

**Statement by HE. Mr. Sofiane Mimouni
Chair of the Committee on Conferences for its substantive session in 2020**

Agenda item 144: Pattern of conferences

**Mr. Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,**

It is my privilege to introduce the Report of the Committee on Conferences for 2020 in my capacity as Chair of the Committee. The Committee report, as contained in document A/75/32,

of conference servicing resources and facilities

All four duty stations made efforts to improve the interpretation utilization factor, in accordance with section II, paragraph 18 of resolution 74/252, by engaging relevant intergovernmental and expert bodies, as appropriate

The Committee commended DGACM for ensuring the continuity of conference services during the COVID-19 pandemic, while noting with concern the impact of the measures in response to the liquidity situation and COVID-19 on the provision of language services and the management of meetings

**Mr. Chair;
Distinguished Delegates,**

On documents management, the Committee noted the improvement in the submission and processing of slotted documents and took note that all duty stations maintained 100 percent in simultaneous issuance of documents in all six official languages in 2019

The Committee also highlighted that the timely issuance of verbatim records constitutes an important part of the services provided to Member States

**Mr. Chair;
Distinguished Delegates,**

On staffing, the Committee noted that as a result of the recruitment restrictions imposed in October in response to the liquidity crisis the vacancy rates by duty station in key occupational groups has increased, particularly in the translation services in New York

The Committee requested the Secretary-General to continue to make efforts to ensure that multilingualism, as a fundamental value of the Organization, is not undermined by the measures in response to the liquidity crisis, as well as by the COVID-19 pandemic

The Committee supported the memorandum of understanding with education institutions as a way to strengthen the training of language professionals in order to facilitate the recruitment of qualified language staff and, as enshrined in the General Assembly resolutions on multilingualism, highlighted the importance of giving equal treatment and an equally favourable working conditions and resources to all language services

**Mr. Chair;
Distinguished Delegates,**

On the improvement of facilities and accessibility, the Committee on Conferences welcomed the measures related to conference services for persons with disabilities and requested the Secretary-General to continue to address those issues as a priority.

On measuring the quality of conference services, the Committee was updated on feedback received from the global e survey conducted by DGACM

Before I conclude, Mr. Chair, I would like to thank the Bureau and the members of the Committee for their active and constructive participation during the substantive session, which enabled the Committee to have meaningful and productive discussions, particularly during this difficult time of the pandemic. I would also like to express our gratitude to Mr. Moses Abelian,