

**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.3

3rd 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)*

**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.

Appointment of the Credentials Committee (*concluded*)
[Agenda item 8]

2. The PRESIDENT said that after long negotiations an agreement had been reached in respect of the membership of the Credentials Committee. He now proposed that that Committee should be composed of the following States: Belgium, Brazil, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Nicaragua, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.

4th plenary meeting

Thursday, 17 March 1983, at 12.25 p.m.

President: Mr. SEIDL-HOHENFELDERN (Austria)

Organization of work
[Agenda item 10]

1. The PRESIDENT said that, at its meeting earlier that day, the General Committee had considered the progress made in the work of the Conference and ways and means of ensuring that the Conference would successfully complete its work on time. In the light of the General Committee's deliberations and in order that the work of the Conference might be expedited, he suggested that: (a) informal consultations should be encouraged between regional and other groups before major issues were considered by the Committee of the Whole and after decisions had been taken indicating that major differences remained on those major issues, so as to enhance the possibility of a generally agreed text being adopted in the final stages of the Conference; (b) the Secretariat should be requested to enquire about the possibility of scheduling meetings on Easter Monday, 4 April 1983, should the Conference decide that it would be necessary to meet on that day; (c) all delegations should be requested to exercise self-restraint in the length of their statements; (d) the Committee of the Whole should exercise discretion in suspending its meetings for short coffee breaks, so that such breaks would be utilized only for purposes of negotiation and reaching an agreement on contentious points; (e) evening meetings should be envisaged, particularly for the Drafting Committee; and (f) the possibilities provided by the rules of procedure to shorten lengthy and repetitious debates should be fully utilized.

2. In the absence of any comment, he would take it that the Conference agreed with those suggestions.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

5th plenary meeting

Monday, 28 March 1983, at 10.10 a.m.

President: Mr. SEIDL-HOHENFELDERN (Austria)

Organization of work
[Agenda item 10]

1. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with rule 47, paragraph 1 of the rules of procedure, the General Committee had decided to recommend that Cuba should be appointed to the Drafting Committee to replace Venezuela which had announced its desire to withdraw.