

## AIPC and UFI Release Second Guide to Convention and Exhibition Centres Managing COVID-19 Consequences

*Brussels / Paris* – 15 April 2020: Exhibition venues and convention centres around the world are currently increasingly being converted into temporary hospitals and health centres in the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. A new guide, produced jointly by AIPC, the International Association of Convention Centres and UFI, the Global Association of the Exhibition industry, assists members of both global associations in dealing with these and similar requests.

The Guide will be distributed to all AIPC and UFI members to support them in what for many is a new experience with limited precedent. It follows on from the “**Good Practices Guide to COVID-19 for Convention and Exhibition Centres**” guidebook that was produced and distributed in early March of this year.

“This is the second guide to facility management under pandemic conditions to be produced by AIPC and UFI within a few weeks, but one that is of crucial importance to our many members who are being called upon to engage in this way”, says AIPC President Aloysius Arlando. “As a result of the professionalism, generosity and expertise of AIPC and UFI members – particularly those who are members of our Safety and Security Task Force – it incorporates some of the very latest front-line insights that have been and will continue to be gained in the midst of the crisis itself”.

“Many of our colleagues around the world are having to repurpose their venues to serve key roles in dealing with the fallout from COVID-19, and many others will inevitably follow” said UFI President Mary Larkin. “However, the experience of conversion to emergency use – and the re-commissioning once the crisis has passed – is currently limited. This guide will help all member venues prepare for and perform in an exceptional role that they were not specifically designed for but are increasingly being asked or forced to play as temporary emergency facilities”.

The guide has been created as a collaborative project between the two organisations to promote efficiency and consistency amongst different types of member venues. It provides both specific guidance and a framework within which centres can organise their activities in order to put to full use the relevant, practical information and experiences that are accumulating based on the actions of many centres worldwide.

“The reasons for having to become a temporary emergency facility vary, ranging from pandemics to natural disasters. The same goes for the purpose of any particular conversion - so this guidance has been collected, assembled and presented with multiple possibilities in mind,” said Arlando. “As challenging as such conversions may be, they will inevitably result in enhanced overall capabilities over the long term, and strengthen centre capabilities for the future”, added Larkin.

\*\*\*

**About UFI – The Global Association of the Exhibition Industry:** UFI is the global trade association of the world’s tradeshow organisers and exhibition centre operators, as well as the major national and international exhibition associations, and selected partners of the exhibition industry. UFI’s main goal is to represent, promote and support the business interests of its members and the exhibition industry. UFI directly represents more than 50,000 exhibition industry employees globally, and also works closely with its 60 national and regional association members. More than 800 member organisations in 89 countries around the world are presently signed up as members. Around 1,000 international trade fairs proudly bear the UFI approved label, a quality guarantee for visitors and exhibitors alike. UFI members continue to provide the international business community with a unique marketing media aimed at developing outstanding face-to-face business opportunities. For more information, please contact: UFI Headquarters, Email: [media@ufi.org](mailto:media@ufi.org) Tel: +33 (0)1 46 39 75 00



**About AIPC** – *The International Association of Convention Centres: Founded in 1958, AIPC is a global network of some 190 leading centres in 61 countries with the active involvement of more than 900 management-level professionals. Its mission is to encourage, support and recognize excellence in convention centre management, based on the diverse experience and expertise of its international membership, and it maintains a full range of educational, research, networking and management standards programmes in order to achieve this. AIPC recognises and actively promotes the essential role of the international meetings industry in supporting economic, academic and professional development in communities where its members are located as well as enhancing global relations amongst diverse business and cultural interests world wide. For more information: Visit [www.aipc.org](http://www.aipc.org) or contact the AIPC Secretariat at [secretariat@aicpc.org](mailto:secretariat@aicpc.org)*