



General Secretariat (SG)

Geneva, 20 May 2020

Ref: **DM-20/1006**
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To Observer Member States of ITU

Subject: **Postponement of the 2020 physical session of the Council and organization of a virtual consultation of councillors**

Dear Madam/Sir,

Further to my letter [DM-20/1001](#), given the current situation of the Covid-19 pandemic, I would like to inform you that the 2020 physical session of the Council has been postponed until a later date, which will be announced in due course.

In order to ensure business continuity and the ongoing work of the Union, it has been decided to hold a virtual consultation of councillors, in an organized manner in line with Article 3.1 of the Rules of Procedures of the Council.

This virtual consultation will be organized as outlined in the Annex.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Houlin ZHAO
Secretary-General

Annex: Proposed organization of the virtual consultation of councillors

ANNEX

Proposed organization of the virtual consultation of councillors

This virtual consultation is held in an organized manner in line with Article 3.1 of the Rules of Procedures of the Council.

3.1 Between sessions, councillors may consult each other by correspondence:

- *either informally,*
- *or in an organized manner, through the offices of the chairman or, if the chairman is not available, the Vice-Chairman of the Council, with the assistance of the Secretary-General.*

Draft Agenda

The virtual consultation will address agenda items considered as urgent.

Council Member States are being consulted in drafting this agenda, and it will be communicated on the Council website as soon as possible after 22 May.

Chairmanship

As the main objective of the virtual consultation is to prepare for the physical 2020 session, it is proposed that the Vice-Chair of the Council, Mr Saif Bin Ghelaita, lead the discussions.

Participation

The virtual consultation will be open to all members of the delegations of Council Member States, Observer Member States, Observer from the State of Palestine, and Sector Members (3 per Sector).

Conduct of the discussion

- The virtual consultation will be of a strict, consultative and non-decisional nature.
- In the discussion, the floor will be given in priority to Member States of the Council.
- If a consensus is not reached and any one Council Member State wants a document or conclusion deferred, it will be moved to the subsequent physical 2020 Council session.
- If during the discussion of a document on the agenda in the virtual consultation, a consensus is not reached and any one Council Member State proposes to suspend discussion or objects to the proposed conclusion on the document, it will be deferred to the subsequent physical 2020 Council session.
- Council Member States will still be able to take the floor to make an intervention during the discussions even if they have not sent in a contribution.

Outcome

- The virtual consultation will be of strict consultative nature and will not take any decisions. It will only draw proposed conclusions pending formal decisions at the subsequent physical 2020 Council session. Proposed conclusions will be compiled in a report to be submitted by the Secretary-General as an input document for consideration to the subsequent physical 2020 session of the Council.
- For proposed conclusions on items that would call for an urgent decision by the Council and that cannot wait for a physical meeting, the virtual consultation could give orientations to the Chair of the Council and the Secretary-General, on the opportunity to activate the procedure to take decisions by correspondence as per rules 3.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council.

If need be, the usual procedure for decision by correspondence would be followed. A simple majority of Council Member States having the right to vote would apply.

- It is understood that no proposed conclusion will be final, and that the discussion could be reopened on the occasion of the subsequent physical 2020 session on any conclusion.

Date and duration

- The virtual consultation will start on 9 June, 12:00-15:00 Geneva time.
- The actual duration will be proposed based the draft agenda but will not exceed five days.

IT support to be provided

- Interprefy platform, captioning, and webcast.
- There will be full interpretation in 6 languages using Interprefy.
- Individual IT support by email, chat, and telephone.

Test of the platform

A global test of the platform will be organized on 29 May at 12:00 Geneva time. Invitations will be sent in due course.

Registration

Registration is mandatory to be able to participate online. Registration opened on 10 March. It is presently open and will be continued.

Registered participants will receive guidelines and links to join the virtual consultation in due course.
