

ARTICLE 21

CONTENTS

Paragraphs

Text of Article 21

Introductory note	1–2
I. General survey	3–6
II. Analytical summary of practice	7–81
A. Adoption and amendment of the rules of procedure	7–16
**1. Question of the relationship of the rules to the functions and powers of the General Assembly under the Charter	
2. Method and procedures employed in adopting and amending the rules	7–16
(a) Rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly	7–9
(b) Inclusion of Arabic among the official and working languages ...	10–15
(c) Conclusions of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization	16
B. Some significant features of the rules	17–65
1. The agenda	17–18
Special sessions	17–18
2. Organization of sessions	19–23
(a) Special sessions	19–21
(b) Emergency special sessions	22–23
3. Elections	24–33
(a) Security Council	24–30
(b) Economic and Social Council	31–33
4. Question of participation	34–61
(a) Participation in debates	34–56
(b) Statements in reply	57–61
5. Records of meetings	62–63
6. Administrative and financial implications	64–65
C. Elections	66–69
1. President of the General Assembly	66–68
2. Vice–Presidents of the General Assembly	69
D. Appointment of members of subsidiary organs	70–81
1. Chairmanship of the Special Political Committee	70–72
2. International Civil Service Commission	73–81

TEXT OF ARTICLE 21

The General Assembly shall adopt its own rules of procedure. It shall elect its President for each session.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. During the period under review, the General Assembly amended its rules of procedure on three occasions. Those amendments are dealt with in section II.A.2 of the present study.

2. As in previous studies of Article 21 in the *Repertory* and its *Supplements 1 to 5*, some significant features noted in the implementation of the rules of procedure are analysed in section II.B.

I. GENERAL SURVEY

3. At its thirty-fourth session, the General Assembly, by its decision 34/401, adopted a number of provisions concerning the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the Assembly. Sections I to V of the decision are reproduced in annex VI to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.¹

4. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly, by its resolutions 35/219 A and B, decided to include Arabic among the official and working languages of the subsidiary organs of the Assembly, no later than 1 January 1982, and adopted consequential amendments to rules 51, 52, 54 and 56 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

5. At the main part of its thirty-ninth session, held from September to December 1984, the General

Assembly, by its resolution 39/88 B, approved the conclusions of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization concerning the rationalization of the procedures of the General Assembly and decided that they should be annexed to the rules of procedure; these conclusions are reproduced in annex VII to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

6. Rule 92 of the rules of procedure provides that all elections shall be held by secret ballot and that there shall be no nominations. Nevertheless, in increasing numbers, representatives of States announced their candidature or their withdrawal. More frequently, the chairmen of the regional groups concerned announced the names of countries or persons that were candidates.

II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE

A. Adoption and amendment of the rules of procedure

****1. QUESTION OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE RULES TO THE FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDER THE CHARTER**

2. METHOD AND PROCEDURES EMPLOYED IN ADOPTING AND AMENDING THE RULES

(a) *Rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly*

7. At its thirty-fourth session, the General Assembly, on the proposal of the General Committee,² adopted decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the Assembly. The President of the Assembly, in introducing the report of the General Committee, remarked that the Committee had recommended

several measures to improve the General Assembly's existing procedures and practices, on the basis of the observations and suggestions of the Secretary-General. He noted that those measures were not contrary to the rules of procedure and, if adopted, would represent a giant step towards the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly. He expressed the hope that the experience of the session would contribute to the proceedings of future sessions.³

8. The recommendations in decision 34/401, which are reproduced as annex VI to the rules of procedure, continued to be adhered to, to the extent applicable, by the General Assembly both in the plenary and in the Main Committees. Those recommendations have helped to streamline the practices of the Assembly in the conduct of its proceedings and in the time saved by the meetings.

Some of the recommendations observed in plenary are the following:

"I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

"...

"D. General debate

"5. Out of consideration for the other speakers and in order to preserve the dignity of the general debate, delegations should refrain from expressing their congratulations in the General Assembly Hall after a speech has been delivered.

"E. Explanations of vote

"6. Explanations of vote should be limited to ten minutes.

"7. When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee.

"F. Right of reply

"8. Delegations should exercise their right of reply at the end of the day whenever two meetings have been scheduled for that day and whenever such meetings are devoted to the consideration of the same item.

"9. The number of interventions in the exercise of the right of reply for any delegation at a given meeting should be limited to two per item.

"10. The first intervention in the exercise of the right of reply for any delegation on any item at a given meeting should be limited to ten minutes and the second intervention should be limited to five minutes.

"...

