

Virtual Briefing: STSC Preparations

58th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee [STSC]
of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space [COPUOS]
[19 - 30 April 2021]

Thursday, 11 February 2021, 14:00-15:30



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

Background



COVID-19: Current Situation in Austria

As of 22 January 2021:

- The Austrian Authorities have cancelled all events during the lockdown, but essential professional meetings are exempt. In-person meetings are hence discouraged and should be held only if absolutely necessary to maintain professional activities that cannot be postponed or held virtually.
- Hotels closed to leisure travelers/tourists; only business travelers are allowed to stay.
- In public places in enclosed spaces: distance of 2 metres and mandatory FFP2 masks.
- Mandatory online pre-travel clearance. Depending on traveler's country, PCR Test and 10-day Quarantine may be required.

Official Sources:

- COVID-19 Dashboard: <https://covid19-dashboard.ages.at/?l=en>
- Regulations on entry to Austria <https://www.sozialministerium.at/Informationen-zum-Coronavirus/Coronavirus---Haeufig-gestellte-Fragen/FAQ--Reisen-und-Tourismus.html>



COVID-19: Vienna International Centre (VIC)

- From 3 November 2020, CTBTO, UNIDO, UNOV/UNODC, UNOOSA have switched to **full-time telecommuting**
- IAEA, bearing in mind its mandate and operational requirements, is also moving towards a significant reduction of its presence at the VIC.
- At the VIC, Medical Service encourages to conduct meetings virtually as the main form of interaction and in-person meetings should be held **only if absolutely necessary**.
- In case in-person meetings are necessary for continuation of the business, the number of participants should be as low as possible.
- All participants should wear masks at all times throughout the meeting and have assigned seating.
- Personnel must adhere to the two-metre physical distancing rule in all common areas of the VIC at all times, including when meeting at the coffee corners.
- <https://nucleus.iaea.org/sites/covid19/SitePages/Home.aspx>



COVID-19 Prevention Focal Point at VIC

- Crisis Management Team requires the Secretariat of each substantive body organising an in-person or hybrid meeting at the VIC to appoint a **COVID-19 prevention focal point**.
- Participants must provide up-to-date **contact information** for contact tracing (full name, email, telephone number and address).
- The list of in-person participants, including contact details, must be provided to UNSSS.
- Inform and remind all to **wear a face-covering mask** inside and around conference rooms.
- Inform and remind in-person participants to **use only their assigned seat**. Require participants to record their full name, contact information (email, telephone number, address), and the **date and time period they occupied that seat**.
- Retain the seating diagram and the sign-in sheets for 28 days for possible tracing of close contacts, and full contact information. Documents containing personal details are to be treated as highly sensitive information.



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

58th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

19 - 30 April 2021



STSC: Organisational Considerations

1. The fifty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is scheduled to be held from 19 - 30 April 2021, in Vienna, Austria.
2. In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the associated restrictions, STSC is likely not to be held in its usual in-person format.
3. In this regard, consideration needs to be given to:
 - the exceptional circumstances posed by the pandemic;
 - the high level of unpredictability as to how the situation will evolve in the coming months;
 - the current health and safety measures, including travel restrictions and minimum distancing requirements; and
 - the conference room capacities at the VIC.
4. The meeting format will be of an exceptional and temporary nature and will not set a precedent.



STSC: Summary of Organizational Arrangements

1. Hybrid Format or Full Virtual Format (Agreement to holding the session in Full Virtual Format, if necessary).
2. STSC Plenary meetings and formal Working Group meetings (Interpretation into official UN languages, Interpretify - digital platform for UN official meetings - limited to 2 x 2 hours per day).
3. Plenary statements to be limited to seven minutes.
4. Technical Presentations to be limited to twelve minutes (No interpretation, but can be delivered in any of the six Official UN Languages, however, there will be no interpretation, MS Teams).
5. Working Group Informals (No interpretation, MS Teams).



