

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Alexander Marschik,
Chair of the Committee on Conferences for its substantive session in 2021**

November 2021

Agenda item: Pattern of conferences

Mr. Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

It is my privilege to introduce the Report of the Committee on Conferences for 2021 in my capacity as Chair of the Committee. The Committee report, as contained in document A/76/32, covers the work of the Committee in 2021 and was adopted at its substantive session held from 7 to 13 September 2021. The report also includes a draft resolution on the pattern of conferences and a draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2022 for your approval and recommendation for adoption by the General Assembly.

Mr. Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

At the opening of the substantive session, on 7 September, the Assistant Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences (A/76/80), which the Committee considered together with the statistical data presented as supplementary information regarding the utilization of conference servicing resources and other matters related to language services. The report reflects the Committee's discussions.

Member States also had an opportunity to engage in a questions and answers session with representatives of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) in New York and at the other three duty stations, i.e. Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi which provided an opportunity to interact on the various substantive issues before the Committee.

On matters related to the calendar of conferences and meetings, the Committee reviewed and adopted the draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2022, as annexed to the report.

During its Substantive Session, the Committee agreed to requests from five meeting bodies to meet during the main part of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly, on the understanding that all such meetings would be allocated conference services on an “if available” basis, in such a way that the work of the General Assembly and its main committees is not impeded. The Committee approved eleven requests for intersessional departures in 2020 and 2021.

Following informal consultations dedicated to negotiations, the Committee decided to adopt the draft resolution that is annexed to the report and recommended for the adoption by the General Assembly.

Mr. Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

Before I conclude, Mr. Chair, I would like to thank the Bureau and the members of the Committee for their participation during the substantive session, which enabled the

Committee to have meaningful and productive discussions. I am confident that we will continue to work in the same spirit during the Fifth Committee's consideration of the item on the pattern of conferences.

On behalf of the Committee, I would also like to express our gratitude to Mr. Movses Abelian, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management and Ms. Cherith Norman Chalet, Assistant Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, as well as all the staff of DGACM, including the conference management staff at the other duty stations, for providing substantive and technical support to the Committee throughout the year.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.