



UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Journal

GENERAL CONFERENCE

No. 2

Eighteenth session

Abu Dhabi, 3–7 November 2019

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Monday, 4 November 2019

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| 8–9.15 a.m. | <i>Thematic event: Regional Perspectives</i> | Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom, floor -1) |
| 9–9.30 a.m. | European Union coordination meeting | Meeting Room 1 (Floor -1) |
| 9.30–11.30 a.m. | 3rd plenary meeting Item 4: Organization of work General debate – Items 7 to 23 (<i>continued</i>) | Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom, floor -1) |
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | Main Committee – 1st meeting | Main Committee Hall (Chamber, floor -1) |
| 11.30 a.m.–1 p.m. | <i>Thematic event: Gender</i> | Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom, floor -1) |
| 11.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m. | Informal meeting of the Credentials Committee (for members of the Credentials Committee only) | Meeting Room 3 (Floor -1) |
| 1.30–3 p.m. | <i>Thematic event: Circular economy</i> | Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom, floor -1) |
| 3.30–6 p.m. | Main Committee – 2nd meeting | Main Committee Hall (Chamber, floor -1) |
| 3.30–6 p.m. | 4th plenary meeting General debate Items 7 to 23 (<i>continued</i>) | Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom, floor -1) |
| 7–10 p.m. | GMIS official gala dinner | Nahaam Restaurant Jumeirah at Etihad Towers |

Matters for inclusion in the *Journal* should be sent as far in advance as possible to its editor (Mr. Ahmed Zaabar, telephone: +43(1) 26026-3516 or email: a.zaabar@unido.org)

V.19-10713 (E)



Please recycle



YOU'RE INVITED

4 November 2019

19:00 — 22:00

Nahaam Restaurant
Jumeirah at Etihad Towers
Abu Dhabi, UAE

On the side lines of the 18th Session of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization General Conference

On behalf of its Co-Chairs, the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Energy and Industry and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Global Manufacturing and Industrialisation Summit

Cordially invites you to a Gala Dinner reception

Please confirm your participation by registering [here](#)

Due to capacity limitations, only registered participants will be able to access the venue.

*Dress Code: Business Casual or National Dress

FORECAST OF MEETINGS

Tuesday, 5 November 2019

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| 8.30–10 a.m. | <i>Thematic event: Sustainable energy</i> | Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom, floor -1) |
| 9.30–10.15 a.m. | Credentials Committee | Main Committee Hall (Chamber, floor -1) |
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | 5th plenary meeting General debate Items 7 to 23 (<i>continued</i>) | Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom, floor -1) |
| 10.30 a.m.–1 p.m. | Main Committee – 3rd meeting | Main Committee Hall (Chamber, floor -1) |
| 1.30–3 p.m. | <i>Thematic event: Industry 4.0</i> | Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom, floor -1) |
| 3–6 p.m. | Main Committee – 4th meeting | Main Committee Hall (Chamber, floor -1) |
| 3.30–4.30 p.m. | 6th plenary meeting Item 9: Launch of the Industrial Development Report 2020 | Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom, floor -1) |
| 4.30–6 p.m. | General debate Items 7 to 23 (<i>continued</i>) | |

FORECAST OF MEETINGS

Wednesday, 6 November 2019

- | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|
| 8.30–10 a.m. | <i>Thematic event: Youth and entrepreneurship</i> | Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom, floor -1) |
| 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | 7th plenary meeting General debate Items 7 to 23 (<i>continued</i>) Item 5: Credentials of representatives to the Conference | Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom, floor -1) |
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | Main Committee – 5th meeting (<i>tentative</i>) | Main Committee Hall (Chamber, floor -1) |
| 1.30–3 p.m. | <i>Thematic event: Industrial parks</i> | Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom, floor -1) |
| 3.30–6 p.m. | 8th plenary meeting General debate (<i>if required</i>) Items 7 to 23 (<i>continued</i>) | Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom, floor -1) |
| 3.30–6 p.m. | Main Committee – 6th meeting (<i>if required</i>) | Main Committee Hall (Chamber, floor -1) |

FORECAST OF MEETINGS

Thursday, 7 November 2019

10 a.m.–1 p.m. 9th plenary meeting
Consideration and adoption
of decisions and resolutions

Plenary Hall
(Etihad Ballroom, floor -1)

**SUMMARY OF MEETINGS
SUNDAY, 3 November 2019
1st PLENARY MEETING**

Item 1: Opening of the eighteenth session

The Conference was opened by H.E. Ms. Alena Kupchyna (Belarus), Outgoing President of the seventeenth session of the General Conference (Austria), who made a statement.

The Conference observed a minute of silence, in accordance with rule 71 of the rules of procedure of the Conference.

Item 2: Election of officers

(a) Election of the President

H.E. Mr. Suhail Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Industry of the United Arab Emirates, was elected by acclamation to the office of President of the eighteenth session of the General Conference.

(b) Election of other officers

The following candidates were elected by acclamation to fill the position of Vice-Presidents:

H.E. Ms. Faouzia Mebarki (Algeria)
H.E. Ms. Nada Kruger (Namibia)
H.E. Mr. Kazem Gharib Adadi (Iran (Islamic Republic of))
H.E. Ms. Pirkko Mirjami Hamalainen (Finland)
H.E. Mr. Gerhard Kuntzle (Germany)
H.E. Ms. Alicia Buenrostro Massieu (Mexico)
Ms. Andrea Éva Nemes (Hungary)
Ms. Vera V. Khutorskaya (Russian Federation)

One post of Vice-President allocated to List C remains vacant.

The newly elected President of the eighteenth session of the General Conference made an introductory statement.

Item 1: Opening of the seventeenth session (*continued*)

With the President in the Chair, statements were made by Mr. LI Yong, Director General of UNIDO, H.E. Mr. Andry Rajoelina, President of Madagascar, H.E. Mr. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of Niger, and H.E. Mr. Jotham Napat Nauka, Deputy Prime Minister of Vanuatu. A video message from Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, was shown.

General debate – Items 7 to 23

With the President in the Chair, statements were made by H.E. LI Chenggang, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Commerce of China; H.E. Ms. Rocio Barrios, Minister of Production of Peru; H.E. Mr. Souleymane Diarassouba, Minister of Commerce and Industry of Côte d'Ivoire; and H.E. Mr. Robinson Njeru Githae, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Kenya to UNIDO.

Welcome event by the Host Country

Statements were made by Mr. LI Yong, Director General of UNIDO and His Excellency Mr. Suhail Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Industry of the United Arab Emirates. Videos regarding the cooperation between UNIDO and the United Arab Emirates were shown.

2nd PLENARY MEETING

Item 3: Adoption of the agenda

The Conference adopted the agenda as contained in document GC.18/1.

Item 9: UNIDO Forum on Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development

An introduction was made by Ms. Sarah Kelly, the moderator of the event.

An introductory statement was made by Mr. LI Yong, Director General of UNIDO.

The panellists of the first discussion session encompassed in this event were Mr. Albert M. Muchanga, Commissioner for Trade and Industry, African Union Commission; H.E. Mr. Souleymane Diarassouba, Minister of Commerce and Industry of Côte d'Ivoire; H.E. Ms. Rocio Barrios, Minister of Production of Peru; H.E. Mr. Prasad Cham, Senior Minister of Industry and Handicrafts of Cambodia; H.E. Mr. Christopher Bwalya Yaluma, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry of Zambia; and Mr. Mamadou Traoré, Commissioner for Industry and Private Sector Promotion, Commission of the Economic Community of West African States.

The panellists of the second discussion session encompassed in this event were Mr. Yousef Ibrahim Al-Bassam, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa; H.E. Mr. Admasu Nebebe, State Minister, Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation of Ethiopia; Mr. Adama Baye Racine Ndiaye, Secretary General, Ministry of Industry and Small and Medium Industry of Senegal; Mr. David Luke, Coordinator of the African Trade Policy Centre of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa; Mr. XUE Man, Vice-President of Huawei; Mr. Philippe Scholtès, Managing Director, Directorate of Programme Development and Technical Cooperation of UNIDO.

Following the second discussion, an exchange of letters took place between UNIDO, represented by Mr. LI Yong, Director General, and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire represented by H.E. Mr. Souleymane Diarassouba, Minister of Commerce and Industry of Côte d'Ivoire. A joint declaration was signed by Mr. LI Yong, Director General of UNIDO and Mr. XUE Man, Vice-President of Huawei. A project document on sustainable industrial zone project was signed by Mr. LI Yong, Director General of UNIDO, and H.E. Ms. Rocio Barrios, Minister of Production of Peru.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dinner event: GMIS official gala dinner (upon registration)

The Global Manufacturing and Industrialisation Summit (GMIS) is hosting a dinner event accompanying the launch of the UNIDO Industrial Analytics Platform. The dinner event will take place on Monday, 4 November 2019 at 7 p.m., at Nahaam, Etihad Jumeriah Towers (within walking distance of the Conference venue, transportation will be provided, if required, at 6.30 p.m.). For registration, please use the following link: <https://www.gmisummit.com/gmis-evening-reception/>.

Thematic event: Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurship and Innovation: A Regional Perspective for African and Arab Countries

All participants are cordially invited to attend a thematic event on regional perspectives on Monday, 4 November, at 8 a.m. in the Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom), on floor -1 of the Emirates Palace Hotel. This event will highlight and promote the role of impactful investment and innovation for economic development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a focus on proven solutions in Africa and the Arab region.

Thematic event: Launch of the Gender Strategy 2020–23 and the Future of Inclusive Industry

All participants are cordially invited to attend a thematic event on gender on Monday, 4 November, at 11.30 a.m. in the Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom), on floor -1 of the Emirates Palace Hotel. This event will present an opportunity to launch and present the UNIDO Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2020–2023), and discuss how digitalization, automatization of production, technological advances and innovation in the industrial sector present both challenges and opportunities to advance gender equality in the industry of the future; and the role of gender-responsive industrial policies to ensure that Industry 4.0 can be inclusive of those who have been left behind in the past.

Thematic event: SDG Impact Accelerator – Circular Economy

All participants are cordially invited to attend a thematic event on Circular Economy on Monday, 4 November, at 1.30 p.m. in the Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom), on floor -1 of the Emirates Palace Hotel. The event will introduce how the SDG Impact Accelerator platform will connect impact investors and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) so as to facilitate private investment to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thematic event: Cleantech as a Catalyst for Climate Action and the Clean Energy Transition

On Tuesday, 5 November 2019, at 8.30, in the Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom), on floor -1, participants are cordially invited to attend a thematic event on sustainable energy. This interactive event will showcase the catalytic role of cleantech innovation, commercialization and deployment for climate action and the clean energy transition.

Thematic event: Fostering Innovation and Connectivity for a Smooth Transformation to Industry 4.0

All participants are cordially invited to attend a thematic event on Industry 4.0, on Tuesday, 5 November, at 1.30 p.m. in the Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom), on floor -1 of the Emirates Palace Hotel. This event presents an opportunity to discuss new models and approaches to mobilize collective actions for fostering collaboration, innovation, and connectivity for ensuring a smooth transformation to Industry 4.0.

Launch of the Industrial Development Report (IDR) 2020

All participants are cordially invited to attend the launch of the Industrial Development Report (IDR) taking place on Tuesday, 5 November 2019, at 3.30 p.m. in the Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom), on floor -1 of the Emirates Palace Hotel. The launch of the IDR 2020 event will mainly serve to present and discuss the report's main messages, which are expected to bring new insights on how advanced digital production technologies are reshaping the process of industrial development. It will furthermore elaborate on the possible responses that developing countries can take to prepare for these changes.

Thematic event: Young Entrepreneurs as Drivers of Innovation and Job Creation for Competitive and Resilient Economies

On Wednesday, 6 November 2019, 8.30 a.m., in the Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom), on floor -1, participants are cordially invited to attend a thematic event on Youth and Entrepreneurship. The event will

showcase how young entrepreneurs are contributing to the modernization of local industries and have gained access to new markets by applying their creativity and skills to realize opportunities in a broad scope of areas including agripreneurship, industrial design and branding. The event will further showcase how UNIDO engages with young entrepreneurs, in line with the Lima Declaration on Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development.

