

# General Conference

**GC(68)/GEN/OR.2**

Issued: December 2024

**General Distribution**

Original: English

---

## Sixty-eighth regular session

# General Committee

## Record of the Second Meeting

*Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Thursday, 19 September 2024, at 9.20 a.m.*

### Contents

Item of the agenda <sup>1</sup>	Paragraphs
– Adoption of the agenda for the meeting	1–2
26 Examination of delegates' credentials	3–26

---

<sup>1</sup> GC(68)/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

Ms SABRI, representing 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

Mr MOHAMMED, representing Ms AHMED (Sudan), Additional Member

Ms HOLGATE (United States of America), Additional Member

### 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/2)

1. The CHAIR asked whether the Committee wished to adopt the provisional agenda contained in document GC(68)/GEN/2.
2. The agenda was adopted.

**26. Examination of delegates' credentials**  
(GC(68)/24, 25 and 26)

3. The CHAIR proposed that the General Committee meet as a credentials committee and take up the examination of delegates' credentials.
4. Recalling Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, he said that credentials designated the delegate of a Member State to a given session of the General Conference, that credentials were to be submitted to the Director General and that they were to be issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Member State concerned.
5. The Committee's task was limited to ascertaining whether the requirements of Rule 27 had been satisfied.
6. Credentials for 108 delegates had been received in due form. In addition, the Secretariat had received communications in respect of 41 delegates that did not constitute formal credentials meeting the requirements of Rule 27. Twenty-nine Member States were not participating and, with the exception of Myanmar, in respect of which reference could be made to the resolution contained in paragraph 5 of document GC(68)/22, had not submitted any credentials.
7. Document GC(68)/24 contained a statement submitted by the Arab States members of the Agency participating in the sixty-eighth regular session of the General Conference, regarding their reservations concerning the credentials of the Israeli delegate.
8. Document GC(68)/25 contained a communication from Israel setting out its position with regard to those reservations.
9. Document GC(68)/26 contained a communication from Iran setting out its position with regard to Israel's credentials.
10. Mr USTINOV (Russian Federation) asked what criteria were used to determine that the credentials of the Member States in the second list, such as Afghanistan, did not comply with Rule 27, noting that in many cases the problem concerned a technicality such as the submission of copies, rather than a more significant issue.
11. Ms JOHNSON (Director, Office of Legal Affairs), stressing that there were no problems with the credentials of any of the Member States in either list, said that the Agency's long-standing practice was that Member States that had submitted original credentials appeared in the first list, while those that had submitted copies or non-original credentials appeared in the second list.

12. The practice within the entire UN system was guided by the United Nations in New York, which had decided to defer consideration of the credentials of the Taliban Government. However, and unlike in the case of Myanmar, the Agency had never received conflicting credentials for Afghanistan; the submitted copies were from the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan and therefore appeared in the second list.

13. Some confusion may have arisen because of the case of the Niger in 2023. In view of a Security Council statement on the political situation in that country, the Committee had recommended that, pursuant to UN General Assembly resolution 396 (V) of 14 December 1950, the General Conference defer its decision, pending guidance from the Credentials Committee of the UN General Assembly, which had not been scheduled to meet until after the Conference. The United Nations had since resolved the matter and there was no longer an issue with the Niger's credentials.

14. Responding to a question from Ms HOURNAU-POUËZAT (France), she confirmed that any Member State in the second list could be moved to the first list if it provided original credentials before the plenary took its decision. All Member States included in the two lists were able to participate fully in the General Conference.

15. Mr USTINOV (Russian Federation), noting that he had not been making a political point by referring to Afghanistan, said that he was simply asking whether that country's credentials had been signed by the Head of State or Government or by the Foreign Minister in line with Rule 27, and if not, whether the Committee would accept credentials signed by persons other than those in future. It would be much simpler if a State's permanent representative, for example, could sign them.

16. Ms JOHNSON (Director, Office of Legal Affairs) said that, unlike original credentials, both credentials received from a permanent mission, and copies received from the Head of State or Government or from the Foreign Minister, were considered provisional — in line with long-standing practice — and that the State would therefore appear in the second list. Myanmar was a different case: dual credentials had been received from the Permanent Mission in New York and originals from the authorities in the capital through the Permanent Mission in Vienna.

17. Mr KUMARAN (India) noted that, in accordance with Rule 29, provisional admission applied only to a Member State whose admission had been objected to, not to a Member State whose credentials were not considered to be formal. In view of the large number of States being unable to provide original credentials, it was perhaps time to consider simplifying the process and allowing electronic copies from permanent missions to be accepted.

18. Ms JOHNSON (Director, Office of Legal Affairs), noting that there was no objection to the credentials of any Member State in either list, clarified that under Rule 29, once the plenary took its decision, all the Member States in both lists would be seated with equal rights. Participation was a fundamental right of Member States and the Rules therefore provided for admission and participation even if the credentials were considered provisional, subject to the Conference's decision on the recommendation of the General Committee. With respect to Myanmar, which had been considered previously, the plenary — on the recommendation of the General Committee and following the practice across the UN system — had decided to leave Myanmar's seat empty pending consideration of that country's credentials by the Credentials Committee of the UN General Assembly. Myanmar had, therefore, not been seated given the issue regarding its credentials. That, however, was a unique situation, as discussed in the first meeting of the General Committee meeting as a credentials committee.

19. As to changing the practice, all organizations in the UN system deferred to the United Nations.

20. Mr USTINOV (Russian Federation) said that although the practice was clear, he was unsure how well it conformed to Rule 27.

21. The CHAIR suggested that the Committee submit to the General Conference a report, in document GC(68)/27, stating that it had met to examine the credentials of delegates in accordance with Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure and containing a list of Member States whose delegates had, in the Committee's opinion, submitted credentials satisfying the requirements of Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure, and another list indicating the Member States for whose delegates the Director General had received communications that did not comply with that Rule.

22. In accordance with past practice, the report could indicate that the Committee considered that delegates in the latter category should nevertheless be allowed to participate in the work of the Conference on the understanding that they would submit credentials in due form as soon as possible, preferably before the end of the current session.

23. The report should further state that the Committee had had before it, in document GC(68)/24, a statement submitted by the Arab States members of the Agency participating in the current session, as listed in that document, regarding their reservations about the credentials of the Israeli delegate; in document GC(68)/25, a communication setting out Israel's position with regard to those reservations; and in document GC(68)/26, a communication setting out Iran's position with regard to Israel's credentials.

24. He said that the report should state that the Committee had agreed, with the aforementioned reservations and positions, 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 delegates to the Conference's sixty-eighth regular session, which is set forth in document GC(68)/27”.

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

26. It was so decided.

**The meeting rose at 9.45 a.m.**