

Frequently asked questions

(as of 17 February 2021)



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1–3 March and
5 March 2021
[VIRTUAL]

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United Nations
Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Registration:

Reminder: delegations must register via eDelegate through their Permanent Mission to access the 52nd session of the Statistical Commission.

1. *What is the procedure to register our delegation?*

Answer: Country delegations must register through their Permanent Missions. Please refer to the Note Verbale sent to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York on 19 January 2021 located under Resources at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/52nd-session/>

You can find the contact information for your Permanent Mission on the following website: <http://www.un.org/en/member-states/index.html>.

2. *How long will the registration be open?*

Answer: All delegations are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Only registered delegations will receive information on accessing the platform.

3. *For the NSOs delegation, do we need to register each member of a delegation to attend the online meeting?*

Answer: Yes, all delegates need to be registered through the Permanent Mission. Delegations are kindly encouraged to limit the number of experts who will actively participate in the session's work. Due to the platform's user capacity, there will be restrictions on the size of delegations that will have direct access to the platform. *Delegations will be provided with access links for a lead delegate* (usually the head of NSOs or the head of agency delegation) and *an alternate or advisor* from the delegation. However, due to the capacity limitation of the platform, we kindly request for additional members of the delegation to participate in the proceedings of the 52nd session which will be simultaneously broadcast online and viewed through <http://webtv.un.org> in the six official languages of the United Nations.

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4. *Considering the potential capacity limitation of the virtual platform, will there be a limit on the size of delegations from each Country?*

Answer: UN Member States are encouraged to kindly limit their delegations to the experts who will actively participate in the Session's work. Due to the platform's user capacity, there is a limit in the number of members of a delegation who may be able to take part as an active participant. In order to reduce the stress on the virtual platform and enable all delegations to be accommodated, delegations are therefore advised to limit the number of their representative who access the platform to a principal/lead delegate and an alternate or adviser. There will be two distinct links to access the Commission's virtual meetings; i.e. a primary link for a lead delegate (usually the head of NSOs or the head of agency delegation); and a separate link for viewing only for an alternate or advisor from the delegation. The proceedings of the 52nd session will be simultaneously broadcast online and viewed through <http://webtv.un.org> in the six official languages of the United Nations.

5. *How do we register as an intergovernmental organization (IGOs)?*

Answer: All accredited IGOs are requested to register through the Statistics Division (wangl@un.org). Non-accredited IGOs are required to register with UN Statistics Division before 07 February 2021. However, registrations of non-accredited IGOs are no longer being accepted as their participation has been placed under an informal silence procedure for Commission's approval of their participation prior to the commencement of the session.

6. *How do we register as NGO or CSO?*

Answer: The Statistical Commission, an inter-governmental body, generally welcomes the participation of non-members and the representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) in various aspects of its work, as observers. However, due to the exceptional circumstances of the virtual session and related constraints, NGOs/CSOs are encouraged to follow the proceedings of calendared virtual meetings of the forthcoming 52nd session of the Commission through the webcast accessible on <http://webtv.un.org/>.

Representatives of CSOs are welcome to attend all open side events.

Platform:

1. *What platform will be used for the 52nd session of UNSC?*

Answer: The 'Interprefy' platform will be used for the virtual meetings of 52nd session of the Committee, which will be provided with remote simultaneous interpretation in six official languages of the United Nations. Additional information on the platform will be shared with delegations prior to the commencement of the 52nd session.

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2. *Who can access the Interprefy platform?*

Answer: Due to the capacity constraints of the platform, we are requesting that delegations identify within their delegations one lead delegate (usually the head of NSOs or the head of agency delegation) and one alternate or advisor who will access the platform.

3. *How will the rest of our delegation follow the proceedings?*

Answer: As usual, the Commission's proceedings will be webcast on UN WebTV. We kindly request for additional members of the delegation to follow the proceedings of the 52nd session via the webcast viewed through <http://webtv.un.org> and available in the six official languages of the United Nations.

4. *How can the identified delegates of our delegation access the platform?*

Answer: Registered delegations will be provided with access links to the Interprefy platform to join the virtual meetings of the 52nd session of the Statistical Commission. Two distinct links to access the Commission's virtual meetings will be provided to registered delegations:

- a primary link for a lead delegate (usually the head of NSOs or the head of agency delegation); and
- a separate link for viewing only for an alternate or advisor from the delegation.

