

General Conference

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Item 23 of the agenda

(GC(67)/24)

Restoration of the Sovereign Equality of Member States in the IAEA

Resolution adopted on 29 September 2023 during the 11th plenary meeting

The General Conference,¹

- (a) Recalling relevant provisions of the Agency's Statute that relate to the due observance of the sovereign rights of States in the conduct of the Agency's activities and the principle of the sovereign equality of all of the Agency's members,
- (b) Further recalling that Article VI.A of the Statute identifies eight areas (North America, Latin America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Africa, Middle East and South Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific, and the Far East) from which Member States are to be elected to the Board of Governors, but that the Statute does not include procedures for the assignment of Member States to these areas,
- (c) Recognizing that, in practice, regional groups corresponding to the eight areas identified in Article VI.A of the Statute have provided candidates to the General Conference for election to the Board of Governors,
- (d) Noting with concern, however, that in practice 17 IAEA Member States listed in INFCIRC/1116 of 10 August 2023 are not yet included in any regional groups,
- (e) Bearing in mind the amendment to Article VI of the Statute, approved by resolution GC(43)/RES/19 of 1999, the entry into force of which would also require the Board of Governors to adopt, and the General Conference to confirm, a list in which all Member States have been allocated to one of the eight areas listed in Article VI.A,
- (f) Recognizing that to date 64 Member States have accepted the Amendment, well below the two-thirds majority required in order for the Amendment to enter into force,

¹ The resolution was adopted with 99 in favour, 2 against and 16 abstentions.

(g) Noting with appreciation the Director General's efforts to date to encourage all Member States to accept the Amendment,

1. Encourages all regional groups to exercise appropriate flexibility regarding the expansion of their groups to include Member States that do not currently belong to any regional group, for the sake of inclusivity and sovereign equality of Member States in accordance with the Statute;
2. Welcomes the establishment of the Group of Friends of Arealess States and the Group's efforts to identify opportunities for the inclusion of the 17 Member States listed in INFCIRC/1116 in regional groups as soon as possible and to advance the entry into force of the amendment to Article VI of the Statute, including efforts relating to the development of a comprehensive list of Member States and areas in the context of that amendment, and invites the Secretariat to support these efforts;
3. Calls upon all Member States of the Agency to accept the amendment to Article VI of the Statute as soon as possible in accordance with their respective constitutional processes, as provided for in Article XVIII.C(ii) of the Statute; and
4. Recommends the Board of Governors to remain seized of this issue.