

Chapter XV

Questions relating to the membership and organs of the United Nations

Admission of new Members

During 1979, the number of Member States of the United Nations rose to 152 with the admission of Saint Lucia, which attained independence on 22 February. Its admission was unanimously recommended by the Security Council on 12

September by resolution 453 (1979). The General Assembly adopted resolution 34/1 admitting Saint Lucia by acclamation on 18 September. The text was sponsored by 37 States (see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below).

Documentary references and texts of resolutions

Security Council, meetings 2166, 2167.

S/13530 (A/34/455). Note by Secretary-General (circulating letter of 28 August 1979 from Prime Minister of Saint Lucia).

S/13535. Report of Committee on Admission of New Members concerning application of Saint Lucia for membership in United Nations.

S/13535, para. 4. Draft resolution recommended by Committee on Admission of New Members for adoption by Security Council.

Resolution 453(1979), by which the Security Council, having examined the application of Saint Lucia for admission to the United Nations, recommended to the General Assembly that Saint Lucia should be admitted to membership in the United Nations, as recommended by Committee on Admission of New Members, S/13535, adopted unanimously (15-0) by Council on 12 September 1979, meeting 2167.

S/INF/35. Resolutions and decisions of Security Council, 1979. Decisions, p. 26.

General Assembly — 34th session
Plenary meeting 1.

A/34/455 (S/13530). Note by Secretary-General.

A/34/464. Letter of 12 September from President of Security Council to Secretary-General (transmitting Security Council resolution 453(1979) of 12 September 1979).

A/34/L.1 and Add.1. Algeria, Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Botswana, Canada, Cyprus, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia: draft resolution.

Resolution 34/1, as proposed by 37 powers, A/34/L.1 and Add.1, adopted by acclamation by Assembly on 18 September 1979, meeting 1.

The General Assembly,
Having received the recommendation of the Security Council of 12 September 1979 that Saint Lucia should be admitted to membership in the United Nations,
Having considered the application for membership of Saint Lucia,
Decides to admit Saint Lucia to membership in the United Nations.

OTHER DOCUMENTS

A/35/2. Report of Security Council, 16 June 1979-15 June 1980, Chapter I I A.

Equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council

By a letter dated 14 November 1979, the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Guyana, India, Maldives, Nepal, Nigeria and Sri Lanka requested the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council."

An explanatory memorandum stated that, since the 1963 amendment to the Charter of the United Nations enlarging the Council's mem-

bership from 11 to 15 members,¹ the membership of the United Nations had increased from 113 to 152 States, due mainly to the emergence and admission of a large number of States from Africa, Asia and Latin America. This increase had not been reflected in the membership of the Security Council.

The global average of the number of countries represented by one non-permanent seat in the

¹ See Y.U.N., 1963, p. 87, resolution 1991 A (XVIII) of 17 December 1963.

Council was 14.7: the number of Asian countries represented by one non-permanent seat was 18.5; the corresponding figure for African States was 16.3, for Latin American States, 14, for Western European and other States, 11, and for Eastern European States, 10. This state of affairs constituted an under-representation of non-aligned and developing countries on one of the principal organs of the United Nations.

The General Assembly, according to the memorandum, should be called upon to take measures to amend the Charter with a view to providing for a more equitable and balanced representation reflecting these changes.

When the General Committee was considering the request, the United States submitted an amendment which sought to inscribe the question as part of an agenda item on the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (see Chapter IX above). The General Committee rejected the amendment on 27 November by 7 votes in favour to 13 against, with 3 abstentions; it then recommended inclusion of the item in the Assembly's current agenda by 19 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions. The Assembly adopted the Committee's recommendation on 28 November by a recorded vote of 83 to 14, with 9 abstentions.

The Assembly considered the question at two plenary meetings on 14 December, during which Algeria, Bangladesh, Bhutan; Cuba, Grenada, Guyana, India, Iraq, Japan, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and the Syrian Arab Republic presented a draft resolution on the subject.