Thematic event: Promoting Sustainable Industrial Parks and Low-Carbon Urban-Industrial Development for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization

All participants are cordially invited to attend a thematic event on Sustainable Industrial Parks taking place on Wednesday, 6 November 2019, at 1.30 p.m. in the Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom), on floor -1. This event focuses on promoting an innovative approach for developing inclusive and sustainable industrial parks and pursuing low-carbon urban-industrial development through an integrated framework of actors and stakeholders.

Conference coverage on the Internet

All official General Conference documents are available on the UNIDO website (www.unido.org/gc/18) and the UNIDO extranet (<http://extranet.unido.org>).

In line with decision IDB.46/Dec.3 (e), written summary records will not be provided for this session and will continue to be replaced with digital recordings. The sound recordings will be made of the meetings of the plenary and sessional bodies as appropriate. The sound recordings will be made available in all official languages on the UNIDO Extranet (<http://extranet.unido.org>).

Catering services

Catering area is located in floor -1 by the cyber café and the terrace near the Plenary Hall. Coffee breaks are scheduled from 10.30 to 11.30 a.m., and from 3.30 to 4.30 p.m.. Lunch is also provided at the venue.

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

Journal

1. The *Journal* of the Conference will be issued daily in English and Arabic and made available online on UNIDO's website (www.unido.org/gc/18). It will contain such information as the schedule of meetings for the day, a brief summary of the plenary and Main Committee meetings held on the previous day, a forecast of meetings for the following day, and various announcements. Communications for inclusion in the *Journal* should be sent to its Editor (Mr. Ahmed Zaabar, telephone: +43 (1) 26026-3516 or +971 50 522 7623 or email: a.zaabar@unido.org).

Secretariat

2. The Executive Secretary of the eighteenth session of the General Conference is Mr. Kai Bethke, Director, Department of External Relations. The Executive Secretary can be contacted by telephone: +43 (1) 26026-5232 or +971 50 522 7623, by email: pmo@unido.org.

Registration

3. Registration and issuance of conference access cards during the session will be as follows:

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 31 October– 1 November | 8 a.m.–6 p.m. | Registration desk |
| 2–6 November | 8 a.m.–7 p.m. | Registration desk |
| 7 November | 8 a.m.–end of session | Registration desk |

Participants registering after 3 November 2019 will be reflected in a revision to the list of participants (GC.18/INF.2/Rev.1) to be issued after the session, if necessary.

Registration will be effected only for those delegates whose names have been communicated to the Secretariat of the Conference. For States Members of UNIDO and Permanent Observers, the Secretariat would appreciate being informed in writing, in the form of a note verbale, issued by either the Permanent Mission or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of the names of the head and other members of the delegation. For all other entities, the names of the head and other members of the delegation could also be communicated in the form of a letter. In order to facilitate registration procedures and to issue conference access cards, the notes verbales and letters are to be sent as an attachment to an email exclusively to pmo-registration@unido.org. Furthermore, a contact email address is required for each member of the delegation. The registration system will automatically send an email to the specified address, requesting the delegate to upload an ID photograph in jpeg format (less than 2 MB in size).

It is essential that the original notifications are still mailed to the Policymaking Organs Secretariat, Room D2209, UNIDO, Vienna International Centre (VIC), P.O. Box 300, 1400 Vienna, Austria. Any queries relating to registration should be referred to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Conference.

Credentials

4. Representatives who have been unable to submit their credentials before the opening of the Conference are requested to deposit them at the Registration Desk (see para. 3) or the Office of the Policymaking Organs, as soon as possible.

Conference access cards

5. Each participant will require a conference access card with a photograph for entry to the Conference areas of the Emirates Palace Hotel during the session. Conference access cards will be issued to all accredited participants. Access cards must be worn visibly at all times in the Conference areas of the Emirates Palace Hotel during the session.

6. The loss of an access card must be reported immediately to the United Nations Security and Safety Service, who will issue a duplicate card.

List of participants

7. A provisional list of participants will be available on the first day of the Conference, to be revised at a later date, if necessary. Governments and organizations are requested to supply the names and titles of the members of their delegations in good time before the Conference.

8. Delegations are also requested to notify, in writing, the staff at the registration area, or the Secretariat of the Conference of any subsequent changes in the information in the provisional list of participants, so that records for the final list of participants may be kept up to date and accurate.

