents of the United Nations in New York, the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations Human Rights Council — and whether the Committee had the necessary information to make a decision.

21. Agreeing with remarks made by Mr ANING (Ghana), she concluded that the Agency should therefore await further guidance from the UN General Assembly in accordance with its aforementioned resolution.

22. The CHAIR suggested that the Committee submit to the General Conference meeting in plenary a report, in document GC(65)/29, stating that it had met to examine the credentials of the delegate of Myanmar in accordance with Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure, and containing a statement by the Legal Adviser concerning the credentials of the delegation of Myanmar. Lastly, the report should state that the Committee had agreed to recommend that the General Conference adopt the following draft resolution:

“Examination of delegates’ credentials

“The General Conference

“Accepts the report by the General Committee on its examination of the credentials of Myanmar to the Conference’s sixty-fifth regular session, which is set forth in document GC(65)29”.

23. He asked whether the Committee wished a report on the lines he had described to be prepared and submitted to the General Conference meeting in plenary.

24. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.