STSC: Proposed Schedule of Meetings

Tokyo	Beijing	Vienna (CET)		Brasilia	NYC
17:00	16:00	10:00 - 11:00	Technical Presentations	05:00	04:00
18:00	17:00	11:00 - 13:00	STSC Morning Session with Interpretation	06:00	05:00
19:00	18:00			07:00	06:00
20:00	19:00	13:00 - 15:00	Informal Meetings of Working Groups	08:00	07:00
21:00	20:00			09:00	08:00
22:00	21:00	15:00 - 17:00	STSC Afternoon Session with Interpretation	10:00	09:00
23:00	22:00			11:00	10:00
00:00	23:00	17:00 - 18:00	Technical Presentations	12:00	11:00
01:00	00:00			13:00	12:00



STSC: Plenary and Working Group Meetings

- For STSC Plenary and Formal Working Group Meetings, interpretation into the six official UN languages will be provided through an online platform [**Interprefy**].
- Interpretation will be provided from 11:00 to 13:00 and from 15:00 to 17:00 CET.
- The interpretation platform has been upgraded to make ALL links speaker links. Depending on the number of required technical channels, it has an estimated capacity of an overall 750 speaker links*.
 - Five speaker links will be available to each delegation of COPUOS State members;
 - Two speaker links will be available to each delegation of observers to the Committee.
- The links are connected to emails addresses received through accreditation.
- Each delegation is requested to clearly inform the Secretariat which delegates would be physically present at STSC, if under hybrid format, and which delegates would receive the speaker links on Interprefy. **Deadline is Monday, 29 March 2021**
- Written statements for interpretation are to be provided in advance, preferably **two days before delivery**. List of speakers will be available before the start of the session.



STSC: Working Group Informals

- Working Groups of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee:
 - Working Group of the Whole – no informals envisaged;
 - Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space;
 - Working Group on Space and Global Health;
 - Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.
- Time allocation for Informals:
 - From 13:00 to 15:00 Vienna time;
 - No interpretation provided.
- Modality: Virtual, via MS Teams.
- Overlap between the meetings of the different working groups may not be ruled out.
- Meeting rooms will be reserved for delegates planning to connect virtually to informal working group meetings, provided there will be a hybrid format.



STSC: Technical Presentations

- As an overall interpretation time is decreased, Technical Presentations to be delivered without interpretation.
- Technical Presentations can be delivered in any of the six Official UN Languages, however, there will be no interpretation.
- Time Allocation:
 - From 10:00 to 11:00 Vienna time (for speakers from the Eastern Hemisphere);
 - From 17:00 to 18:00 Vienna time (for speakers from the Western Hemisphere).
- Duration: **max. 12 minutes** per presentation, including Q and A.
- Delivery mode: virtual, via MS Teams.
- As is customary, presentations in .pdf format will be uploaded to UNOOSA website.



STSC: Statements

General Exchange of Views and other agenda items

- Given the overall reduction of interpretation time, a strict time limit of **seven** minutes to be allotted to each speaker.
- Statements should be sent to the Secretariat **in writing** well in advance of delivery, **preferably two days before delivery**. As per usual practice, statements can be uploaded on the website of the session, upon request.
- Delegations could also use the option of sending pre-recorded videos (also limited to seven minutes) of their statements. These video statements must be submitted to the Secretariat by **Wednesday, 14 April 2021** at the latest. The delegate delivering the video statement will need to be a registered participant.



STSC: Participation and Accreditations

- The number of participants (e.g. representatives of Member States and observers) physically attending STSC would be in accordance with the Austrian requirements on COVID-19 related measures to be applied such as physical distancing.
- VIC Board Room D has a physical capacity of 60 at desk + additional 65 in the second row under the 1-meter distance requirement. No capacity numbers are available for 2-meter distance requirement.
- Considering the available space at the VIC, and the necessary physical distancing and health precautions, the following is envisaged :
 - Member States are urged to keep the number of their delegates accessing the VIC for the purposes of the STSC to a minimum.
 - At any given time a maximum of only two delegates per each Member State can be physically present in Board Room D.
 - Deadline for Accreditations: **Monday, 29 March 2021.**



STSC: Adoption of the reports

- Longer time allocated for the adoption of the reports
 - Customarily, reports of the Subcommittee and WGs are adopted during the last two days of the session
 - For this session, adoption of the reports is scheduled for the full last three days of the session.
- Delegations may provide language-related comments on language versions of the reports of the STSC Working Groups and the report of the Subcommittee, as adopted, in writing to the Secretariat within one week after the Subcommittee session.



STSC: Deadlines

- Deadline for Accreditations: **Monday, 29 March 2021.**
- Provide the Secretariat with the list of delegates who would receive the speaker links (**five per MS, two per observer**) on Interprefy: **Monday, 29 March 2021.**
- Deadline for List of speakers: **Friday, 16 April 2021.**
- Provide written statements for interpretation: **Preferably two days before delivery.**
- Provide video statements (with written script): **Wednesday, 14 April 2021.**
- Sign up for Technical Presentation slots: **Wednesday, 14 April 2021.**

THANK YOU



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs