

Division of Conference Services (DCS)



Who are we?

- DCS is part of a global conference services capacity managed under shared responsibility by the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) and the Director-General of UNON.
- DGACM is the United Nations focal point on multilingualism.

Our mandate

- To facilitate and enhance dialogue and cooperation among Member States;
- Provide conference services to the official United Nations calendar meetings sessions in Nairobi (UNEA, UN-Habitat Assembly and their subsidiary organs);
- Service on “if available” basis, meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States;
- Provide a variety of conference services to UN agencies, funds and programmes, non-calendar intergovernmental bodies and permanent missions on reimbursable basis.

Range of services

- Meetings / documentation management and meeting services;
- Translation, editing, report writing and text processing in all 6 UN languages;
- Interpretation in all 6 UN languages;
- Graphic design, printing and exhibition services;

Covid-19 pandemic impact

- Due to COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, there has been significant disruption in meeting services that saw major meetings cancelled. However, the Division has adapted to provide meetings virtually through contracted vendors by the UN Secretariat.

COVID-19 Protocols in providing conference Services

- The Division has compiled guidelines that will be put in place to facilitate the organization and conduct of “in-person meetings” at the UNON complex
- They serve to reinforce other protective and mitigation measures that will be put in place to trigger a safer reopening of the compound to both staff and stakeholders conducting official business at the UNON complex
- It is framed from both WHO protocols and the Host Country’s existing COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions relating to public gatherings

Remote simultaneous interpretation (RSI)

- The virtual meetings have been conducted through remote simultaneous interpretation. On one hand this has enabled meeting organizers to conduct some of the major meetings virtually and the team of interpreters at UNON supplemented by freelance capacity has been at hand to support this process successfully.

RSI (cont'd)

- However, provision of remote interpretation has not been without challenges affecting the interpreters and with that I would like to invite Ms. Salima Atiaoui to provide a brief outcome of the Remote Interpretation Task Forces (RITFs) of the major Conference servicing duty stations of New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi.

Questions?