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International Atomic Energy Agency

# GENERAL CONFERENCE

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Forty-first regular session

## ADVANCE INFORMATION FOR DELEGATIONS

### OPENING OF THE FORTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION

1. The forty-first regular session of the General Conference will open on Monday, 29 September 1997, at 10 a.m.<sup>1/</sup> 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 a.m. and afternoon meetings at 3 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.

### 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE AGENCY

3. The Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency came into force on 29 July 1957 and it is hoped that Member States will mark this anniversary by senior ministerial and/or other high-level attendance or messages. Information on special activities planned for the occasion will be made available in the daily Journal issued during the session and on TV monitors.

### PRE-SESSION CONSULTATIONS

4. **During the weekend preceding the opening of the Conference's session (Saturday, 27 September, and Sunday, 28 September 1997), facilities for group meetings are being made available on request. Member States are strongly urged to avail themselves of those facilities with a view to achieving agreement on organizational matters (e.g. regarding the composition of the General Committee) before the session opens on Monday and thereby contributing to the smooth running of the Conference's session, ensuring - 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.**

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<sup>1/</sup> The provisional agenda for the forty-first regular session is contained in document GC(41)/1.

## **NOTIFICATION OF THE COMPOSITION OF DELEGATIONS**

5. 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<sup>2/</sup> 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. An unofficial edition of members of delegations will be issued on Wednesday, 24 September 1997; only those names that are received by the Secretariat before Friday, 19 September can be included in it. The first official list of members of delegations will be issued on Sunday, 28 September; it will contain information which has been communicated to the Secretariat before Friday, 26 September.

6. 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**

7. 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, 22 September 1997, 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, 26 September, Delegates should deliver them direct to the Credentials Officers at the ACV either on Sunday, 28 September, between 2.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. or on the following Monday morning.

## **REGISTRATION FOR BADGES**

8. 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.

9. Participants may register on Friday, 26 September 1997, at the Agency's Registration Desk at the VIC between 9 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. and on Sunday, 28 September, between 2 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.

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<sup>2/</sup> GC(XXXI)/INF/245/Rev.1.

10. Participants also attending the meetings of the Board of Governors which start on Monday, 22 September 1997 may register simultaneously for both the Board's meetings and the Conference's regular session at the Agency's Registration Desk at the VIC between 8.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 22 September and Tuesday, 23 September, provided that they inform the Secretariat of their intention to do so before Friday, 19 September.

## DOCUMENTS

11. 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/gc41/documents/>). Each delegation is urged to visit the Documents Distribution Centre in room FM152 at the VIC not later than Friday, 26 September 1997, 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, 28 September, between 2.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. or on the following Monday morning.

12. Before the opening of the session one complete set of the Conference documents already issued will be 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 at the ACV.

13. 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

14. **Until the beginning of the Conference's session on Monday, 29 September 1997, 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(41)/INF/1, issued on 29 May 1997, inscription in the list of speakers started on 16 June 1997; a ballot was taken at 11 a.m. on that day in order to determine the order of priority among the Member States whose representatives had - between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. - personally made a request for inscription in the list.<sup>3/</sup> Since 11 a.m. on 16 June, Member States making requests for inscription in the list have been added in the order in which they made their requests. It should be noted, however, that the practice of giving priority to Ministers participating in the general debate will continue. It is expected that, during the general debate, statements will be made to mark the 40th anniversary of the entry into force of the IAEA Statute.**

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<sup>3/</sup> This procedure was approved by the Conference in 1989.

15. 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 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.

16. The general debate usually extends over about four days of the Conference's sessions. With a view of 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**

17. In order that the general debate may represent a more efficient use of the time available, Delegates are invited to keep the duration of their statements down to 15 minutes by focusing on the main points which they wish to make.

18. To facilitate interpretation, texts of statements to be delivered should be handed to the Conference Officer in advance. Copies of the full texts (in the original language) will, if Delegates so request, be made available to other Delegates during the session.

19. It is of considerable help if the texts of statements provided to the Secretariat are typed with double line spacing.

### **WORKING LANGUAGES AND INTERPRETATION**

20. 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 1998**

21. The Board of Governors has set a target of US\$ 71.5 million, subject to the Conference's approval, for Members' contributions to the Technical Co-operation Fund for 1998. A circular letter indicating Member States' individual shares of the target (calculated on the basis of the base rates of assessment applicable for 1998) was addressed to Member States on 11 August 1997. 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.<sup>4/</sup> 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

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<sup>4/</sup> The corresponding document of last year was GC(40)/21.

in a position to do so. During the session, it will be possible to communicate pledges to the Contributions Officer, who will have a desk in Conference Room A and will arrange for updated versions of the document to be issued.

## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME ORGANIZED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CONFERENCE'S SESSION

22. This year's scientific programme focuses on issues of special interest for the future of the Agency.

Tuesday, 30 September 1997, 10 a.m. *Nuclear Energy and the Environment*  
Conference Room C (ACV) *(Scientific Secretary: Mr. P.E. Juhn*  
*Division of Nuclear Power and the Fuel Cycle*  
*Tel: 2060/22750)*

Topics to be covered include: (i) Global Energy Outlook, emphasizing climate change  
(ii) Nuclear Power in the Context of Global Climate Change Concern  
(iii) The Next Step for Nuclear Power Development - A Need for Revised Reactor and Fuel Cycle Concepts  
(iv) Comparative Assessment of Energy Sources - the DECADES Project  
(v) Measuring Climate Change Using Isotopes

Wednesday, 1 October 1997, 10 a.m. *Turning some Military Nuclear Technology to Peaceful Uses*  
Conference Room C (ACV) *(Scientific Secretary: Mr. R. Iyer*  
*Division of Physical and Chemical Sciences*  
*Tel:2060/21700)*

Topics to be covered include: (i) Experience with outer-space, laser and sub-marine nuclear technology for civil application  
(ii) ISTC Activities on conversion of former military R&D programmes to civil applications  
(iii) Conversion of defense equipment into commercial high-power electron beam equipment  
(iv) Panel discussion

Wednesday, 1 October 1997, 2:30 p.m. *Strengthening Nuclear Verification - from concept to implementation*  
Conference Room C (ACV) *(Scientific Secretary: Ms. A. Nilsson*  
*Department of Safeguards*  
*Tel: 2060/22299)*

- Topics to be covered include: (i) Strengthened Safeguards System  
(ii) Additional Verification Assignments  
(iii) Round table discussion

Further information may be obtained from the Scientific Secretaries.

## MEETING OF SENIOR REGULATORS

23. The traditional meeting of senior regulators will be held on Thursday, 2 October 1997. The topics to be covered in the one-day meeting include:

- (i) Assessment of Safety culture by regulatory authorities
- (ii) Public information policy in reporting of incidents
- (iii) Maintaining, developing and retaining professional expertise in regulatory agencies
- (iv) Licensing and design basis maintenance

In addition, there will be a presentation by Dr. Shirley Jackson, Chairman US NRC, on the formation of the International Nuclear Regulators Association.

*The meeting will be held in Meeting Room II, on the 7th floor of Building C at the VIC. Further information may be obtained from the Department of Nuclear Safety (Tel.: 2060/22700).*

## TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION MEETINGS

- (i) **AFRA/ARCAL/RCA and Regional Technical Co-operation Programme for Europe.**
- (ii) **Joint Meetings of Chairpersons and Representatives of AFRA, ARCAL, RCA.**

24. There will be meetings of groups and representatives of Regional Co-operative Agreements (AFRA, ARCAL, RCA) and Regional TC Programmes (Europe). Individual group meetings will be followed by a joint meeting of group Chairpersons and Representatives.

25. The timetable and location are as follows:

AFRA Tuesday, 30 September 1997 at 10 a.m.

ARCAL Tuesday, 30 September 1997, at 3 p.m.

RCA Wednesday, 1 October 1997 at 9 a.m.

Europe Thursday, 2 October 1997, at 9 a.m.

Tripartite

AFRA, ARCAL and RCA:

Thursday, 2 October 1997 at 3 p.m.

The meetings will be held in the VIC, 7th floor of building C, Meeting Room VI.

**(iii) Consultations with Member States**

26. Consultations with the representatives of most Member States being recipients of technical assistance 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.

**INFORMATION DISPLAY (INTERNET) CORNER**

27. There will be an "Internet Corner" in which many database and other applications developed by the IAEA and accessible to Member States, will be demonstrated:

- **IR AIS** (International Research Abstract Information System)
- **NFCIS** (Nuclear Fuel Cycle Information System)
- **OSSDB** (Operator Support System Data Base)
- **PRIS** (Power Reactor Information System)
- **RasaNet** (Radiation Safety Network)
- the prototype of the **RCA** (Regional Cooperative Agreement) **HomePage**
- **SAT** (Systematic Approach to Training (in Nuclear Power)
- **WMDB** (Waste Management Data Base)

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 could be performed by INIS staff who will be present at the Corner.

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL SERVICE**

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

29. The public address is: "GENCONF97@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.

30. In addition to the above general e-mail address, delegates may register during the Conference for a specific 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.

*[to be checked by ADBF please]*

### **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 General Conference and VIC ground passes will suffice as identification for free parking in this area.

### **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 issuing 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.