



International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCEGENERAL Distr.
Original: ENGLISHForty-third regular session

ADVANCE INFORMATION FOR DELEGATIONS**OPENING OF THE FORTY-THIRD REGULAR SESSION**

1. The forty-third regular session of the General Conference will open on Monday, 27 September 1999, at 10.00 a.m.^{1/} It will be held at the Austria Center Vienna (ACV), Am Hubertusdamm 6, 1220 Vienna, next to the Vienna International Centre (VIC).

2. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference, morning meetings will begin at 10.00 a.m. and afternoon meetings at 3.00 p.m. Delegates are requested to be in their places by those times in order to allow meetings to start punctually. If evening meetings prove to be necessary, the starting times will be announced during the session.

PRE-SESSION CONSULTATIONS

3. **During the weekend preceding the opening of the Conference's session (Saturday, 25 September and Sunday, 26 September 1999), facilities for group meetings are being made available on request. Member States are strongly urged to avail themselves of those facilities, ideally following preliminary meetings in the margins of the Board meetings to be held during the preceding week, with a view to achieving agreement on organizational matters (e.g. regarding the composition of the General Committee) before the session opens on Monday, 27 September. This will contribute to the smooth running of the Conference's session. Consequently, Member States should ensure - where necessary - that their representatives arrive in Vienna in time to participate in pre-session group meetings and the associated group decision-making. Meeting rooms should be reserved in good time through the Secretariat's Conference Service Section.**

^{1/} The provisional agenda for the forty-third regular session is contained in document GC(43)/1.

<p>For reasons of economy, this document has been issued in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.</p>
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NOTIFICATION OF THE COMPOSITION OF DELEGATIONS

4. Governments are requested to communicate to the Secretariat the composition of their delegations well in advance. This should be done in writing - by letter or by completing the registration form which has been transmitted to Permanent Missions. Rule 23 of the Conference's Rules of Procedure^{2/} provides for each Member State of the Agency to be represented by one Delegate, who may be accompanied by as many assistants (alternates, advisers, etc.) as may be needed. A preliminary edition of members of delegations will be issued on Wednesday, 22 September 1999; only those names that are received by the Secretariat before Friday, 17 September can be included in it. The first official list of members of delegations will be issued on Sunday, 26 September; it will contain information which has been communicated to the Secretariat by 6.00 p.m. on Thursday, 23 September.

5. If, during the session, changes are required in the particulars provided at the time of registration, Delegates are requested to inform Protocol in writing, so that the list of delegation members may be brought up to date.

CREDENTIALS OF DELEGATES

6. Delegates (but not other members of a delegation) will require credentials specifically for the session, even if they are already accredited to the Agency in some other capacity - for example, as Resident Representative. Credentials have to be delivered in due time; this helps to avoid difficulties, particularly for the General Committee. It is accordingly emphasized that, under Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure, credentials should be submitted to the Director General not later than Monday, 20 September 1999, issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Member concerned. If credentials cannot be submitted by Friday, 24 September, Delegates should deliver them directly to the Credentials Officers at the ACV either on Sunday, 26 September, between 2.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. or on the following Monday morning.

REGISTRATION FOR BADGES

7. Each participant will require a badge with a photograph for entry into the ACV during the session. Badges will be issued by the staff at the Registration Desk to those designated participants who are not already in possession of a valid VIC ground pass. Badges issued for the General Conference will also be valid for entering the VIC.

8. Participants may register on Friday, 24 September 1999 at the Agency's Registration Desk in the VIC between 9.00 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. and on Sunday, 26 September, between 2.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. at the ACV. Registration will continue throughout the week of the Conference's session at the Registration Desk at the ACV.

^{2/} GC(XXXI)/INF/245/Rev.1.

9. Participants also attending the meetings of the Board of Governors which start on Monday, 20 September 1999, may register simultaneously for both the Board's meetings and the Conference's regular session at the Agency's Registration Desk in the VIC between 8.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 20 September and Tuesday, 21 September, provided they inform the Secretariat of their intention to do so before Friday, 17 September.

DOCUMENTS

10. Delegates are reminded that General Conference documentation is available electronically and are urged to make full use of this service so as to reduce the costs to the Agency of printing and distributing hard copies of documents. (The address is <http://www.iaea.or.at/GC/gc43/documents/>). Each delegation is urged to visit the Documents Distribution Centre in room FM152 in the VIC not later than Friday, 24 September 1999, and specify its requirements for documents produced during the Conference on a form which will be provided for this purpose. If this is not possible, delegations should apply to the Documents Station at the ACV either on Sunday, 26 September, between 2.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. or on the following Monday morning.

11. Before the opening of the session, one complete set of the Conference documents already issued will be made available on request to each delegation. All documents produced during the session, including the Conference Journal containing the daily programme, and other notices will also be available at the Documents Station in the ACV.

