

General Conference

GC(69)/1/Add.4

Date: 18 August 2025

General Distribution

Original: English

Sixty-ninth regular session

Provisional agenda

Supplementary item for inclusion in the provisional agenda

1. On 15 August 2025, the Secretariat received a request, submitted by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan, for the inclusion of an item entitled “Restoration of the Sovereign Equality of Member States in the IAEA” in the agenda of the 69th (2025) regular session of the General Conference.
2. Pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference¹, this item is hereby placed on a supplementary list which will be circulated not later than 26 August 2025. The letter from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the accompanying explanatory memorandum relating to the inclusion of this item are attached hereto.
3. It is suggested, for consideration by the General Committee, that this item follow the item circulated in GC(69)/1/Add.3 and be discussed first in the Plenary.

¹ Rules 13 and 20, GC(XXXI)/INF/245/Rev.1.



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN VIENNA**

30-35/164-2025

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the International Atomic Energy Agency and as a follow up of the deliberations of the 66th, 67th and 68th Annual Regular Sessions of the IAEA General Conference and in accordance with the Resolution GC(67)/RES/15 from 29 September 2023 entitled "*Restoration of the Sovereign Equality of Member States in the IAEA*" has the honour to request the inclusion of an item entitled "*Restoration of the Sovereign Equality of Member States in the IAEA*" into the agenda of the 69th Session of the General Conference starting on 15 September 2025.

The relevant explanatory note is attached.

Attachment: 2 p.

The Permanent Mission avails itself of this opportunity to renew its compliments to IAEA the assurances of its highest consideration.

« 14 » August 2025



**INTERNATIONAL
ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

Vienna

EXPLANATORY NOTE
on the agenda item entitled
“Restoration of the Sovereign Equality of Member States in the IAEA”

In accordance with Article IV.C of the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), all Member States shall be treated with sovereign equality, enjoying equal and non-discriminatory opportunities to participate in the Agency’s decision-making processes. Notwithstanding this legally binding principle, certain Member States, despite fully compliant with all statutory obligations, including financial contributions, have been systematically excluded from such participation. This exclusion constitutes a material breach of the IAEA’s foundational legal framework, effectively denying these States their rights and privileges under international law and undermining the legitimacy and fairness of the Agency’s governance.

Since 2021, Kazakhstan has led efforts to address this imbalance by consistently introducing a dedicated agenda item on the issue at each session of the IAEA Board of Governors and the General Conference. Through extensive consultations with Member States and the Chairs of the eight regional groups, Kazakhstan identified 17 Member States unaffiliated with any regional group, referred to as “Arealess”, and formally recognized them in INFCIRC/1116, issued on 10 August 2023. This marked the first official acknowledgment of the issue and filled a critical informational gap.

On 29 September 2023, during its 67th session, the IAEA General Conference adopted a landmark resolution reaffirming the principle of sovereign equality. Co-sponsored by 56 Member States, the resolution confirmed the existence of 17 Arealess States, highlighted the unlawful conditions imposed by regional groups for membership, noted the failure of many Member States to ratify the 1999 Amendment to Article VI (*still not in force after 25 years*), and warned that continued inaction would perpetuate violations of both the UN Charter and the IAEA Statute.

Under Slovenia's chairmanship, the "Group of Friends of Arealess Member States" proposed fair and transparent criteria for integrating Arealess States into regional groups. Although Arealess States accepted these criteria and submitted collective applications, only the SEAP group acted promptly and without prejudice in admitting Brunei Darussalam. The MESA group, after considerable difficulty in reaching consensus, has so far admitted only two States – Bahrain and Nepal, representing the Middle East and South Asia, respectively.

Ahead of the 68th session of the General Conference, Argentina assumed the chairmanship of the Group of Friends and proposed an interim mechanism to safeguard the rights of Arealess States. Despite support from the Arealess States, differing views among other Member States and regional groups have been preventing the mechanism's implementation.

Taking into consideration the absence of the progress, Kazakhstan and the Arealess Member States expressed their willingness to directly nominate themselves to the IAEA Board of Governors during the 69th session of the General Conference. This step, fully consistent with the IAEA Statute, underscores the urgency of restoring their participation rights and reaffirms the enduring legal and institutional importance of the principle of sovereign equality within the Agency.