Conference rooms available

9. The following conference rooms are available in the Conference areas of the Emirates Palace Hotel during the session:

| Room | Purpose |
|---|---|
| Plenary Hall (Etihad Ballroom, floor -1) | Plenary, and side events |
| Main Committee Hall (Chamber, floor -1) | Main Committee and Credentials Committee |
| Meeting Rooms 1 and 2 | Regional Group meetings |
| Meeting Rooms 3,4 and 5 | Bilateral meetings (reservations limited to 30 minutes) |

10. Within the limits of space and services available, every effort will be made to accommodate groups of delegations wishing to meet. Requests for such meetings should be made to the Conference Services Coordination Office (right wing corridor, outside of Plenary) or by email (unov.conference@un.org).

Seating arrangements

11. Delegations will be seated in English alphabetical order. The name of South Africa was drawn by lot and the delegation of this Member State will therefore sit at the extreme right of the front row in the Plenary Hall as seen from the podium. In the Main Committee, delegates will find their nameplates at the entrance to Chamber and are requested to take them along to their seat of choice.

12. Each Government delegation will be assigned two seats at the table and two in the row behind. Specifically identified seating will be available for other participants in the session of the Conference.

13. Participants are reminded that mobile telephones should be either switched off or switched to “silent” mode during all proceedings.

Simultaneous interpretation

14. In the proceedings of the plenary and the Main Committee, interventions made in any of the official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish) will be interpreted into the other official languages.

15. A participant may speak in a language other than the official languages. In this case, however, the speaker must inform the Meetings Management Unit, located in floor -1, in advance and provide for interpretation into one of the official languages. Interpretation into the other official languages will then be provided by the Secretariat’s official interpreters.

16. Each seat in the meeting rooms at the Conference venue with simultaneous interpretation equipment will be provided with a portable receiver set and headphones. **As these receivers must be serviced**

between meetings, participants are requested not to remove them from the meetings rooms.

Speakers in the general debate

17. The list of speakers for the Plenary meetings was opened on 7 October 2019. As of 3 November, once the Conference has started, delegates who wish to speak in the Plenary are requested to give their names to the Conference Officer in the Plenary Hall. The names of speakers will be entered on the list in the order in which the requests are received.

18. Delegates are urged to keep the duration of their statements in the general debate to a maximum of **5 minutes for national statements, 10 minutes for statements of regional groups.**

19. Time for short statements of representatives of the United Nations, its agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations may be accommodated, to the extent possible, after the statements of the delegations within the time frame allotted for the general debate.

Prepared statements

20. To facilitate the work of the interpreters and press officers, speakers are requested to submit in advance and as early as possible, at least 10 copies of their statements to the Conference Services Desk in the Plenary Hall.

Sound recordings

21. Sound recordings will be made of the meetings of the Plenary and the Main Committee. The sound recordings will be available at <https://extranet.unido.org/>.

Documents distribution

22. The main documents of the Conference will be available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Pre-session documents are published on the UNIDO website (www.unido.org/gc/18). As part of the Secretariat’s efforts to reduce expenditure and support endeavours to limit environmental impact through the digitization of conference materials and publications, documents are only issued electronically. English versions of the pre-session documents are provided on the USB stick distributed to participants at the registration desk together with the conference access cards. **All participants are urged to bring these documents with them.** Participants are also urged to bring with them UNIDO basic documents – i.e. the Constitution, rules of procedure, decisions of the General Conference and the Board, etc. – since, as part of its saving measures, the Secretariat does not reproduce documents that have been

the subject of wide distribution on previous occasions. These basic documents are also available on the UNIDO website (www.unido.org). Participants are also informed that conference room papers will not be printed and are available from the Permanent Missions' Extranet.

23. During the Conference, in-session documents (except for the conference room papers) may be collected from the Documents Distribution Counter (outside the Plenary Hall) where each delegation will have a pigeonhole. The Documents Distribution Counter will be open each day of the session from 8.30 a.m. and will close half an hour after the end of the last meeting of the day.