12. Delegates wishing to submit draft resolutions or other documents to the Conference during the session are requested to provide the Conference Secretary or the appropriate Committee Secretary with the text as early as possible.

SPEAKERS IN THE GENERAL DEBATE

13. Until the beginning of the Conference's session on Monday, 27 September 1999, requests for inscription on the list of speakers in the general debate should be made directly, either personally or in writing, to the Secretariat of the Policy-making Organs (VIC, room A 2871). As Member States were informed by document GC(43)/INF/1/Rev.1, issued on 19 May 1999, inscription on the list of speakers started on 14 June 1999; a ballot was taken at 11.00 a.m. on that day in order to determine the order of priority among the Member States whose representatives had - between 10.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. - personally made a request for inscription in the list.^{3/} Member States requesting, after 11.00 a.m. on 14 June, inscription on the list are being added in the order in which they make such requests. It should be noted, however, that the practice of giving priority to Ministers participating in the general debate will continue.

14. Delegates who have not inscribed their names on the list by the beginning of the session but wish to speak in the general debate are requested to contact the official responsible for

^{3/} This procedure was approved by the Conference in 1989.

maintaining the speakers' list, who will have a desk in Conference Room A (where the plenary meetings will take place). Delegates should also contact that official if they wish to speak on other items at plenary meetings.

15. The general debate usually extends over about four days of the Conference's sessions. With a view to making the best use of time available during the forthcoming session, which is expected to last five days only, Member States may wish to consider the desirability of making group statements - a practice which is being followed in other UN organizations.

STATEMENTS IN THE GENERAL DEBATE

16. To make more efficient use of the general debate, and in line with the recommendations on 'Streamlining the work of the General Conference' approved last year by the Conference in decision GC(42)/DEC/13, Delegates are invited to keep the duration of their statements to 15 minutes by focusing on the main points which they wish to make. Copies of the full texts (in the original language) will, if Delegates so request, be made available to other Delegates during the session.

17. To facilitate interpretation, texts of statements to be delivered should be handed to the Conference Officer in advance. It is of considerable help if the texts of statements provided to the Secretariat are typed with double line spacing.

WORKING LANGUAGES AND INTERPRETATION

18. The working languages of the Conference are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, and statements made in any one of these languages will be interpreted simultaneously into the others. If Delegates wish to make a speech in a language other than the working languages, they should, under Rule 87 of the Rules of Procedure, themselves arrange for interpretation into one of the working languages. Delegates are asked to provide the Secretariat with a written text of their speech in advance in that working language.

PLEDGES OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION FUND FOR 2000

19. The Board of Governors has set a target of US\$ 73 million, subject to the approval of the Conference, for Members' contributions to the Technical Co-operation Fund for 2000. A circular letter indicating Member States' individual shares of the target (calculated on the basis of the base rates of assessment applicable for 2000) was addressed to Member States on 21 July 1999. Before the regular session opens, a document will be circulated for the purpose of notifying delegates of the contributions that Members have pledged themselves to make.^{4/} It would be greatly appreciated if Governments facilitated the timely preparation of this document by communicating their pledges to the Director General as soon as they are in a position to do so. During the session, it will be possible to communicate pledges to the Contributions Officer, who

^{4/} The corresponding document of last year was GC(42)/18.

will have a desk in Conference Room A and will arrange for updated versions of the document to be issued.

SCIENTIFIC FORUM ORGANIZED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CONFERENCE'S SESSION

20. The purpose of the Scientific Forum, established in 1998, is to stimulate discussion of scientific and technical issues relating to the Agency's activities and of interest to Member States. This year the Scientific Forum is on the theme "*Sustainable Development - A Role for Nuclear Power?*". The proposed programme of discussions, to take place on 28 and 29 September 1999, is as follows.

Tuesday, 28 September 1999

10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.: Session 1 - *Energy and Sustainable Development*

3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.: Session 2 - *The Nuclear Option in Perspective*

Wednesday, 29 September 1999

10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.: Session 3 - *The Future Role of Nuclear Power in Member States*

3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.: *Concluding Panel on Nuclear Power in the Energy-Environment Policy Debate and the Role of International Co-operation*

All sessions will take place in Conference Room C (ACV)

SENIOR REGULATORS' MEETING

21. The meeting will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday, 29 and all day Thursday, 30 September 1999. The provisional programme is as follows:

Wednesday (p.m.): Regulatory effectiveness

Thursday (a.m.): Impact of deregulation and management changes on safety

Thursday (p.m.): Topical safety issues
(including Y2K, contamination of transport containers)

Discussions will be conducted in English only.

The meeting will take place in the IAEA Board Room, 4th floor of Building C, VIC. Further information may be obtained from the Department of Nuclear Safety (Tel.: 2600/22700).