5. *Will there be a possibility to test technical connections before the session?*

Answer: Yes, prior to the Commission's session, there will be training/ "onboarding" sessions provided by conference services for the lead delegates. These "onboarding" sessions help familiarize lead delegates with the platform. Lead delegates (who will have/use the delegate link) will be invited to a training session ("onboarding") to familiarize them with the Interprefy platform. Again, due to the capacity limitations of the platform, only the main/lead delegate can be onboarded. The user guide on the Interprefy platform can be found under Resources on the commission's website (include URL).

Written statements:

1. *What is a written statement?*

Answer: Written statements provide an opportunity for delegations to contribute to the substantive discussion on the agenda items of the 52nd session. The official documents contain "Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission" which the Commission is invited to discuss. All written statements received will be available on the Commission's website and will inform the draft summary/decisions. Written statements are expected to address the topic under agenda item and contain substantive elements as well as delegations' overall position on the topic. Delegations are advised to avoid detailed expositions of methodology or the reporting of routine activities and national practices in their written statements.

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2. *Who can submit written statements?*

Answer: Written statement can be submitted by the head of delegation or designated official, or on behalf of the head of delegation/designated official. Statements can be submitted through the International office of an NSO on behalf of the head of the delegation. The Secretariat kindly requests for the submission of statements to be coordinated at the national level.

3. *Where can one find the template for written statements?*

Answer: Further information on the written statements, including the templates for each agenda item, can be found: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/52nd-session/documents/#statements>.

4. *What is the process to participate in the 52nd session of the Statistical Commission?*

Answer: Due to the unique circumstances of convening the 52nd session in a virtual platform and that the standard duration for provision of remote simultaneous interpretation for virtual meetings is two hours, opportunities to take the floor will be limited. Therefore, it is encouraged to submit written statements prior to the session. Delegations are requested to indicate their wish to take the floor *ahead* of the informal meetings of the Commission to facilitate the smooth conduct of the virtual meetings. In the request, you can indicate the name and title of the representative from the delegation who would like to take the floor if not the designated official and on which agenda item the request is made. That information provided in timely manner will help the Presiding Officer and the Secretariat in identifying the speaker requesting the floor and activating his/her microphone on the virtual platform.

For more information, please see Para 12 in the provisional modality paper ([https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/52nd-session/resources/STATCOM%20Proposed%20modalities%20on%20the%20arrangements%20for%20the%20work%20of%2052nd%20session%20\(final\)Upload.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/52nd-session/resources/STATCOM%20Proposed%20modalities%20on%20the%20arrangements%20for%20the%20work%20of%2052nd%20session%20(final)Upload.pdf))

Side Events:

1. *Are the organizers responsible for choosing the platform to be used?*

Answer: Organizers of side events will be responsible for all IT related issues, such as arranging the virtual platform to host their events, meeting invitations, liaising with participants for registration and technical issues during the event, etc. UNSD will be responsible only for publicizing events on a calendar via the website. For any technical issues related to accessing side events, please contact the individual organizers. Information on the side events is available online and updated daily. For further information on the side events, please see the calendar of Side Events: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/52nd-session/side-events>.

2. *Do the speakers at a side event need to register for the UNSC?*

Answer: No, speakers at side events do not need to register for the session.

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General Question:

1. *When will the official invitation letter be sent?*

Answer: The official notification in the form of a Note Verbale was sent to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York on 19 January 2021. A notification letter from the Director of UNSD was sent to all countries on 20 January 2021.

For your ease, all correspondences have been uploaded under “Resources” on the Commission’s website: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/52nd-session>.

2. *Where can I find materials from the Global Chat?*

Answer: The presentation and recording of the Global Chat have been posted online: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/52nd-session/side-events/1st-global-chat>.

3. *What is the “silence procedure”?*

Answer: The silence procedure provides UN Member States with at least 72 hours to raise objections on a draft resolution or decision and allows for explanations of position. Voting is not currently possible in this scenario for technical reasons. If the silence is not broken, the decision should be considered adopted. Upon expiration of 72 hours, the Chair will inform all UN Member States whether the silence was passed or broken.

The General Assembly (Under decision 74/544, “Procedure for taking decisions of the General Assembly during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic”, adopted on 27 March 2020 and subsequent decisions) and the Economic and Social Council (decision 2020/205 entitled “Procedure for taking decisions of the Economic and Social Council during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”) have utilized the silence procedure modality for their decisions making.