24. Delegations are reminded that the pigeonholes are to be used exclusively for the distribution of official documents of the Conference and may not be used for the circulation of any other papers or documents. Requests for distribution of official invitations or material other than legislative documents through the Documents Distribution Counter must be submitted to the Executive Secretary.

Submission of draft decisions or resolutions

25. The deadline set by the informal consultations for the submission of draft decisions and resolutions has expired. The General Committee will take a decision in relation to any additional texts at its first meeting.

Summary records

26. In line with decision IDB.46/Dec.3 (e), written summary records will not be provided for this session and will continue to be replaced with digital recordings. The sound recordings will be made of the meetings of the Plenary and the Main Committee. The sound recordings will be made available in all official languages on the UNIDO Extranet (<http://extranet.unido.org>).

Information Counter

27. An information counter for participants will be available at the venue for general information related to the facilities of the Conference venue and Abu Dhabi. The Information Desk is located at the entrance of the Main Lobby, close to the Documents Distribution area.

Media

28. Representatives of the media – print media, photo, radio, television and film, news agencies and online media – who fully meet United Nations media accreditation requirements can be registered. Please send an email to: s.sackda@unido.org with a copy to c.groessing@unido.org.

29. Media representatives wishing to cover the event must apply for accreditation before or during the session via the relevant link on the Conference website (www.unido.org/gc/18).

30. Times of press briefings will be announced in advance.

31. Media representatives covering the session should contact Mr. Sayaphol Sackda (email: s.sackda@unido.org) to provide exact details of the equipment that they wish to bring to the United Arab Emirates, as some equipment may require special permission from the national authorities.

Conference premises and services

32. The following facilities will be available to participants at the conference centre:

United Nations Security and Safety Service

33. The United Nations Security and Safety Service will be available 24 hours/day at the Emirates Palace Hotel. The Duty Officer can assist with general queries.

Medical services

34. Medical attention will be available at the medical centre in the Main Lobby (close to the escalators). The centre will be open on weekdays from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. In case of an emergency after regular working hours, please apply to the Security Duty Room.

Meditation rooms

35. Meditation rooms for men and for women will be available on site. Further details could be provided at the Information Counter.

Lost and found

36. During the Conference, a lost and found office will operate in the Emirates Palace. Further details could be provided at the Information Counter.

Parking facilities

37. Parking is available on-site and is free of charge for all guests staying at the Emirates Palace. The protocol cars of the delegations can be parked at the on-site parking free of charge, provided they have been registered by 30 October 2019 at: Yusri.naji@emiratespalace.ae.

Office space for delegations

38. Due to space limitations at the venue, it will not be possible for delegations to rent office space.

Delegates' lounge

39. A delegates' lounge will be available in the main lobby/exhibition area close to the Plenary Hall. Should delegates wish to meet in a separate room, a room will be made available directly in front of the Plenary Hall (right next to the main lobby/exhibition area).

Cyber corners

40. A cyber corner will be available on floor -1 with desktop computers connected to the Internet. Delegates may use these computers to access the Internet. Delegates with devices with wireless capability will be able to wirelessly access the Internet throughout the venue.

Catering services

41. Coffee bars and snack corners, as well as dining areas for participants will be operational at preferential rates at the venue.

Banking services

42. Banking services/Exchange Bureau and ATM services will be available on floor 1, close to the registration area.

Security advice

43. Participants are advised not to leave briefcases and other personal items unattended. Suspicious objects should be reported to the United Nations Security and Safety Service immediately.

Travel services

44. A travel agency will be available to participants requiring assistance with travel, sightseeing, car rental and excursions.

Smoking

45. Smoking is not permitted in the Emirates Palace Hotel except in specially designated areas (i.e. on a terrace in front of the Plenary Hall). Smoking is not permitted in conference and meeting rooms.

Use of cellular telephones and laptops

46. Participants are reminded that mobile telephones should be either switched off or switched to "silent" mode during all proceedings.

Geography

47. The United Arab Emirates is situated in the Middle East/South-West Asia, bordering the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf. It borders Qatar in the north-west, Saudi Arabia in the west, south, and south-east, and Oman in the south-east and north-east.

Climate

48. The climate of the United Arab Emirates is generally very hot and sunny during the day, and cool at night. The average temperature in November is 25°C. Abu Dhabi gets on average one day of measurable rain in November.

