

# General Conference

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## Sixty-fourth regular session

# Plenary

## Record of the Seventh Meeting

*Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Wednesday, 23 September 2020, at 1.10 p.m.<sup>1</sup>*

**President:** Mr FARHANE (Morocco)

## Contents

| Item of the agenda <sup>2</sup> |   | Paragraphs |
|---------------------------------|---|------------|
| 1                               | Election of officers and the appointment of the General Committee<br><i>(continued)</i> | 1–12       |
| 8                               | The IAEA and the COVID-19 Pandemic <i>(resumed)</i>                                     | 13–18      |

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<sup>1</sup> In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Conference decided that delegations so wishing could attend in a virtual manner using the Interprefy IT platform or make their statements by means of a pre-recorded video.

<sup>2</sup> GC(64)/19.

**Abbreviations used in this record**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| COVID-19   | coronavirus disease 2019                        |
| MESA       | Middle East and South Asia Group                |
| SARS-CoV-2 | severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 |
| TC         | technical cooperation                           |
| UN         | United Nations                                  |
| ZODIAC     | Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action              |

## 1. Election of officers and the appointment of the General Committee (continued)

1. The PRESIDENT announced the result of the vote to elect the Vice-President of the General Conference for MESA.

2. The result of the vote was as follows:

Ballot papers returned: 111

Invalid votes: 2

Abstentions: 29

Valid votes: 80

Required majority: 41

Votes obtained:

Islamic Republic of Iran: 1

Saudi Arabia: 1

United Arab Emirates: 78

3. Having obtained the required majority, the delegate of the United Arab Emirates was duly elected Vice-President of the Conference.

4. Mr GHARIB ABADI (Islamic Republic of Iran), noting that Iran had not been a candidate for the post, said that the result of the ballot — which itself was both disappointing and unprecedented — revealed a deep division among the members of the Agency, as 78 votes could not be seen as a significant victory.

5. The PRESIDENT invited the General Conference to elect the Chair of the Committee of the Whole by secret ballot, in accordance with Rule 79 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference. In accordance with Rule 74 of the Rules of Procedure, explanations of vote would not be allowed before or after the vote.

6. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

7. At the invitation of the President, Mr Moeller (Norway) and Mr Srisukwattana (Thailand) acted as tellers.

8. The result of the vote was as follows:

Ballot papers returned: 112

Invalid votes: 3

Abstentions: 37

Valid votes: 72

Required majority: 37

Votes obtained:

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| India:                    | 1  |
| Islamic Republic of Iran: | 1  |
| Saudi Arabia:             | 70 |

9. Having obtained the required majority, Mr Alnassar (Saudi Arabia) was duly elected Chair of the Committee of the Whole.

10. Mr MAZUMDAR (India) expressed thanks for the unsolicited support received from one Member State.

11. Mr GHARIB ABADI (Islamic Republic of Iran) recalled that his country had not been a candidate for the position in question.

12. Mr ALNASSAR (Saudi Arabia), expressing his appreciation to the President of the General Conference and to the Ambassador of India for their efforts to achieve consensus, thanked Member States for supporting his candidacy. He would work tirelessly towards ensuring the success of the General Conference as Chair of the Committee of the Whole.

## **8. The IAEA and the COVID-19 Pandemic (resumed)**

13. Mr HUSSEN (Iraq) expressed his country's solidarity with all peoples and with the Agency in their efforts to confront COVID-19. Iraq was grateful to the Director General for his constructive efforts and his personal interest in following up on the activities undertaken by the Secretariat during the pandemic.

14. He expressed his country's gratitude to the Agency for the capacity building activities that it had carried out in Member States, including Iraq, during the pandemic. Iraq had requested the Agency's help through the TC project on Strengthening Capabilities of Member States in Building, Strengthening and Restoring Capacities and Services in Case of Outbreaks, Emergencies and Disasters, and it had been provided in a professional and systematic manner. On Iraq's behalf he thanked the whole Secretariat, in particular the Department of Technical Cooperation, for the assistance provided despite the current challenges.

15. Iraq was also grateful to the States that had made donations to support the Agency's work to combat the pandemic, strengthening Iraq's belief that international cooperation, solidarity and diplomacy were essential in bringing the international community together in order to overcome COVID-19.

16. The Secretariat was to be commended on continuing to carry out its safeguards implementation and inspection work during the global health crisis. Its endeavours demonstrated the importance of supporting the Agency and the peaceful use of nuclear energy for the benefit of all of humanity.

17. Looking forward to working with the Agency and Member States as part of the ZODIAC project, Iraq welcomed the adoption by consensus of the relevant resolution and affirmed its support for all Agency efforts to combat SARS-CoV-2.

18. Mr BULYCHEV (Russian Federation) said that the previous day the President of the Russian Federation had announced at the UN General Assembly that his country stood ready to assist the UN in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, it would offer its vaccine free of charge for voluntary use by all UN employees.

**The meeting rose at 2.50 p.m.**