

# Virtual Briefing: STSC Preparations

58th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee [STSC]  
of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space [COPUOS]  
[1 - 12 February 2021]

Friday, 27 November 2020, 14:00-15:30



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# Background



# COVID-19: Current Situation in Austria

From 3 November to 6 December 2020:

- 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.
- Exit restrictions 24/7.
- Hotels closed to leisure travelers/tourists; only business travelers are allowed to stay.
- In public places in enclosed spaces: distance of 1 metre and nose-mouth protection.
- 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.
- Everyone is asked to adhere to the one-metre physical distancing rule.
- Group gatherings non work related at coffee and lunch breaks are discouraged and should be reduced to a minimum. The Austrian rules limiting social **gatherings** to people from **no more than two households** also applies in the VIC.
- <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.



## Experience from other entities: IAEA

### **64<sup>th</sup> General Conference of IAEA, 21-25 September 2020.**

- Host Country regulation at the time of GC: indoor meetings and gatherings up to 1500 participants simultaneously may be organized with fixed seating and the necessary physical distancing and health precautions.
- Composition of delegation:
  - Members of Permanent Mission + two more delegates.
- On-site restrictions for physical presence at any given time (floating badge system):
  - Maximum of only two delegates per each MS;
  - Only one delegate each - UN, IGOs and NGOs.
- General Debate Statements— 3 minutes (300 words) limit, option: pre-recorded videos
- Side Events:
  - Only virtual side-events;
  - No exhibitions;
  - Scientific Forum: Physical participation limited to one delegate per MS.
- <https://www.iaea.org/about/governance/general-conference/gc64/general-information>



## Experience from other entities: UNCITRAL

### **UN Commission on International Trade Law: Decisions A/CN.9/1038 of 28 Aug 2020**

- Allow delegations to participate at the sessions in person or remotely.
- Ensure equality of participation for all delegates from different geographical regions.
- Delegations will be able to avail themselves of the possibility to make written submissions.
- Chair shall ensure that delegations participating remotely are on an equal footing with those participating in person, and where appropriate, postponing resolution of issues to the next session or arriving at consensus through a written process.
- The chair and the rapporteur (C+R) of each WG will prepare a summary reflecting the deliberations and any conclusions reached. After the session, the summary is circulated for comments to the delegations of the WG. Based on the comments received, C+R will revise the summary and present it as such to the Commission, unless it has been adopted by the working group as its report.
- The procedures are of an exceptional and temporary nature and will not set a precedent.
- Sessions: 11:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 17:00 Vienna time



## Experience from other entities: UNODC

### **10th sess. COP to UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 12-16 Oct 2020**

- Hybrid/in-person meeting format (approved by the extended Bureau of the Conference by silence procedure on 7 September 2020). Sessions: 12:00 – 14:00 and 16:00 – 18:00 CET.
- Registration deadline 2.5 weeks before the session. Cannot be extended.
- Attendance: 2 Delegates per State, 1 Delegate per IGO/NGO.
- In-person participation: must show both Individual and Floating badges (delegation badge without individual participants names, issued 2 per State, 1 per IGO/NGO).
- Remote participation: 300 speaker links and 1000 listener links are available.
  - Speakers: 2 per State/ 1 per IGO NGO. Listeners: 4 per State / 2 per IGO NGO;
  - Links are for individual delegates and cannot be changed/reassigned to other delegates. Deadline for registration: 1 week before the session.
- Statements: 5 minutes for Opening (Chair, UNODC, Groups), 3 minutes for General Debate.
- Side events: 59 events in virtual format. No Exhibition.





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# 58th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

**1 - 12 February 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 1 to 12 February 2021, in Vienna, Austria.
2. In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, 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.
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 (No interpretation, MS Teams).
5. Working Group Informals (No interpretation, MS Teams).



## STSC: Proposed Schedule of Meetings

Tokyo	Beijing	Vienna (CET)		Brasilia	NYC
18:00	17:00	10:00	Technical Presentations	06:00	04:00
19:00	18:00	11:00	STSC Morning Session with Interpretation	07:00	05:00
20:00	19:00	12:00		08:00	06:00
21:00	20:00	13:00	Informal Meetings of Working Groups	09:00	07:00
22:00	21:00	14:00		10:00	08:00
23:00	22:00	15:00	STSC Afternoon Session with Interpretation	11:00	09:00
00:00	23:00	16:00		12:00	10:00
01:00	00:00	17:00	Technical Presentations	13:00	11:00



## 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 allows for an overall number of 300 speaker links and additional listener links.
  - Two speaker links will be available to each delegation of COPUOS State members;
  - One speaker link will be available to each delegation of observers to the Committee.
- The remaining members of each delegation would receive listening links (without the possibility to speak). The speakers and listening slots are linked to the individual emails of the registered participants.
- Each delegation is requested to clearly inform the Secretariat which delegates would be physically present at STSC, which delegates would receive the speaker links on Interprefy and which the listener links. **Deadline is Friday, 22 January 2021.**
- Deadline for providing written statements for interpretation: **Wednesday, 27 January 2021.**



## 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.



## STSC: Technical Presentations

- Interpretation time for hybrid/virtual meetings is 2 hours per meeting (interpretation time for in-person meetings was 3 hours per meeting):
  - => Technical Presentations to be delivered without 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 one week before the session**. 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, 27 January 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.
- 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: **Friday, 22 January 2021.**



## STSC: Deadlines

- Deadline for Accreditations: **Friday, 22 January 2021.**
- Provide the Secretariat with the list of delegates who would receive the speaker links (**two per MS, one per observer**) on Interprefy and who would receive the listener links: **Friday, 22 January 2021.**
- Provide written statements for interpretation: **Wednesday, 27 January 2021.**
- Provide video statements (with written script): **Wednesday, 27 January 2021.**
- Sign up for Technical Presentation slots: **Wednesday, 27 January 2021.**

# THANK YOU



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