By the operative provisions of this text, the Assembly would adopt and submit to Member States for ratification several amendments to the Charter. These would, in amending Article 23,² increase the membership of the Security Council to 19, 14 of which (rather than the current 10) would be elected non-permanent members. Fur-

ther changes to other Charter provisions would provide for the terms of office of the new members and increase from 9 to 11 the number of affirmative votes needed to effect Council decisions. A pattern of geographical distribution for election of the 14 non-permanent members was also included, as follows: four from African States, three from Asian States, one from Eastern European States, three from Latin American States, and two from Western European and other States; one seat was to alternate between African and Asian States. The Assembly would, by the text, call on all Member States to ratify the Charter amendments by 1 September 1981.

Amendments to this draft were submitted by Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, Peru and Venezuela. These would have the effect of increasing the Council's membership to 21, 16 of which would be elected non-permanent members; 13 affirmative votes would be needed for adoption of decisions, and the pattern of geographical distribution for election differed from that in the 15-power draft resolution by allotting five seats to African States instead of four, and one non-permanent seat was to alternate between Latin American and Asian States and another was to alternate between Eastern European and Western European and other States.

Following discussion of these changes, India, on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, announced that they would not press it to the vote; India orally proposed instead that consideration of the question be postponed until the Assembly's regular 1980 session.

The Assembly adopted the Indian proposal without vote on 14 December as decision 34/431, by which it also decided to transmit to that session the draft resolution and related documents.

² For text of Article 23 of the Charter, see APPENDIX II.

Documentary references

General Assembly — 34th session
General Committee, meeting 6.
Plenary meetings 80, 103, 104.

A/BUR/34/L.1. United States: amendment to request in A/34/246.

A/34/246. Letter of 14 November from Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Guyana, India, Maldives, Nepal, Nigeria and Sri Lanka (request for inclusion in agenda of additional item entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council").

A/34/250/Add.4. Fifth report of General Committee.

A/34/252/Add.3. Allocation of agenda items for 34th regular session of General Assembly: item 128.

A/34/L.57 and Add.1. Algeria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cuba,

Grenada, Guyana, India, Iraq, Japan, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic: draft resolution.

A/34/L.63 and Add.1. Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, Peru, Venezuela: amendments to 15-power draft resolution, A/34/L.57 and Add.1.

Decision 34/431, by which the General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fifth session the item entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council" and to transmit to that session the draft resolution submitted at the thirty-fourth session and related documents, as orally proposed by India, adopted without vote by Assembly on 14 December 1979, meeting 104.

Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council

On 26 October 1979, the General Assembly proceeded to the election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council to fill the vacancies which were to occur on 31 December. On the first ballot, having obtained the required two-thirds majority of Members voting, four Member States (the German Democratic Republic, the Niger, the Philippines and Tunisia) were elected members of the Council for a two-year term beginning on 1 January 1980.

With regard to the fifth vacancy, to be filled by a Member from the Latin American group of States at the United Nations, Cuba obtained 77 votes and Colombia 68, i.e. less than the required two-thirds majority. The Assembly held 12 more ballots on that day but with no positive result. More attempts to fill the remaining seat were made on 30 October (six ballots), 2 November (nine), 29 November (12), 5 December (18), 11 December (12), 13 December (nine), 17 December (15), 18 December (18), 19 December (12) and 27 December (15).

On 28 December, in view of the persisting deadlock and of the fact that the term of office of the member to be elected was to begin on 1 January 1980, Austria submitted a draft resolution, by which the Assembly would have: called on the Member States concerned to enter immediately into consultations with a view to arriving at an appropriate solution which would enable the Assembly to fulfil in time its responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations concerning the election of non-permanent members of the Security Council; and urged those Member States to inform the Assembly President of the outcome of their consultations no later than 31 December 1979. Amendments to the Austrian draft were submitted by Algeria and jointly by Bolivia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Venezuela and Zaire.