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION MEETINGS

- (i) Regional Co-operation Agreements: AFRA; ARCAL; RCA**
- (ii) Joint Meetings of Chairpersons and Representatives of Member States of AFRA, ARCAL and RCA**
- (iii) Regional Technical Co-operation Programmes: EUROPE; WEST ASIA**

22. There will be meetings of groups and representatives of Regional Co-operative Agreements (AFRA, ARCAL, RCA). These individual group meetings will be followed by a Tripartite Forum with the Chairmen of the Groups and designated representatives of Member States. The representatives of Member States from the regions of Europe and West Asia will also hold individual group meetings.

23. The timetable and locations of Technical Co-operation meetings are as follows:

Preliminary RCA Meeting:

Sunday, 26 September 1999 from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Austria Center, Conference Room 'N'

AFRA:

Tuesday, 28 September 1999 from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon
Meeting Room V, 7th floor VIC

ARCAL:

Tuesday, 28 September 1999 from 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Meeting Room V, 7th floor VIC

RCA:

Wednesday, 29 September 1999 from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon and from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
The afternoon session is reserved for a joint review meeting of the UNDP/RCA/IAEA project with representatives of the UNDP, the IAEA and Member States.
Meeting Room V, 7th floor VIC

Tripartite Forum (AFRA/ARCAL/RCA):

Thursday, 30 September 1999 from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 4.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Meeting Room IV, 7th floor, VIC

EUROPE

Thursday, 30 September 1999 from 9.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon
Meeting Room V, 7th floor VIC

WEST ASIA

Thursday, 30 September 1999 from 2.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Meeting Room A-450, 3rd floor Austria Center

(iv) Consultations with Member States

24. Consultations with the representatives of most Member States which are engaged in technical co-operation activities with the Agency will be held prior to the Conference sessions. For those delegations present in Vienna only during the General Conference, and for specific issues and/or special problems, meetings will be arranged during the General Conference.

EXHIBITS AND DISPLAYS

25. The following exhibits and displays have currently been scheduled:

(i) PERSONNEL MATTERS

The Personnel Information stand will display information on employment opportunities, recruitment outreach strategy, conditions of employment and work environment, as well as staffing and the representation of women in the Secretariat.

The Human Resources Team will provide individual guidance on application issues and recruitment procedures and will distribute copies of vacancy notices, personnel application forms and recruitment brochures. Information on career development and training activities will also be available.

(ii) INFORMATION DISPLAY (INTERNET) CORNER

There will be an "Internet Corner" in which the IAEA homepage WORLDDATOM and the many databases and other applications developed by the IAEA and accessible to Member States, including GovAtom, will be demonstrated. Also, as usual, the **INIS** (International Nuclear Information System) stand will provide information in printed and other forms about the INIS database and delegates will be able to take advantage of the availability of the database for individual searches which can be performed by INIS staff present at the Corner.

EXTERNAL E-MAIL SERVICE

26. Delegates will be able to receive and send electronic mail during the Conference.

27. The public address is: "GENCONF99@IAEA.ORG". Senders should specify the recipient's name and country in the subject line in order to ensure that the message is allocated to the proper delegate. Messages sent to this e-mail address may be picked up by delegates at the information desk. This e-mail address may be used only to receive messages.

28. In addition to the above general e-mail address, delegates may register during the Conference for an individual e-mail address valid for the duration of the General Conference. Computers will be available so that delegates can send and receive e-mail messages using their individual e-mail address.

General Information

ACCOMMODATION FOR DELEGATIONS

1. Hotels in Vienna are usually heavily booked during the months of September and October. It is therefore important to reserve accommodation as far in advance as possible. Delegates are advised to make their bookings either direct with the hotel or through their Permanent Mission or Embassy/Consulate in Vienna.

CURRENCY

2. Bank notes, travellers' cheques and letters of credit may be brought into Austria without restriction but, as not all currencies are in equal demand, a few may not be easily saleable. Departing visitors may take with them the foreign currency and securities they brought into the country and any amount in Austrian Schillings. It is, however, recommended that Conference participants keep the receipts relating to all major currency exchange transactions in case they need to re-exchange currencies on their departure from Austria.

PARKING

3. Parking facilities will be available on parking decks 1 and 2 of the ACV. For official cars with chauffeurs, red stickers entitling the cars to be driven to the main entrance of the ACV will be issued. For other cars, Delegates are requested upon arrival to take a parking ticket from the ACV parking dispenser. This ticket should then be exchanged for a long-term, cost-free permit at the Registration Desk.

VIC COMMISSARY

4. In accordance with the Agreement between the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Austrian Government, the **heads** of delegations of Member States participating in the General Conference are entitled to commissary cards for the duration of the Conference's session.

5. Any questions in connection with the issuance of commissary cards to the heads of delegations should be directed to the Protocol Office.

RECEPTIONS AND OTHER EVENTS TAKING PLACE DURING THE CONFERENCE

6. The organizers or sponsors of receptions and other events to be arranged during the Conference are invited to contact the Protocol Office if they wish an announcement regarding such events to be included in the Conference Journal.