Language

49. The official language in the United Arab Emirates is Arabic. Other widely spoken languages include Bengali, English, Farsi, Hindi, Malayalam, Mandarin, Nepali, Russian, Sinhalese, Tagalog and Urdu.

Currency

50. The Emirati Dirham is the official currency of the United Arab Emirates, abbreviated as AED. The dirham is divided into 100 fils.

51. The Emirati Dirham is pegged to the US\$. 1 US\$ = AED 3.673*. Most hotels, restaurants and shops accept internationally recognized credit cards. Taxis in Abu Dhabi generally accept cash only.

52. Bank notes and travellers' cheques may be brought into the United Arab Emirates without restriction. However, as not all currencies are in equal demand, some might not be easily convertible. Departing visitors may take with them any foreign and local currency and securities that they brought into the country. It is recommended that visitors keep receipts of major currency exchange transactions in case they need to exchange currency again before leaving the country.

Time

53. The United Arab Emirates lies within the Gulf Standard Time (GMT/UTC + 4 hours).

Taxes and tipping

54. The United Arab Emirates levies a value added tax (VAT) of 5 per cent on the consumption or use of goods and services.

55. Tipping is not expected, but is commonly practised. Gratuities to hotel and restaurant staff are at the customer's discretion. Many fine dining and high-end restaurants may add a service charge (usually

* As of 30 October 2019.

around 10 per cent) and a tourism levy of 6 per cent to the bill. These charges are often included in the menu prices and the menu will mention it when they are. If these charges are not included, one may wish to add a 10 to 15 per cent tip to the total bill.

Electricity

56. Domestic supply is 220/240 volts at 50 Hz. Sockets suitable for three-pin 13 AMPs plugs of British standard design are the norm. Appliances have two-pin plugs attached.

Telephone services and useful telephone numbers

57. The country code for the United Arab Emirates is 971.

58. Telephone services are available in hotels, restaurants and cafes.

59. The United Arab Emirates have two main network providers: Etisalat and du. Pre-paid mobile telephone cards are available at the airport and in branded stores in the main shopping malls. Both network providers have shops in the arrival halls of all three terminals at the airports of Dubai and Abu Dhabi, where the SIM card can be purchased without surcharge. For buying a SIM card, a passport with a visa stamp is required. Dialling is as follows:

For local calls:

(a) From landline telephone to landline telephone: (landline telephone number);

(b) From landline telephone to mobile phone: (mobile phone number);

(c) From mobile phone to landline phone: (02) + (landline phone number) for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi; (04) for the Emirate of Dubai;

(d) From mobile phone to mobile phone: (mobile phone number).

For international calls:

(a) 00 + (country code) + (city code) + (landline telephone number);

(b) 00 + (country code) + (mobile phone number).

Flights information

60. Flight information may be obtained by accessing the following websites: <http://www.abudhabiairport.ac/english/flight-information/> for Abu Dhabi (AUH) and <https://www.dubaiairports.ac/flight-status> for Dubai (DXB).

61. Participants are responsible for making their own arrangements for accommodation. A facility for booking accommodation has been provided by the host country and is available online via: <https://www.etihadholidays.com/en-ot/events/unido#transferFormto>. Should participants require assistance with the booking of flights, and to avail of discounted rates on select carries and routes, they are welcome to contact conferencetravel@etihad.ae.

Postal, facsimile and Internet services

62. Postal and facsimile facilities are available at post offices and in most major hotels (including the Emirates Palace). Internet services are also available at most major hotels and cybercafés in Abu Dhabi.

Business hours

63. Government offices are generally open Sunday to Thursday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. or from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Some might end their working days at 5 p.m. Private companies normally operate between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (or 6 p.m.), and some of them also work on Saturdays.

64. Malls typically open around 10 a.m. in the morning and stay open until 10 at night or longer. Especially on weekends, opening times continue late into the night. On Fridays, the majority of shops only open in the afternoon, and some smaller shops do not open at all.

For further information, please refer to documents GC.18/INF.1/Rev.1 “Information for participants”.

Floor plan of the General Conference facilities in the Emirates Palace Hotel