Algeria would have inserted a preambular paragraph recalling the practice followed after the adoption in 1963 of the Assembly's resolution to expand the Council's membership;³ the Council had continued to function under the previous regime until the election of the additional mem-

bers. By a further Algerian amendment, Member States, in particular the two States directly concerned, would have been called on to enter immediately into consultations to arrive at a solution enabling the Assembly to fulfil in time its election responsibility under Article 23 of the Charter.⁴

The eight-power amendments would have had the Assembly call on the two Member States concerned and the regional group to enter immediately into consultations with a view to proposing an appropriate solution to enable the Assembly to fulfil its election responsibility in time, and urge them to inform the Assembly President of the outcome by 31 December. Austria, however, did not press its draft resolution to a vote.

As the numerous consultations held by the Assembly President to resolve the deadlock, including two meetings of the General Committee, had remained without effect, the Assembly continued its balloting on 31 December 1979 (nine ballots) and on 4 January 1980 (six).

Although there had been considerable fluctuations in the results of the voting (in the penultimate vote on 4 January, Colombia obtained 72 votes and Cuba 71), the last ballot that day gave Cuba 74 votes and Colombia 69, the required majority being 96. By then, 154 ballots, an unprecedented number in the history of the United Nations (the largest number of ballots previously taken was 51 in 1959), had proved inconclusive.

On 7 January, after extensive consultations by all the parties concerned under the leadership of the Assembly President, the President announced that Colombia and Cuba had decided to withdraw their candidacies and that the Latin American group had officially endorsed the candidature of Mexico.

In the final ballot, held on 7 January, Mexico obtained 133 votes and was thus elected a member of the Security Council.

The Assembly's election of the five non-permanent members of the Council was embodied in decision 34/328.

³ See footnote 1.

⁴ For text of Article 23 of the Charter, see APPENDIX II.

Documentary references

General Assembly — 34th session
General Committee, meetings 9, 10.
Plenary meetings 47, 48, 50, 53, 83, 89, 90, 98, 102, 106, 108-110, 1 12-120.
A/34/599. Letter of 16 October from Cuba (transmitting final communiqué adopted on 6 October 1979 by Extraordinary Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Dele-

gation of Non-Aligned Countries, New York, 4-6 October 1979).
A/34/L.66. Austria: draft resolution.
A/34/L.67. Algeria: amendments to Austrian draft resolution, A/34/L.66..
A/34/L.68. Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Venezuela, Zaire: amendments to Austrian draft resolution, A/34/L.66.

A/34/46. Resolutions and decisions adopted by General Assembly during its 34th session, 18 September 1979-7 January 1980 (decision 34/328).

[For results of the election to the Security Council, embodied in Assembly decision 34/328, see APPENDIX III, SECURITY COUNCIL.]

Composition of relevant organs

The question of the composition of the relevant organs of the United Nations was again considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth (1979) session.

As at previous sessions, the item was allocated to the Special Political Committee. As there was no consensus among regional groups regarding the item, the Committee Chairman orally pro-

posed on 21 November that substantive discussion of the question should be postponed to the thirty-fifth (1980) session. Accordingly, the Committee, without objection, recommended that the Assembly include the item in the provisional agenda of that session. On 5 December, the Assembly adopted the Committee's recommendation without vote as decision 34/420.

Documentary references

General Assembly — 34th session
General Committee, meeting 1.
Special Political Committee, meeting 35.
Plenary meeting 89.

A/34/726. Report of Special Political Committee, para. 4: recommendation, as orally proposed by Committee Chairman, approved without objection by Committee on 21 November 1979, meeting 35.

A/34/357. Letter of 6 July from Sri Lanka (transmitting documents of Ministerial Meeting of Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries, Colombo, 4-9 June 1979).

A/34/542. Letter of 1 October from Cuba (transmitting Final Declaration of 6th Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, Havana, 3-9 September 1979).

Decision 34/420, by which the General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fifth session the item entitled "Question of the composition of the relevant organs of the United Nations," as recommended by Special Political Committee, A/34/726, adopted without vote by Assembly on 5 December 1979, meeting 89.

Rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly

The General Assembly, in approving the conclusions of its Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly on 17 December 1971,⁵ had decided to review from time to time the progress achieved in rationalizing its work and requested the Secretary-General to report as appropriate on the extent to which the Special Committee's conclusions -annexed to the Assembly's 1971 resolution -had been reflected in the practice of the Assembly.

The first report called for under that resolution was submitted to the Assembly in June 1979. It reviewed the Special Committee's recommendations which had not been or had been only partly implemented. These pertained to the work of the General Committee, the agenda, the organization of the work of the Main Committees, maximum use of available time, documentation, subsidiary organs, planning of meetings, and budgetary and financial questions. The report also contained additional recommendations of the Secretary-General aimed at further rationalizing the Assembly's procedures.

By a letter of 9 July, Mexico, as current Chairman of the Latin American group of Member

States at the United Nations, transmitted to the Secretary-General an aide-memoire endorsed that day by the group. The group found the Secretary-General's report acceptable on the whole as a starting-point for more detailed discussion in the General Committee. It submitted suggestions on the organization of work of the Main Committees, documentation, planning of meetings, and budgetary and financial questions.

The attention of the Economic and Social Council was drawn to the Secretary-General's report by a Secretariat note of 12 July circulating to the Council, to facilitate consideration, a preliminary list of Assembly agenda items presumably to be dealt with at its forthcoming session by the Second (Economic and Financial) and Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committees, two of the three Main Committees- the other being the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee-noted in the Secretary-General's report as having the heaviest workload.

On 3 August 1979, on an oral proposal by its President, the Council adopted, without vote, decision 1979/88, by which it took note with

⁵ See Y.U.N., 1971, p. 610, resolution 2837(XXVI).

appreciation of the Secretary-General's report and confirmed that, in accordance with his wishes, the report had been duly taken into account; the Council would be guided by the action that the Assembly might take on the matter. (See also p. 518.)

The Secretary-General's report was considered in depth by the General Committee at the Assembly's 1979 regular session. On the basis of that Committee's recommendations, the Assembly adopted without vote decision 34/401, comprising six sections which incorporated the Committee's proposals to rationalize the Assembly's procedures and the organization of its work.

Section I, on the organization of the session, was approved by the General Committee on 19 September and adopted by the Assembly on 21 September. It dealt with improving the work of the General Committee, a time schedule for meetings, allocating most agenda items to Main Committees for discussion, refraining from congratulatory expressions for speeches in the general debate, limitations on explanations of vote, rights of reply, use of the rostrum, timely submission and consideration of budgetary and financial documents—including a mandatory deadline of 1 December for submission to the Fifth Committee of draft resolutions with financial implications—conciseness of Main Committees' reports, restricting secret ballots and dispensing with representatives' concluding statements.

Sections II, III, IV and V, on the work of the Main Committees, documentation, resolutions and planning of meetings, respectively, were approved by the General Committee on 24 October and 28 November and adopted by the Assembly on 25 October and 29 November, containing the following guidelines.

Main Committee work could be improved if regional groups agreed at each session on chairmanship distribution for the following session, officers more often conducted informal negotia-

tions to reach agreement on issues, speaking time was limited, and more meetings were held earlier in the session.

Subsidiary organs should be required to complete their work by 1 September and their reports should be available by the opening of the Assembly session, reports should not contain previously distributed documents or annex summary records, those not requiring a decision should not be debated nor resolutions adopted on them unless requested by the Secretary-General or organ concerned, publication priority should be given to reports of the Assembly's principal and subsidiary organs and to draft resolutions and amendments, and States should refrain from requesting circulation of communications as Assembly documents.

Subsidiary organs should submit draft resolutions, and resolutions should not call for separate agenda items under which to discuss them.

The Committee on Conferences should be authorized to play a more effective role in planning meetings and using facilities, and Assembly organs should not meet at United Nations Headquarters, New York, during regular Assembly sessions.

