

**United Nations Conference on Succession of States
in respect of State Property, Archives and Debts**

Vienna, Austria
1 March - 8 April 1983

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A/CONF.117/SR.2

2nd plenary meeting

Extract from Volume I of the *Official Records of the United Nations Conference on Succession of States in respect of State Property, Archives and Debts (Summary records of the plenary meetings and of the meetings of the Committee of the Whole)*

ment A/CONF.117/1, in two stages: first, items 1 to 5 and 7 to 13, and then item 6.

Items 1 to 5 and 7 to 13 of the provisional agenda were approved.

18. The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to decide, with reference to item 6 of the provisional agenda, whether one or two committees of the whole should be established, taking into account the views expressed on that subject by the sponsors of General Assembly resolution 37/11, as reflected in the memorandum by the Secretary-General on the methods of work and procedures of the Conference (A/CONF.117/3).

19. Msgr. PERESSIN (Holy See) said that it would be preferable to have only one committee of the whole, since the duration of the Conference was sufficient to permit full discussion of all matters and the number of participants did not justify the establishment of two committees.

20. Mr. BINTOU (Zaire) considered that the establishment of two committees would unduly complicate the work of the Conference.

21. Mr. GUILLAUME (France) said that one committee of the whole would be more effective.

22. Mr. CALISTO (Ecuador) supported the views of the previous speakers.

23. The PRESIDENT said that, since all those who had spoken appeared to favour the establishment of only one committee of the whole, he took it that item 6 of the provisional agenda should remain unchanged.

Item 6 of the provisional agenda was approved.

The provisional agenda (A/CONF.117/1²) was adopted.

² The agenda as adopted by the Conference was circulated as document A/CONF.117/7.

Adoption of the rules of procedure

[Agenda item 4]

The provisional rules of procedure (A/CONF.117/2³) were adopted.

24. Mr. SULLIVAN (Canada), speaking on behalf of the Governments of Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, said that, since 1977, those Governments, as members of the Contact Group concerned with the question of Namibia, had endeavoured to promote through negotiations an internationally acceptable settlement of the continuing conflict over that territory.

25. Rule 58 of the rules of procedure reflected the clear distinction made in operative paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 37/11 between on the one hand States, and on the other Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia. While they had voted in favour of adoption of the rules of procedure, the Governments for which he spoke wished to reserve their position as to the seating of delegations in the conference hall, which did not reflect the distinction made in the rules of procedure and in resolution 37/11. Their acceptance of those arrangements could not therefore be construed as a change in their position concerning the legal nature of the participation of Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.

³ The rules of procedure as adopted by the Conference were circulated as document A/CONF.117/8.

2nd plenary meeting

Tuesday, 1 March 1983, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. SEIDL-HOHENFELDERN (Austria)

Election of Vice-Presidents

[Agenda item 5]

1. The PRESIDENT said that he proposed to suspend the meeting in order to give the regional groups time to complete their consultations.

The meeting was suspended at 3.05 p.m. and resumed at 3.35 p.m.

2. The PRESIDENT said that, taking into account the provisions of rule 6 of the rules of procedure, the regional groups had nominated the following States as Vice-Presidents of the Conference: Algeria, Bulgaria, Chile, Ecuador, Egypt, France, German Democratic Republic, India, Indonesia, Italy, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Suriname, Switzerland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates,

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Zaire.

Those States were elected Vice-Presidents of the Conference by acclamation.

Election of the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole

[Agenda item 6]

3. Mrs. BOKOR-SZEGÖ (Hungary), speaking on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, nominated Mr. Milan Šahović (Yugoslavia) for the office of Chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

4. Mr. do NASCIMENTO e SILVA (Brazil) and Mr. SHASH (Egypt) seconded the nomination.

Mr. Šahović was elected Chairman of the Committee of the Whole by acclamation.

**Election of the Chairman
of the Drafting Committee**

[Agenda item 7]

5. Mr. MURAKAMI (Japan), speaking of behalf of the Group of Asian States, nominated Mr. Sompong Sucharitkul (Thailand) for the office of Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

Mr. Sucharitkul (Thailand) was elected Chairman of the Drafting Committee by acclamation.

Appointment of the Credentials Committee

[Agenda item 8]

6. The PRESIDENT said that, owing to the late arrival of some delegations, not all the regional groups had yet submitted their nominations of members of the Credentials Committee.

7. Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America) drew attention to the long-established practice whereby the membership of a Credentials Committee followed the pattern of that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations directly preceding the conference in question.

8. The PRESIDENT suggested that consideration of the item should be deferred till a later date.

It was so decided.

**Appointment of other members
of the Drafting Committee**

[Agenda item 9]

9. The PRESIDENT said that he proposed to suspend the meeting in order to convene a meeting of the General Committee.

The meeting was suspended at 3.55 p.m. and resumed at 5.15 p.m.

10. The PRESIDENT, referring to rule 47 of the rules of procedure, said that the Group of African States had not yet completed its consultations owing to the late arrival of some members. The final decision on the composition of the Drafting Committee would therefore have to be deferred. Pending the nominations of the Group of African States to three seats remaining to be filled, the General Committee recommended that the following States should be appointed members of the Drafting Committee: Argentina, France, Greece, Japan, Poland, Qatar (to be replaced by Iraq for the last three weeks of the Conference), Spain, Thailand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela.

Those States were appointed members of the Drafting Committee.

Organization of work

[Agenda item 10]

11. The PRESIDENT said that the General Committee recommended that the Conference should endorse the suggestions contained in the memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/CONF.117/3), which were based on the experience of previous codification conferences, on the understanding that the Conference and its organs would have the necessary flexibility to adapt the recommended procedures to their needs.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.

3rd plenary meeting

Friday, 4 March 1983, at 10.10 a.m.

President: Mr. SEIDL-HOHENFELDERN (Austria)

**Appointment of other members
of the Drafting Committee (concluded)**

[Agenda item 9]

1. The PRESIDENT announced that consultations in respect of the remaining members of the Drafting Committee had been completed and that the Group of African States had decided to nominate Algeria, Kenya and Nigeria to the three remaining seats on that Committee. The recommendation of the General Committee therefore was that the Drafting Committee should be composed of the following States: Algeria, Argentina, France, Greece, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria, Poland, Qatar (to be replaced by Iraq for the last three weeks of the Conference), Spain, Thailand (Chairman), Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela. In the absence of objection he would take it that the Conference appointed the representatives of the States he had mentioned as members of the Drafting Committee.

It was so decided.