

General Conference

GC(64)/GEN/OR.2

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Sixty-fourth regular session

General Committee

Record of the Second Meeting

Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Thursday, 24 September 2020, at 9.15 a.m.¹

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¹ In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, one member of the General Committee attended in a virtual manner using the Interprefy IT platform.

² GC(64)/19.

Attendance

Chair

Mr FARHANE (Morocco), President of the General Conference

Members

Ms HULAN (Canada), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr ADJI, representing Mr DJUMALA (Indonesia), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr ALASHI (Libya), Vice-President of the General Conference

Ms MELI DAUDEY (Malta), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr ŠUKOVIĆ (Montenegro), Vice-President of the General Conference

Ms RAYOS NATIVIDAD, representing Mr DE LA PEÑA (Philippines), Vice-President of the
General Conference

Mr ALKAABI (United Arab Emirates), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr ALNASSAR (Saudi Arabia), Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Mr DINESEN (Denmark), Additional Member

Ms KROIS, representing Mr KURTYKA (Poland), Additional Member

Ms ŽVOKELJ, representing Mr LOGAR (Slovenia), Additional Member

Ms HAYDEN, representing Ms WOLCOTT (United States of America), Additional Member

Ms PEÑA ARAQUE, representing Mr CHACÓN ESCAMILLO, (Bolivarian Republic of
Venezuela), Additional Member

Chair of the Board of Governors

Ms KUMLIN GRANIT (Sweden)

Secretariat

Ms HAYWARD, Deputy Director General, Department of Management

Ms WIJewardane, Secretary of the Committee

— **Adoption of the agenda for the meeting**
(GC(64)/GEN/2)

1. The CHAIR asked whether the Committee wished to adopt the provisional agenda contained in document GC(64)/GEN/2.
2. The agenda was adopted.

— **Restoration of voting rights**
(GC(64)/INF/16)

3. The CHAIR said that there was one request for the restoration of voting rights before the Committee, from Zimbabwe. Under Article XIX.A of the Statute, a member of the Agency which was in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Agency had no vote in the Agency if the amount of its arrears equalled or exceeded the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two years. The General Conference could nevertheless permit such a member to vote if it was satisfied that the failure to pay was due to conditions beyond the control of that member. Document GC(42)/10, adopted via resolution GC(42)/RES/4, set out a number of criteria and guidelines for consideration of requests for the restoration of voting rights.
4. Ms HAYWARD (Deputy Director General for Management) said that, in a letter contained in document GC(64)/INF/16, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations in Geneva had requested the restoration of Zimbabwe's voting rights on the basis of its commitment to paying its remaining arrears for 2017–2019, which totalled €36 919 and US \$1853.
5. Zimbabwe had regularly made payments towards the Regular Budget until 2017, after which no payment had been received. It had lost its right to vote at the beginning of 2020 and had not submitted any previous request for the restoration of its right to vote.
6. To restore its voting rights in 2020, Zimbabwe was required to pay, as a minimum, €11 205, representing its arrears for the Working Capital Fund and for the 2017 Regular Budget, plus one euro for 2018. Zimbabwe had informed the Secretariat that it was endeavouring to make the payment as a matter of urgency, but it had not indicated when that payment would reach the Agency. Moreover, whereas it had said that it would inform the Agency of the transaction once details were available, no further information had been provided to date.
7. The CHAIR said that a report on measures taken to facilitate payment of contributions and a status report on Member States participating in a payment plan had been issued as document GC(64)/INF/13.
8. He reiterated that the Committee had before it a communication from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations in Geneva. In addition, the Secretariat had been informed by Zimbabwe that its delegation would be unable to participate in person in the current session of the General Conference.
9. Mr DINESEN (Denmark), supported by Ms HAYDEN (United States of America), Ms HULAN (Canada), Ms ŽVOKELJ (Slovenia), Ms MELI DAUDEY (Malta), Mr ALKAABI (United Arab

Emirates) and Mr ŠUKOVIĆ (Montenegro), said that the Committee should act strictly on the basis of document GC(42)/10, which contained procedural rules and practices relating to the timeliness of requests for the restoration of voting rights. It also contained stipulations regarding well documented evidence or information, the consideration of which required a certain amount of time. Zimbabwe's request had been received recently and, as a result, did not satisfy the procedural rules. Nor was it evident that it met the substantive requirements. Accordingly, both the Committee and Zimbabwe needed more time, to consider the request and to submit the required documentation, respectively. The Committee should, therefore, recommend that Zimbabwe be requested to provide further information, in accordance with the aforementioned resolution, with a view to a decision being taken at the sixty-fifth regular session of the General Conference.

10. The CHAIR took it that it was the opinion of the Committee that consideration of the request for restoration of the voting rights of Zimbabwe should be deferred until the following session of the General Conference.

11. It was so decided.

24. Examination of delegates' credentials (GC(64)/21 to 23)

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

13. 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 submitted to the Director General and that they were issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Member State concerned. The Committee's task was limited to ascertaining whether the requirements of Rule 27 had been satisfied.

14. Credentials for 76 delegates had been received in due form. In addition, the Secretariat had received communications in respect of 65 delegates that did not constitute formal credentials meeting the requirements of Rule 27. Thirty-one Member States were not participating and had not submitted any credentials.

15. Document GC(64)/22 contained a statement submitted by Arab States members of the Agency participating in the sixty-fourth regular session of the General Conference, expressing their reservations concerning the credentials of the Israeli delegate.

16. Document GC(64)/23 contained a communication from Israel setting out its position with regard to those reservations.

17. Document GC(64)/21 contained a communication from the Islamic Republic of Iran setting out its position regarding consideration of the credentials of the Israeli delegate.

18. The CHAIR suggested that the Committee submit to the General Conference meeting in plenary a report 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.

19. 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.

20. The report should further state that the Committee had had before it, in document GC(64)/22, a statement submitted by a number of 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(64)/23, a communication setting out Israel's position with regard to those reservations; and in document GC(64)/21, a communication from Iran setting out its position regarding the credentials of the Israeli delegate.

21. Lastly, 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-fourth regular session, which is set forth in document GC(64)/24.”

22. 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.

23. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 9.30 a.m.