By section VI, approved by the General Committee on 11 December and adopted by the Assembly the following day, the Assembly appointed the members of an Ad Hoc Committee on Subsidiary Organs, under the chairmanship of the current President of the Assembly, to review the question of the continuation of subsidiary organs and to make recommendations thereon, by consensus, to the 1980 regular session. The Assembly should also consider a moratorium for a fixed period on the establishment of new subsidiaries.

Several of these decisions were implemented in the course of the 1979 regular session; the extent of implementation of the others was to be assessed at the 1980 regular session.

(See also pp. 1213 and 1216.)

Documentary references

Economic and Social Council- 2nd regular session, 1979
Plenary meeting 40.

A/34/320. Report of Secretary-General.

E/1 979/L.43. Assistance by Economic and Social Council to organization of work of General Assembly. Note by Secretariat.

Decision 1979/88, as orally proposed by Council President, adopted without vote by Council.

At its 40th plenary meeting, on 3 August 1979, the Council took note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly" and confirmed that, in accordance with the wishes of the Secretary-General, that report had been duly taken into account by the Council at its

second regular session of 1979; the Council would be guided by the action that the General Assembly might take on the matter.

General Assembly — 34th session
General Committee, meetings 1, 4, 7, 8.
Plenary meetings 4, 46, 82, 99.

A/BUR/34/1 (Part I). Organization of 34th regular session 01 General Assembly, adoption of agenda and allocation 01 items. Memorandum by Secretary-General, paras. 4-20: recommendations, approved without vote by General Committee on 19 September 1979, meeting 1, as follows: paras. 4-7; para. 8, as orally amended by Singapore; paras. 9-19; and para. 20, as orally amended by General Committee Chairman.

A/BUR/34/2. Note by Secretary-General, paras. 5 (a)-(f), 6 (a)-(d) and 7-11: recommendations, approved without vote by General Committee on 24 October 1979, meeting 4, as follows: para. 5 (a), as orally amended by General Committee Chairman; paras. 5 (b), (c) and (e); paras. 6 (c) and (d); para. 7, as orally amended by Byelorussian SSR and by General Committee Chairman; and paras. 10 and 11.

A/BUR/34/3. Note by Secretary-General, paras. 5 (d) and (f), 6 (a) and (b), 8 and 9: recommendations, approved by General Committee on 28 November 1979, meeting 7, as follows: paras. 5 (d) and (f), as orally revised by General Committee Chairman, by consensus; paras. 6 (a) and (b), endorsed without objection; and paras. 8 and 9, as orally amended by General Committee Chairman, endorsed without objection; and paras. 13 (a) and (b), as orally revised by General Committee Chairman, approved without vote by General Committee on 11 December 1979, meeting 8.

A/34/250. First report of General Committee, Chapter II, paras. 2-16: recommendations.

A/34/250/Add.2. Third report of General Committee, Chapter II, para. 3: recommendations.

A/34/250/Add.5. Sixth report of General Committee, para. 2: recommendations.

A/34/250/Add.6. Seventh report of General Committee, Chapter II, para. 4: recommendations.

A/34/365. Letter of 9 July from Mexico. (Annex: Aide-mémoire, endorsed by Latin American group at United Nations, on report of Secretary-General, A/34/320.)

Decision 34/401, as recommended by General Committee, A/34/250 and Add.2, 5, 6, adopted without vote by Assembly, as follows: recommendations (paras. 2-6, 8 and 10-16) in A/34/250, on 21 September, meeting 4; recommendations in A/34/250/Add.2, on 25 October, meeting 46; recommendations in A/34/250/Add.5, on 29 November, meeting 82; and recommendations in A/34/250/Add.6, on 12 December 1979, meeting 99.

