

RESOLUTION No.10

Modalities of holding General Sessions

HAVING REGARD TO

The Adapted Procedure adopted in 2020,

Article 39 of the General Rules of the OIE,

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE was obliged to put in place, in extremis and as a primary response to the unprecedented restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, temporary arrangements to ensure continuity of decision-making,
2. The OIE therefore postponed the 88th General Session and, on the recommendation of the Council, put in place a special written procedure in May 2020 (named *Adapted Procedure*) for the purpose of adopting certain resolutions by the Assembly in a timely fashion,
3. The pandemic has generally speaking also accelerated the introduction of new digital working tools and methods which has improved the OIE's agility and efficiency,
4. The General Rules do not preclude the possibility for a General Session to be held virtually/remotely. Article 39 provides that "*Except when the Assembly at a previous session, or in exceptional circumstances the Council, decides otherwise, the annual session of the Assembly (named "General Session") shall be held in the month of May in Paris*",
5. In light of modern information and communication technologies, the "place" of a meeting can be interpreted not only as a physical place but also as a "virtual place" using remote videoconferencing technologies,
6. The COVID-19 pandemic, which still prevents large physical meetings in 2021, is deemed to amount to such exceptional circumstances,
7. In this regard, the Council, in order to ensure the legitimate functioning of the Assembly during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and mindful of the necessity to provide all Members with the opportunity to fully participate in discussions and decision-making, decided to use the possibility offered by article 39 of the General Rules to hold the 88th General Session virtually/remotely and to put in place special arrangements adapted to this format,
8. Article 39 of the General Rules must also be read as offering the possibility to the Assembly to decide, through a resolution, to validly meet and take decisions, in normal circumstances, not only in physical/in-person meetings, but also in virtual/remote meetings, by correspondence/written procedure, at another location than Paris (in case of in-person meetings) and at another period of time than May,
9. It is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, and in light of Article 39's object and purpose of providing flexibility, that the Assembly afford the OIE with the flexibility, in normal circumstances, to adjust the location and time of the General Session, and make other arrangements which enhance agility and efficiency,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

1. To authorise the OIE, in normal circumstances, with the prior endorsement of the Council:
 - a) to conduct the General Session through physical or virtual / hybrid format when the conduct of physical/in-person meetings is deemed not possible, practical or desirable; and accordingly,
 - b) to alter the location, time, duration, agenda items and more generally the arrangements of the General Session from past practice when there is a legitimate reason, such as but not limited to, focusing on agenda items of substantive content, improving time management, or achieving other types of efficiency gains.
2. In the event the General Session is held through virtual or hybrid means, all requirements set out in Chapter 13 of the OIE General Rules remain unchanged and applicable except to the extent that they are inconsistent with the nature of the virtual or hybrid format and related arrangements, in which case (i.) the relevant provisions of the Basic Texts will be suspended to the extent necessary¹⁰, and (ii.) special arrangements and adequate security measures considered necessary should be put in place to verify the identity of participants and, whenever applicable, their credentials, and to ensure reliable and secure remote voting when required.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2021
in view of an entry into force on 29 May 2021)

¹⁰ This will affect notably the relevant provisions of the following articles of the General Rules:
- Article 46 (organisation of the seating of Delegations); and
- Article 52 (ballot)