

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]

Tuesday, 30 March 2021, 14:00-15:00



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Background



COVID-19: Current Situation in Austria

24 March 2021: measures for 1-6 April and beyond. Limitations on leaving the house: 24 hrs.

- Aim: to take pressure off intensive care units, notably in Vienna where hospitals risk running short of beds because of the more transmissible COVID-19 strains.
- 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.



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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 will be held in a hybrid 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. Open plenary meetings and technical presentations to be webcast.
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).
6. List of participants to be finalized within the week after the session (corrections by delegations reflecting full virtual and physical attendance submitted to the Secretariat).



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 - 13:30	Technical Break / Disinfection of M Plenary	08:00	07:00
21:00	20:00	13:30 - 15:00	Informal Meetings of Working Groups	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



Participation of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Committee

- **A/AC.105/1224, Annex I, para.9**
- The Working Group of the Whole of STSC noted the possible benefit of setting a deadline for the Secretariat to receive requests by non-members of the Committee to attend sessions as observers and recommended that the Secretariat set a deadline of one week prior to the opening of sessions.
- The Working Group noted that the Secretariat would inform non-members of the Committee of that deadline at the regular briefings for permanent missions held prior to each session of the Committee and its subcommittees.
- Deadline: **Friday, 9 April 2021**



Physical Attendance

- Conference room: **M Plenary, M-Building, VIC**. Capacity of 176 seats under the current social distancing requirements of 2 meters.
- Restrictions: 1 representative per delegation at any given time in the conference room.
- Number of delegates accredited for physical attendance:
 - 3 per State member of COPUOS, 2 per observers.
- Badges:
 - Individual badges for in-person registered participants.
 - Floating delegation badges per conference room without individual participants names.
 - Only participants with both the individual main badge and the floating badge are allowed into the conference room.
- Deadline: **Monday, 29 March 2021**



Virtual Attendance

- STSC Plenary meetings and formal Working Group meetings - **Interprefy**
- Number of links per delegation for virtual attendance:
 - 5 per State member of COPUOS, 2 per observers.
 - Deadline: **Mon, 29 Mar 2021** for accreditation
Wed, 14 Apr 2021 for inscription on the list of speakers
- Informal Working Group meetings – **MS Teams**
- No overlap between informal WG meetings
- Information circular or password-protected page to provide links for joining the meetings

- Meetings of EG Space Weather, SMPAG, IAWN – as arranged by Chairs
- Side events may take place in an online format.



Statements

- Plenary statements to be limited to **seven** minutes
- Delivery of prerecorded statements is possible
- All participants delivering statements are to be accredited to the session
- Statements for interpretation should be provided **2 days before delivery**
- Technical Requirements for live statements:
 - use an ethernet cable to connect the computer to the router;
 - use a headset rather than a computer's built-in microphone;
 - participate from a quiet room;
 - turn on the camera for interpretation.
- Technical Requirements for pre-recorded statements:
 - Format to be compatible with VLC media player
 - Audio-video requirements for pre-recorded statements available on the STSC website





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:
 - 10:00 to 11:00 and 17:00 to 18:00 Vienna time
- Duration: **max. 12 minutes** per presentation.
- Delivery mode: virtual, via MS Teams. Pre-recorded presentations possible.
- As is customary, presentations in .pdf format will be uploaded to UNOOSA website.
- Deadlines: **Mon, 29 Mar 2021** for accreditation of presenters
Wed, 14 Apr 2021 to provide final title, agenda item, presenter's details

THANK YOU



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