At its 4th, 46th, 82nd and 99th plenary meetings, on 21 September, 25 October, 29 November and 12 December 1979, the General Assembly, on the recommendations of the General Committee as set forth in its first, third, sixth and seventh reports, adopted the following provisions concerning the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the Assembly:

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. General Committee

1. The General Committee should, at the outset of each session, consider how the work of the session can best be rationalized.

2. The General Committee should also meet periodically throughout the session to review the progress of work and to make recommendations to the General Assembly on the general programme of the session and on measures aimed at improving its work.

B. Schedule of meetings

3. Both plenary and committee meetings should begin at 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. and, in order to expedite the work of the General Assembly, all meetings should begin promptly at the scheduled time.

C. Allocation of items

4. Substantive items should normally be discussed initially in a Main Committee and, therefore, items previously allocated to plenary meetings should henceforth be referred to a Main Committee unless there are compelling circumstances requiring their continued consideration in plenary meeting.

D. General debate

5. Out of consideration for the other speakers and in order to preserve the dignity of the general debate, delega-

tions should refrain from expressing their congratulations in the General Assembly Hall after a speech has been delivered.

E. Explanations of vote

6. Explanations of vote should be limited to 10 minutes.

7. When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee.

F. Right of reply

8. Delegations should exercise their right of reply at the end of the day whenever two meetings have been scheduled for that day and whenever such meetings are devoted to the consideration of the same item.

9. The number of interventions in the exercise of the right of reply for any delegation at a given meeting should be limited to two per item.

10. The first intervention in the exercise of the right of reply for any delegation on any item at a given meeting should be limited to 10 minutes and the second intervention should be limited to five minutes.

G. Non-utilization of the rostrum

11. Explanations of vote, interventions in the exercise of the right of reply and procedural motions should be made by delegations from their seats.

H. Budgetary and financial questions

12. It is imperative that Main Committees should allow sufficient time for the preparation of the estimate of expenditures by the Secretariat and for its consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee and that they should take this requirement into account when they adopt their programme of work.

13. Furthermore:

(a) A mandatory deadline, not later than 1 December, should be established for the submission to the Fifth Committee of all draft resolutions with financial implications;

(b) The Fifth Committee should, as a general practice, consider accepting without debate the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the financial implications of draft resolutions up to a prescribed limit, namely, \$25,000 on any one item;

(c) Firm deadlines should be set for the early submission of the reports of subsidiary bodies which require consideration by the Fifth Committee;

(d) A minimum period of 48 hours should be allowed between the submission and the voting of a proposal involving expenditure in order to allow the Secretary-General to prepare and present the related statement of administrative and financial implications.

I. Reports of the Main Committees

14. Reports of the Main Committees should be as concise as possible and, save in exceptional cases, should not contain a summary of the debates.

15. The practice of dealing in plenary meeting with reports of the Second Committee whereby it is stated that the positions of delegations regarding draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records should be extended to reports of other committees.

J. Balloting procedure

16. The practice of dispensing with the secret ballot for elections to subsidiary organs when the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled should become standard and the same practice should apply to the election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly, unless a delegation specifically requests a vote on a given election.

K. Concluding statements

17. To save time at the end of the session, the practice of making concluding statements in the General Assembly and its Main Committees should be dispensed with except for statements by the presiding officers.

II. WORK OF THE MAIN COMMITTEES

18. Before the conclusion of a session of the General Assembly, regional groups should agree on the distribution of chairmanships among them for the following session.

19. Candidates for the chairmanships of the Main Committees should be nominated as soon as possible.

20. It is strongly recommended that nominees for the chairmanships of the Main Committees should have experience in the work of the General Assembly.

21. During sessions, the Chairmen or other officers of the Main Committees should be entrusted by their Committees, whenever appropriate, with the conduct of informal negotiations aimed at reaching agreement on specific issues.

22. Chairmen of Main Committees should fully exercise their authority under rule 106 of the rules of procedure and, in particular, propose more frequently the limitation of the time to be allowed to speakers or of the number of times each representative may speak on any given item.

23. The Main Committees which require the largest number of meetings should be encouraged to hold more meetings early in the session in order to ensure a better distribution of meetings over the whole session.

