

# **United Nations Conference on Consular Relations**

Vienna, Austria  
4 March – 22 April 1963

Documents:-  
**A/CONF.25/9, A/CONF.25/10, A/CONF.25/11**

## **Reports of the General Committee**

Extract from Volume II of the *Official Records of the United Nations Conference on Consular Relations*  
(Annexes, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, Final Act, Optional Protocols, Resolutions)

## REPORTS

### DOCUMENT A/CONF.25/9

#### First report of the General Committee

[Original : English]  
[27 March 1963]

1. The first meeting of the General Committee was held on 27 March 1963 to consider ways and means of expediting the work of the Conference. It had before it a suggestion by the Secretariat (A/CONF.25/BUR.1) concerning the re-allocation of articles to Committees.

2. The General Committee took note of the fact that the First Committee had almost completed the agenda allocated to it. It also took account of the fact that it now appeared that, under the original plan for the allocation of work as approved by the Conference at its second plenary meeting, the Second Committee had had an exceptionally heavy work-load.

3. With the foregoing factors in mind, the General Committee unanimously decided to recommend to the Conference, as a first step to expedite its work, that the following articles be re-allocated from the Second to the First Committee:

Article 52. Question of the acquisition of the nationality of the receiving State.

Article 53. Beginning and end of consular privileges and immunities.

Article 54. Obligations of third States.

Article 55. Respect for the laws and regulations of the receiving State.

### DOCUMENT A/CONF.25/10

#### Second report of the General Committee

[Original : English]  
[1 April 1963]

1. The second meeting of the General Committee was held on 1 April 1963 to continue consideration of ways and means of expediting the work of the Conference. The Committee had devoted its first meeting to this matter, on 27 March 1963, and had reported thereon, with recommendations, to the Conference (A/CONF.25/9). At its third plenary meeting, on 28 March 1963, the Conference approved the recommendations of the General Committee.

2. At its second meeting the General Committee took note of the fact that the First Committee had completed the agenda originally allocated to it, including articles 52, 53, 54 and 55 re-allocated to it pursuant to the decision of the Conference at its third plenary meeting. It also took into account a statement by the Chairman of the Second Committee to the effect that he believed it would be possible for the Second Committee to complete by 5 April 1963 Chapter III of the draft articles assigned to it. Finally, the General Committee noted that, under the original plan for the allocation of work as approved by the Conference at its second plenary meeting, article 1, and amendments

thereto, had been allocated to the Drafting Committee, as a final item, on the understanding that the Drafting Committee would report directly to the Conference on this article.

3. The members of the General Committee were of the opinion that it would considerably expedite the work of the Conference if the Drafting Committee could immediately take up the consideration of article 1, and could report thereon, as soon as possible, to the First Committee which would, in turn, report to the Conference. This would permit the widest possible expression of views to be taken into account on article 1 before its consideration by the Conference.

4. The General Committee has unanimously decided to recommend to the Conference that the text of article 1 prepared by the Drafting Committee be re-allocated, for the reasons outlined in the previous paragraph, to the First Committee. In view of this recommendation, the General Committee further decided not to recommend the re-allocation, at this time, of any articles from the Second to the First Committee.

**DOCUMENT A/CONF.25/11****Third report of the General Committee**

[Original : English]  
[17 April 1963]

1. The third meeting of the General Committee was held on 17 April 1963 to consider ways and means of expediting the work of the plenary meetings of the Conference. The Committee had before it a report by the Secretariat on the progress of the Conference.

2. The General Committee noted that, at the beginning of the final week of the Conference (16 - 19 April 1963), the Conference had before it for consideration some fifty articles, as prepared by the Drafting Committee in accordance with the instructions of the First and Second Committees, an optional protocol on acquisition of nationality, the final act of the Conference and certain resolutions. It further noted that, on the basis of two meetings a day, the Conference would be required to complete consideration of an average of seven articles at each meeting, namely fourteen articles a day, if it were to conclude its agenda on time. Finally, the Committee noted that at the first two meetings held during the final week of the Conference, the Conference had completed only five articles, thus being already nine articles behind schedule. In view of the considerations just set out, the members of the General Committee were of the opinion that measures should be taken to expedite the work of the plenary meetings of the Conference so that it might complete its agenda on time, particularly as many delegations and members of the Secretariat had other obligations which would require them to leave Vienna on the scheduled closing date of the Conference.

3. The General Committee unanimously recommends to the Conference that the following measures be taken to expedite the work of the plenary meetings :

(a) Morning meetings of the Conference should be convened at 9.30 a.m., to give the Conference an hour longer each day for consideration of its agenda.

(b) Evening meetings should be held on Wednesday, 17 April 1963 and Friday, 19 April 1963, if, on those respective dates the Conference remains appreciably behind schedule at the conclusion of its afternoon meetings. Furthermore, if the Conference has not completed its work on 19 April 1963, two meetings should, if necessary, be held on Saturday, 20 April 1963.

(c) Under rule 23 of the rules of procedure, a time limit of five minutes should be put by the Conference upon statements by representatives on each article. Furthermore, the number of interventions by each representative on each article should be limited to one. Finally, explanations of vote should be limited to two minutes. All these limitations should be subject to the right of the President to permit exceptions, to the extent of an additional two minutes to a speaker so that he might conclude his statement or make a second intervention, if, in the President's opinion, there are exceptional circumstances for so doing.

(d) In cases where joint amendments are submitted, only one of the sponsors thereof should introduce the amendment on behalf of all co-sponsors.

**DOCUMENT A/CONF.25/L.10****Report of the First Committee**

[Original : English]  
[5 April 1963]

**I. OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

1. At its first meeting on 5 March 1963, the Committee elected Mr. Nathan Barnos (Liberia) as Chairman. At its second meeting on 6 March 1963, the Committee elected the following other officers :

*First Vice-Chairman* : Mr. Pedro Silveira-Barrios (Venezuela) ;

*Second Vice-Chairman* : Mr. Jerzy Osiecki (Poland) ;

*Rapporteur* : Mr. Zenon P. Westrup (Sweden).

**II. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE**

2. At its second plenary meeting on 5 March 1963, the Conference decided to refer to the Committee Chapter I (Consular relations in general ; articles 2-27)

and Chapter IV (General provisions ; articles 68, 70 and 71) of the draft articles adopted by the International Law Commission (A/CONF.25/6) and referred to the Conference in accordance with resolution 1685 (XVI) adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 1961. The Conference at the same time also referred to the Committee the preparation of a preamble and final clauses, no drafts of which had been prepared by the Commission, and also of the Final Act of the Conference and of any protocols which the Conference might consider necessary.

3. At its third plenary meeting on 28 March 1963, the Conference, on the basis of a recommendation by the General Committee (A/CONF.25/9), unanimously decided that draft articles 52, 53, 54 and 55 adopted by the International Law Commission should be re-allocated from the Second to the First Committee.