

## Organisation

### The IAEA Policy-Making Organs Providing Guidance for the Agency's work

#### What should I know?

The IAEA's principal objective is to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. Based on this objective, the IAEA has pursued the goal of making nuclear science and technology available to its Member States to use in a safe, secure and peaceful manner.

The IAEA General Conference and the Board of Governors are the Policy-Making Organs (PMOs) of the IAEA, which determine policy and oversee the main aspects of the IAEA's work. The PMOs ensure the effective implementation of the IAEA's mandate, in accordance with the IAEA Statute.

The powers and functions of the PMOs are provided for in the IAEA Statute, and the conduct of business in each organ is governed by its respective rules of procedure.

The General Conference convenes annually at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna, Austria. The Board of Governors normally meets five times per year, also in Vienna.

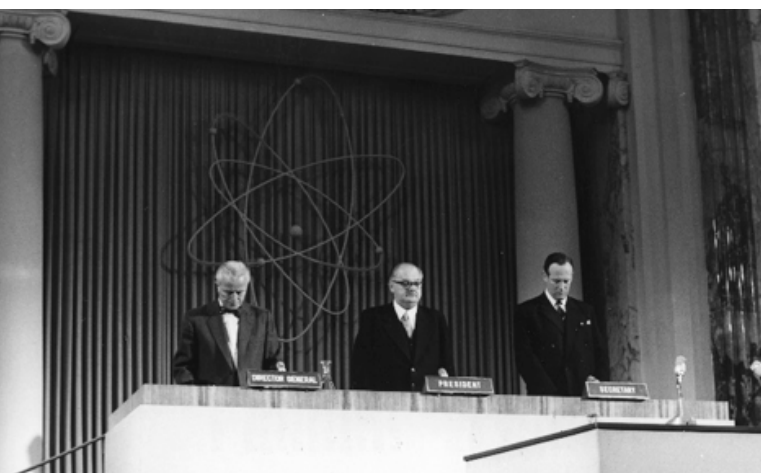
#### The role of the IAEA General Conference

The General Conference is composed of representatives of all Member States of the IAEA. The General Conference meets in regular annual sessions, traditionally in the month of September, at the Headquarters of the IAEA in Vienna, unless otherwise determined by it.

The General Conference may discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of the IAEA Statute or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the Statute. It may make recommendations to IAEA Member States and/or to the Board of Governors on any such questions or

**IAEA 61<sup>st</sup> General Conference, 18 September 2017, Vienna, Austria.** (Photo: Dean Calma/IAEA)





### **IAEA Opening session of the second annual General Conference of the IAEA (Former imperial palace of Hofburg, Vienna, Austria, 22 September 1958).**

(Photo: IAEA)

matters and it may decide on any matter specifically referred to it by the Board of Governors. Each Member State has one vote.

The main functions of the General Conference include:

- Electing members to the Board of Governors;
- Approving States' applications for membership to the IAEA;
- Approving the IAEA's budget;
- Approving the appointment of the Director General;
- Considering the annual report of the IAEA submitted to it by the Board of Governors.

The General Conference elects a President who, having due regard to equitable geographical representation, proposes to the General Conference for election the names of eight Vice-Presidents and the name of a Chairman of the Committee of the Whole. They hold office until the close of the session at which they are elected. The General Conference also appoints a General Committee and its officers and members, and it may set up any further committees as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

The General Committee, which reports to the General Conference, considers the provisional agenda and proposes the allocation of agenda items for discussion either in Conference committees or at plenary meetings of the General Conference. It also meets as a credentials committee for the purpose of examining the credentials of all delegates attending the Conference. It also examines any requests of Member States for the restoration of voting rights.

The Committee of the Whole is the main committee of the General Conference. It considers and reports to the General Conference on agenda items referred to it by the General Conference and recommends draft resolutions relating to those items for adoption by the General Conference at its plenary meetings.

The conduct of business of the General Conference and its committees are subject to the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference.

The General Conference is attended by representatives of all IAEA Member States, invited non Member States and international organizations. One of the highlights of the General Conference is the General Debate, where high-level representatives of IAEA Member States, entities and international organizations have an opportunity to address the General Conference, at its plenary meetings, on issues of relevance to the work of the IAEA.

All documentation related to the General Conference is available on the IAEA website — General Conference Archives ([www-legacy.iaea.org/About/Policy/GC/GC62/Documents](http://www-legacy.iaea.org/About/Policy/GC/GC62/Documents)).

### **The role of the IAEA Board of Governors**

The Board of Governors is composed of 35 members and normally meets five times per year: in March and June, twice in September (before and after the General Conference) and in November. The Board has the authority to carry out the functions of the IAEA in accordance with the Statute, subject to its responsibilities to the General Conference.

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The main functions of the Board include:

- Submitting the annual report of the IAEA to the General Conference;
- Considering reports by the IAEA Director General;
- Authorizing the IAEA Director General to conclude and implement safeguards agreements;
- Establishing IAEA safety standards;
- Appointing the IAEA Director General;
- Recommending the IAEA's budget for approval by the General Conference;
- Designating Board members.

Over the years, the Board has established committees for a variety of purposes and currently has two standing committees, as follows: the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC) and the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee (TACC). Both committees are chaired by the Chairman of the Board and their membership is the same as that of the Board.

The Programme and Budget Committee is a subsidiary body which makes recommendations on the IAEA's programme and budget and other

financial and administrative matters. It usually meets in May.

The Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee makes recommendations to the Board on the IAEA's technical cooperation programme. It usually meets in November.

The conduct of business of the Board and its committees is subject to the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Board of Governors, as amended up to 23 February 1989.

## Representation of Members

Each member of the Board designates one person as its Governor. Each Governor may be accompanied by alternates, experts and advisers. The Governor and all such alternates, experts and advisers constitute the Member's delegation to the Board. Each Governor may designate a member of his/her delegation to act in his/her place at the Board. The written credentials of each Governor shall be issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Member State concerned and shall be submitted to the Director General.

### General view of the first meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA, Vienna, Austria, 1957). (Photo: IAEA)





**(Left to right) IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano, Chairman Board of Governors Darmansjah Djumala and Secretary of the Policy Making Organs Aruni Wijewardane at the June 2018 Board of Governors meeting.** (Photo: D. Calma/IAEA)

## Officers of the Board

The Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons are elected from among the accredited Governors at the first meeting of the Board after the end of each regular annual session of the General Conference and shall hold office for one year.

The Chairperson or, in his/her absence or disability, one of the Vice-Chairpersons acting as Chairperson, presides at all meetings of the Board. As presiding officer, he/she declares the opening and closing of each meeting of the Board, directs the discussions, ensures observance of the Provisional Rules of Procedure, accords the right to speak, puts

questions and announces decisions. He/she rules on points of order and, subject to the Provisional Rules of Procedure, has control of the proceedings of the Board and over the maintenance of order at its meetings.

For further information and support please contact:

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[GC.Contact-Point@iaea.org](mailto:GC.Contact-Point@iaea.org)

## References

1. IAEA Statute, as amended up to 28 December 1989.
2. Rules of Procedure of the General Conference (GC(XXXI)/INF/245/Rev.1).
3. Provisional Rules of Procedures of the Board of Governors (GOV/INF/500/Rev.1).

IAEA Factsheets are produced by the Office of Public Information and Communication

Editor: Aabha Dixit • Design and Layout: Ritu Kenn

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