III. DOCUMENTATION

24. Subsidiary organs should be required to complete their work at the latest by 1 September, so that their reports may be available in all the working languages in time for consideration by the opening of the session of the General Assembly, and the Committee on Conferences should take this provision fully into account.

25. No reports should contain a compilation of other previous documents.

26. Subsidiary organs should not annex to their reports summary records of their meetings or other material which were already distributed to all Member States.

27. The General Assembly should review periodically the need for summary records of its subsidiary organs.

28. The General Assembly, including its Main Committees, should merely take note of those reports of the Secretary-General or subsidiary organs which do not require a decision by the Assembly and should neither debate nor adopt resolutions on them, unless specifically requested to do so by the Secretary-General or the organ concerned.

29. The publication of reports of the principal organs and of subsidiary organs of the General Assembly and of draft resolutions and amendments should be given priority over that of any individual communications received from Member States.

30. Member States should refrain, to the extent possible, from requesting the circulation of any individual communica-

tions as documents of the General Assembly and in lieu thereof, where circulation of such documents is desired should, as far as possible, request such circulation under the cover of a note verbale in the official languages in which they submit them.

IV. RESOLUTIONS

31. Subsidiary organs reporting to the General Assembly should make every effort to submit draft resolutions in order to facilitate the consideration of the items.

32. Whenever possible, resolutions requesting the discussion of a question at a subsequent session should not call for the inclusion of a separate new item and such discussion should be held under the item under which the resolution was adopted.

V. PLANNING OF MEETINGS

33. The Committee on Conferences should be authorized to play a more effective role in the planning of meetings and in the use of conference facilities.

34. No subsidiary organ of the General Assembly should be permitted to meet at United Nations Headquarters during regular session of the Assembly, unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly.

VI. SUBSIDIARY ORGANS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

35. The General Assembly appoints the following States as members of an Ad Hoc Committee on Subsidiary Organ under the chairmanship of the President of the thirty-four session of the Assembly, to review the question of the continuation of subsidiary organs with a view to making recommendations thereon to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, on the understanding that the Committee will work on the basis of consensus:

(a) Bahamas, Belgium, Benin, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Guyana, Iceland, Lesotho, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Romania, Singapore, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United States of America, Yemen;

(b) India (as Chairman of the Group of 77);

(c) Cuba (as Chairman of the Group of Non-Aligned Countries);

(d) States holding the chairmanship of the region groups.

36. The General Assembly requests the Secretary General to extend the full co-operation of the Secretariat the Ad Hoc Committee in the performance of its task.

37. A moratorium for a fixed period on the establishment of additional subsidiary organs should be considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

Observer status in the General Assembly for the Council of Arab Economic Unity

By a letter dated 12 October 1979, the representatives of Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen requested the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly's current session of an item

entitled "Observer status for the Council of Arab Economic Unity in the General Assembly."

An explanatory memorandum annexed to the letter noted that the 12-member Council had been established under the terms of an agreement between members of the League of Arab States which had entered into force in 1964.

was an autonomous legal entity with a secretariat at Amman, Jordan, established to facilitate freedom of movement of persons, capital and goods, liberalize trade through an Arab Common Market, and co-ordinate Arab policies in fields such as agriculture, industry, trade, labour and social legislation, and Arab monetary and fiscal policies. It had obtained ob-

server status with the Economic and Social Council in 1975.⁶

On 24 October, the General Committee decided to defer temporarily consideration of the request. No further action was taken on the matter during 1979.

⁶ See Y.U.N., 1975, p. 742, decision 109(LIX) of 23 July 1975.

Documentary references

General Assembly — 34th session
General Committee, meeting 4.

A/34/244. Letter of 12 October from Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania,

Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen (request for inclusion in agenda of additional item entitled "Observer status for the Council of Arab Economic Unity in the General Assembly").

A/34/250/Add.2. Third report of General Committee, para. 5.