

# General Conference

**GC(68)/GEN/OR.1**

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## Sixty-eighth regular session

# General Committee

## Record of the First Meeting

*Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Monday, 16 September 2024, at 2.05 p.m.*

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<sup>1</sup> GC68/21

## **Attendance**

### Chair

Mr HAM Sang Wook (Republic of Korea), President of the General Conference

### Members

Ms OUATTARA (Burkina Faso), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr LULASHNYK (Canada), Vice-President of the General Conference

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

Mr MOHD IBRAHIM (Malaysia), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr ZABALGOITIA TREJO (Mexico), Vice-President of the General Conference

Ms BERNAS (Philippines), Vice-President of the General Conference

Ms SECEROV, representing Mr OBRADOVIĆ (Serbia), Vice-President of the General Conference

Ms KITSELL (United Kingdom), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr LODDING (Sweden), Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Mr GARCÉS BURBANO (Ecuador), Additional Member

Ms HOURNAU-POUËZAT (France), Additional Member

Mr KUMARAN (India), Additional Member

Mr USTINOV (Russian Federation), Additional Member

Ms AHMED (Sudan), Additional Member

Mr SOLOMON, representing Ms HOLGATE (United States of America), Additional Member

### Chair of the Board of Governors

Mr MARTINSEN (Argentina)

### Secretariat

Ms DOANE, Deputy Director General, Department of Management

Ms JOHNSON, Director, Office of Legal Affairs

Ms RAYOS NATIVIDAD, Secretary of the Committee

– **Adoption of the agenda for the meeting**  
(GC(68)/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. It also contained an item entitled ‘Examination of delegates’ credentials’, which would be considered by the General Committee meeting as a credentials committee.
3. The agenda was adopted.

## **5. Arrangements for the Conference**

**(a) Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items for initial discussion**  
(GC(68)/1 and Add.1 to 5, and GC(68)/20)

4. The CHAIR 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 insofar 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(68)/1 and the supplementary items contained in documents GC(68)/1/Add.1, Add.2, Add.3 and Add.4.
6. It was so decided.
7. The CHAIR said that the Committee also had before it document GC(68)/20 containing a communication from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan, with reference to document GC(68)/1/Add.3, requesting the General Committee to consider the possibility of discussing the item on the restoration of the sovereign equality of Member States in the Agency at the plenary without prior consideration at the Committee of the Whole.
8. He 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(68)/1 and Add.1, Add.2, Add.4 and GC(68)/20.
9. It was so decided.
10. The CHAIR took it that the Committee agreed with the order of items suggested in documents GC(68)/1 and Add.1, Add.2, Add.3 and Add.4.
11. It was so decided.

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

12. The CHAIR suggested that the Committee recommend to the General Conference a closing date for the current session of Friday, 20 September 2024.
13. It was so decided.
14. The CHAIR proposed that the Committee recommend to the General Conference an opening date for the next regular session of Monday, 15 September 2025.
15. It was so decided.
16. Mr GARCÉS BURBANO (Ecuador), noting that the previous session had not ended until the early hours of the Saturday morning, asked whether the current session would definitely end at midnight on Friday, 20 September 2024.
17. The CHAIR said that he would prefer to end the session on Friday but might follow precedent and stop the clock if necessary.

**26. Examination of delegates' credentials**

18. The CHAIR proposed that the General Committee meet as a credentials committee and take up the examination of delegates' credentials.
19. Ms JOHNSON (Director, Office of Legal Affairs) said that the Agency had once again received conflicting credentials from Myanmar.
20. At the sixty-fifth regular session, the sixty-sixth regular session, the sixty-seventh regular session and the third special session of the General Conference, and noting the practice of the UN General Assembly and the decisions of other UN organizations, the General Committee had decided not to accredit any delegate for Myanmar and to recommend to the Conference that it defer a decision on the credentials of Myanmar pending guidance from the Credentials Committee of the UN General Assembly, thereby leaving the seat empty. The same approach had been taken two weeks before by the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety at their Third Extraordinary Meeting and their Organizational Meeting and was consistent with the recent practice of the World Health Assembly, the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, all conferences and meetings of the World Intellectual Property Organization, and the International Labour Conference, among others.
21. In accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 396 (V) of 1950, cases where more than one authority claimed to represent a member State in the UN system were to be considered in the light of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and the attitude adopted by the General Assembly should be taken into account by other UN bodies and the specialized agencies.
22. On 6 December 2023, the Credentials Committee of the seventy-eighth session of the UN General Assembly had once again decided to postpone its consideration of the credentials pertaining to the representatives of Myanmar.
23. In that context, the General Committee might wish to adopt the same approach as during the sixty-fifth regular session, the sixty-sixth regular session and the sixty-seventh regular session and the third special session of the General Conference, following the practice of the United Nations and other UN system organizations, and to not accredit at the current stage any delegate for

Myanmar, and to recommend to the Conference that it defer a decision on the credentials of Myanmar, pending guidance from the Credentials Committee of the UN General Assembly, thereby leaving the seat empty for the Conference.

24. The CHAIR suggested that the Committee submit to the General Conference a report, in document GC(68)/22, stating that it had met to examine the credentials of the delegation of Myanmar in accordance with Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure, and stating the relevant past practice at the Agency and other UN system organizations regarding the credentials of the delegation of Myanmar, as contained in the statement made by the legal adviser concerning those credentials. 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-eighth regular session, which is set forth in document GC(68)/22”.

25. He asked whether the Committee wished that a report on the lines he had described be prepared and submitted to the General Conference.
26. It was so decided.

**The meeting rose at 2.25 p.m.**