

**United Nations Conference on the Representation of States  
in Their Relations with International Organizations**

Vienna, Austria  
4 February - 14 March 1975

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**Final Act of the United Nations Conference on the Representation of States  
in Their Relations with International Organizations**

Extract from Volume II of the *Official Records of the United Nations Conference on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations (Documents of the Conference)*

**FINAL ACT  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE  
REPRESENTATION OF STATES IN THEIR RELATIONS  
WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

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1. The General Assembly of the United Nations, by resolution 2966 (XXVII) of 14 December 1972, decided to convene an international conference of plenipotentiaries to consider the question of the representation of States in their relations with international organizations and to embody the results of its work in an international convention and such other instruments as it might deem appropriate. Subsequently, the General Assembly, noting that an invitation had been extended by the Government of Austria, decided, by resolution 3072 (XXVIII) of 30 November 1973, that the conference would be held early in 1975 at Vienna.

2. The United Nations Conference on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations met at the Neue Hofburg in Vienna, Austria, from 4 February to 14 March 1975.

3. The General Assembly, by resolution 3247 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974, decided to invite all States to participate in the Conference.

The Governments of the following 81 States decided to participate in the Conference: Argentina; Australia; Austria; Bangladesh; Belgium; Brazil; Bulgaria; Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Cuba; Czechoslovakia; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam; Denmark; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Finland; France; German Democratic Republic; Germany, Federal Republic of; Greece; Guatemala; Holy See; Hungary; India; Indonesia; Iraq; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Ivory Coast; Japan; Khmer Republic; Kuwait; Lebanon; Liberia; Libyan Arab Republic; Luxembourg; Madagascar; Malaysia; Mali; Mexico; Mongolia; Morocco; Netherlands; Niger; Nigeria; Norway; Oman; Pakistan; Panama; Peru; Philippines; Poland; Qatar; Republic of Korea; Republic of Viet-Nam; Romania; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Syrian Arab Republic; Thailand; Tunisia; Turkey; Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United Republic of Cameroon; United Republic of Tanzania; United States of America; Uruguay; Venezuela; Yemen; Yugoslavia; and Zaire.

The Governments of the following two States were represented by observers: Iran and Portugal.

4. The General Assembly, by resolution 3072 (XXVIII) of 30 November 1973, invited the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other interested intergovernmental organizations to send observers to the Conference. The following intergovernmental organizations accepted this invitation and were represented by observers at the Conference:

#### *Specialized and related agencies*

International Labour Organisation

Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

World Health Organization

Universal Postal Union

International Atomic Energy Agency

#### *Other intergovernmental organizations*

Council of Europe

European Economic Community

League of Arab States

5. The General Assembly, by resolution 3247 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974, decided to invite also the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States in their respective regions to participate in the Conference as observers. The following national liberation movements accepted this invitation and were represented by observers at the Conference:

Movement for the National Liberation of Comoro

National Liberation Front of Angola

Palestine Liberation Organization

Pan Africanist Congress of Azania

People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola

South West African People's Organization

Zimbabwe African People's Union

6. The Conference elected Mr. José Sette-Câmara (Brazil) as President.

7. The Conference elected as Vice-Presidents the representatives of the following participating States: Bulgaria, Chile, Egypt, France, India, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

8. The following committees were set up by the Conference:

#### *General Committee*

*Chairman:* The President of the Conference

*Members:* The President and Vice-Presidents of the Conference, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee

#### *Committee of the Whole*

*Chairman:* Mr. Erik Nettel (Austria)

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. Max Wershof (Canada)

*Rapporteur:* Mr. Alfons Klafkowski (Poland)

#### *Drafting Committee*

*Chairman:* Mr. Solomon Sogbetun (Nigeria)

*Members:* The Chairman of the Drafting Committee, Argentina, France, Iraq, Morocco, Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Switzerland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and *ex officio* in accordance with rule 48 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, the Rapporteur of the Committee of the Whole

#### *Credentials Committee*

*Chairman:* Mr. José Plana (Philippines)

*Members:* Belgium, Ecuador, Guatemala, Hungary, Ivory Coast, Philippines, Thailand, United Republic of Cameroon and United States of America

9. Mr. Abdullah El-Erian, Special Rapporteur of the International Law Commission on the topic of relations between States and international organizations, acted as Expert Consultant.

10. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was represented by Mr. Erik Suy, Under-Secretary-General, The Legal Counsel. Mr. Yuri M. Rybakov, Director of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, acted as Executive Secretary.

11. The General Assembly, by resolution 3072 (XXVIII) of 30 November 1973, referred to the Conference as the basic proposal for its consideration the draft articles on the representation of States in their relations with international organizations adopted by the International Law Commission at its twenty-third session (report of the International Law Commission on the Work of its Twenty-third Session, Chapter II, *General Assembly, Official Records, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/8410/Rev.1)).

12. The Conference also had before it the comments and observations on the draft articles on the representation of States in their relations with international organizations submitted by States and intergovernmental organizations pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 2780 (XXVI) (A/8753 and A/8753/Add.1-3) and 3072 (XXVIII) (A/CONF.67/6), as well as other relevant documentation prepared by the Secretariat of the United Nations.

13. The Conference assigned to the Committee of the Whole the consideration of the draft articles on the representation of States in their relations with international organizations adopted by the International Law Commission. The Drafting Committee, in addition to its responsibilities for drafting and for co-ordinating and reviewing all the texts adopted, was entrusted by the Conference with the preparation of the title, preamble and final clauses of the Convention, and the Final Act of the Conference.

14. On the basis of the deliberations recorded in the records of the Conference (A/CONF.67/SR.1 to SR.13) and the records (A/CONF.67/C.1/SR.1 to SR.48) and report (A/CONF.67/C.1/L.143 and Add.1 and 2) of the Committee of the Whole, the Conference drew up the following Convention:

#### *Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character*

15. The foregoing Convention, which is subject to ratification, was adopted by the Conference on 13 March 1975, and opened for signature on 14 March 1975, in accordance with its provisions, until 30 September 1975, at the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria and, subsequently, until 30 March 1976 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The same instrument was also opened for accession in accordance with its provisions.

16. After 30 September 1975, the closing date for signature at the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria, the Convention will be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

17. The Conference also adopted the following resolutions, which are annexed to this Final Act:

*Resolution relating to the status of national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States*

*Resolution relating to the application of the Convention in future activities of international organizations*

*Tribute to the Expert Consultant*

*Tribute to the International Law Commission*

*Tribute to the Federal Government and people of the Republic of Austria*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the representatives have signed this Final Act.

DONE AT VIENNA this fourteenth day of March, one thousand nine hundred and seventy-five, in a single copy in the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish languages, each text being equally authentic. By unanimous decision of the Conference, the original of this Final Act shall be deposited in the archives of the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria.

The President of the Conference:

The Executive Secretary of the Conference:

#### ANNEX

#### **Resolutions adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations**

#### **RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE OBSERVER STATUS OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS RECOGNIZED BY THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND/OR BY THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES**

*The United Nations Conference on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations,*

Recalling that, by its resolution 3072 (XXVIII) of 30 November 1973, the General Assembly referred to the Conference the draft articles on the representation of States in their relations with international organizations adopted by the International Law Commission at its twenty-third session,

Noting that the draft articles adopted by the Commission deal only with the representation of States in their relations with international organizations,

Recalling further that, by its resolution 3247 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974, the General Assembly decided to invite the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization

of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States in their respective regions to participate in the Conference as observers, in accordance with the practice of the United Nations,

*Noting* the current practice of inviting the above-mentioned national liberation movements to participate as observers in the sessions and work of the General Assembly of the United Nations, in conferences held under the auspices of the General Assembly or under the auspices of other United Nations organs, and in meetings of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations family,

*Convinced* that the participation of the above-mentioned national liberation movements in the work of international organizations helps to strengthen international peace and co-operation,

*Desirous* of ensuring the effective participation of the above-mentioned movements as observers in the work of international organizations and of regulating, to that end, their status and the facilities, privileges and immunities necessary for the performance of their tasks,

1. *Requests* the General Assembly of the United Nations at its thirtieth regular session to examine this question without delay;

2. *Recommends*, in the meantime, the States concerned to accord to delegations of national liberation movements which are recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States in their respective regions and which have been granted observer status by the international organization concerned, the facilities, privileges and immunities necessary for the performance of their tasks and to be guided therein by the pertinent provisions of the Convention adopted by this Conference;

3. *Decides* to include the present resolution in the Final Act of the Conference.

#### RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION IN FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

*The United Nations Conference on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations,*

*Considering* that the Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character will help to improve relations between States within the framework of international organizations and at conferences convened by, or under the auspices of, such organizations,

*Bearing in mind* that the above-mentioned Convention will help to prevent disputes between sending States and host States,

*Recommends* to the General Assembly of the United Nations that a suitable request should be made to the Secretary-General to inform Member States whether States that have asked to be

hosts of future international organizations of a universal character or of conferences convened by, or under the auspices of, international organizations of a universal character have duly ratified or have acceded to the Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE EXPERT CONSULTANT

*The United Nations Conference on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations,*

*Having adopted* the Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character on the basis of the draft articles prepared by the International Law Commission,

*Resolves* to express to Mr. Abdullah El-Erian its deep appreciation of the invaluable contribution he has made to the codification and progressive development of the rules of international law on the representation of States in their relations with international organizations of a universal character in his capacity both as Special Rapporteur of the International Law Commission and as Expert Consultant to the Conference.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION

*The United Nations Conference on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations,*

*Having adopted* the Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character on the basis of the draft articles prepared by the International Law Commission,

*Resolves* to express its deep gratitude to the International Law Commission for its outstanding contribution to the codification and progressive development of the rules of international law on the representation of States in their relations with international organizations of a universal character.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA

*The United Nations Conference on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations,*

*Having adopted* the Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character,

*Expresses its deep appreciation* to the Federal Government and people of the Republic of Austria for making possible the holding of the Conference in Vienna and for their generous hospitality and great contribution to the successful completion of the work of the Conference.