

United Nations Conference on the Law of Treaties

Vienna, Austria
First session
26 March – 24 May 1968

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A/CONF.39/SR.3

Third plenary meeting

Extract from the *Official Records of the United Nations Conference on the Law of Treaties, First Session (Summary records of the plenary meetings and of the meetings of the Committee of the Whole)*

Appointment of the Credentials Committee

[Agenda item 8]

10. The PRESIDENT reminded the Conference that under rule 4 of the rules of procedure the Credentials Committee had to consist of nine members appointed by the Conference on the proposal of the President. He understood it had been agreed that the Committee should have the same membership as the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its last session; he therefore proposed the following countries: Ceylon, Dominican Republic, Ireland, Japan, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America.

11. Mr. HAYES (Ireland) said he regretted that he was unable to serve on the Credentials Committee as he was the only representative of his country at the Conference and he would not be able to remain until the end of its proceedings.

12. The PRESIDENT suggested that the other eight members of the Credentials Committee should be appointed and that the ninth member should be nominated at a subsequent meeting, after consultation with the States participating in the Conference.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

THIRD PLENARY MEETING

Wednesday, 27 March 1968, at 5.45 p.m.

President: Mr. AGO (Italy)

Appointment of the Credentials Committee

[Agenda item 8]

(continued)

1. The PRESIDENT said that eight of the nine members of the Credentials Committee had already been appointed at the previous meeting; he now suggested that the remaining vacancy be filled by Switzerland, whose representative had consented to serve. If there were no objection, he would therefore take it that the Conference agreed that the Credentials Committee consist of those nine delegations.

It was so agreed.

Appointment of other members of the Drafting Committee

[Agenda item 9]

2. The PRESIDENT said that the Conference was now called upon to appoint thirteen members of the Drafting Committee in addition to the Chairman of that Committee, who had already been elected by the Conference at its previous meeting, and the Rapporteur of the Committee of the Whole, who similarly had been elected by the Committee of the Whole at its first meeting.

3. The General Committee had decided to recommend that the following thirteen countries be appointed:

Argentina, China, Congo (Brazzaville), France, Ghana, Japan, Kenya, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. If there were no objection, he would consider that the Conference agreed to adopt that recommendation.

It was so agreed.

Organization of work

[Agenda item 10]

4. The PRESIDENT said that the General Committee had decided to recommend that the Conference endorse the suggestions contained in the excellent Secretariat memorandum on "Methods of work and procedures of the first session of the Conference" (A/CONF.39/3), which was based on the experience of previous codification Conferences. The General Committee had nevertheless considered that the Conference and its organs should feel free at all times to adapt those methods and procedures to their needs.

5. Since the real success of the Conference would be measured not by the adoption of the various draft articles by the appropriate majorities, first by the Committee of the Whole and later by the Conference itself, but rather by the ratifications and accessions which the future instrument on the law of treaties would attract, he would urge all participants to co-operate in ensuring that the final outcome of the Conference was calculated to gain the broadest possible measure of support on the part of States.

6. If there were no comments, he would consider that the Conference agreed to endorse the Secretary-General's memorandum (A/CONF.39/3) on the understanding already indicated.

It was so agreed.

7. The PRESIDENT suggested that, in accordance with the satisfactory experience of the 1961 and 1963 Conferences, the Drafting Committee be entrusted with the task of preparing a draft preamble.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING

Wednesday, 8 May 1968, at 12 noon

President: Mr. AGO (Italy)

Tributes to the memory of Mr. Antonio de Luna

1. The PRESIDENT said that the meeting had been convened to pay a tribute to the late Mr. Antonio de Luna.

2. Mr. de CASTRO (Spain) said he was grateful to the President of the Conference for his initiative in convening a meeting for the purpose of paying a tribute to the late Mr. de Luna. The death of Mr. de Luna had left a gap in the international community. He personally had known him for very many years, since they had been colleagues at the universities of La Laguna, Salamanca