



Closing message Dr Yinbiao Shu IEC President

This brings to an end our Council Statutory Session and, as your President, I would like to share a few brief remarks. I would like to thank our hosts for organizing the General Meeting in unusual circumstances which required the accommodation of both face-to-face and online participation. This has resulted in additional effort which I greatly appreciate.

Because of these unusual circumstances, many have missed the networking and camaraderie that we usually share at IEC General Meetings. As I am sure you will agree, online meetings are not always as satisfactory or stimulating as when we meet in person and catch up with colleagues, many of whom have become our friends.

Yet we must also consider the enormous benefit of online meetings. As we say, every cloud has a silver lining. In this case, we have been able to attract participants who would not have otherwise been able to attend. As you are well aware, online meetings reduce costs and save time spent on travel.

Looking to the future, I am not advocating for online video conferencing to replace our meetings. Instead, we should exploit what we have learned in the past year and days and harness new tools to encourage flexibility and inclusiveness. I hope that we can find ways to include remote access so that everyone has the opportunity to participate.

The pandemic has accelerated the pace of digitalization. We are in a period of significant transformation, including at the IEC.

With the approval of the new governance system, I believe that the IEC is in a strong position to confront the challenges ahead. The new governance system will strengthen the transparency and efficiency of the organization so that we can better respond to the needs of our stakeholders and successfully lead the IEC into the future. It will require a strong engagement from all of us next year to operate a successful transition and implementation of the new governance structures and processes. But I know that I can count on your commitment and enthusiasm as well as on the expertise and dedication of Central Office to make it happen.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to Jo Cops as the next IEC President. Jo has worked tirelessly for the IEC in his capacity as IEC Treasurer for the past years and, most recently, as Chair of the Strategic Plan Taskforce. The IEC is in able hands with Jo at the helm of the organization.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to our General Secretary and his staff for their work in putting together this Council Statutory Session under these unique conditions. And, to all of the participants today, I would like to thank you personally and on behalf of the Council for your commitment and dedication to the IEC and the trust you place in its leadership.

This meeting is now closed.