"J. Balloting procedure

"16. The practice of dispensing with the secret ballot for elections to subsidiary organs when the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled should become standard and the same practice should apply to the election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly, unless a delegation specifically requests a vote on a given election.⁴

"K. Concluding statements

"17. To save time at the end of the session, the practice of making concluding statements in the General Assembly and its Main Committees should be dispensed with except for statements by the presiding officers.

"...

"V. PLANNING OF MEETINGS

"...

"34. No subsidiary organ of the General Assembly should be permitted to meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly, unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly."

9. Decision 34/401 was adopted in the course of the thirty-fourth session on the basis of several reports of the General Committee. Section VI of the decision, which related mostly to the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on Subsidiary Organs, has not been reproduced in annex VI.⁵

(b) *Inclusion of Arabic among the official and working languages*

10. By its resolution 3190 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, the General Assembly had decided to include Arabic among the official and working languages of the General Assembly and its Main Committees.⁶

11. At its thirty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 34/226, entitled "Arabic language services", by which it requested the Secretary-General to bring the Arabic language services up to a level equal with the services of the other official and working languages of the General Assembly and its Main Committees and to make the necessary arrangements for the full implementation of the resolution and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

12. At the thirty-fifth session, the Fifth Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General⁷ submitted in compliance with resolution 34/226. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution on the subject without objection and recommended that the General Assembly adopt the amendments to its rules of procedure as proposed in the note by the Secretariat,⁸ on the understanding that the new texts would take effect as of the date of the implementation of operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution. Corresponding changes in the rules of subsidiary organs of the Assembly that had adopted their own

rules of procedure would need to be made by the organs concerned.

13. Consequently, at its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee,⁹ adopted without a vote resolutions 35/219 A and B, entitled "Use of Arabic in the subsidiary organs of the General Assembly, in the Security Council and in the Economic and Social Council: amendments to rules 51, 52, 54 and 56 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly".¹⁰

14. By its resolution 35/219 A, the General Assembly, inter alia, decided "to include Arabic among the official and working languages of the subsidiary organs of the General Assembly, no later than 1 January 1982" and requested "the Security Council to include Arabic among its official and working languages and the Economic and Social Council to include Arabic among its official languages, no later than 1 January 1983".

15. By its resolution 35/219 B, the General Assembly, inter alia, replaced rules 51 and 52 by the following text:

"VIII. LANGUAGES

"Official and working languages

"Rule 51

"Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be both the official and the working languages of the General Assembly, its committees and its subcommittees.

"Interpretation

"Rule 52

"Speeches made in any of the six languages of the General Assembly shall be interpreted into the other five languages."

(c) *Conclusions of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization*

16. At its thirty-ninth session, the General Assembly had before it a report of the Sixth Committee¹¹ recommending, inter alia, the adoption of a draft resolution to which were annexed the conclusions of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization concerning the rationalization of procedures of the General Assembly. The Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution 39/88 B, by which it "approve[d] the conclusions of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the

Role of the Organization as set forth in the annex to the present resolution" and decided that the conclusions referred to should be "reproduced as an annex to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly".¹²

B. Some significant features of the rules

1. THE AGENDA

Special sessions

17. At the eleventh special session, notwithstanding rule 40 of the rules of procedure, the President of the General Assembly proposed, in order to expedite its work, that the Assembly might wish to adopt the agenda recommended by the Committee of the Whole of the Eleventh Special Session in plenary meeting, without referring it to the General Committee. His proposal was adopted.¹³

18. At its twelfth special session, the General Assembly followed a similar procedure in adopting the agenda of that special session.¹⁴

2. ORGANIZATION OF SESSIONS

(a) Special sessions

(i) Establishment of the ad hoc committees

19. At the eleventh special session¹⁵ and at the twelfth special session,¹⁶ the General Assembly decided to establish ad hoc committees of the whole, referred to respectively as the Ad Hoc Committee of the Eleventh Special Session and the Ad Hoc Committee of the Twelfth Special Session. At both sessions, the Assembly also made provision for other bodies that might be established.

(ii) Chairmanship of the ad hoc committees

20. At the eleventh special session,¹⁷ the Ad Hoc Committee elected its Chairman, who was accorded, for the duration of the session only, full rights of membership in the General Committee, including the right to vote. At its twelfth special session,¹⁸ the General Assembly elected by acclamation the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, who was also accorded full rights of membership in the General Committee.

(iii) Vice-chairmanships of the ad hoc committees

21. At the eleventh special session,¹⁹ the Ad Hoc Committee of the Eleventh Special Session elected three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. At the twelfth special session,²⁰ the Ad Hoc Committee of the Twelfth Special Session elected 13 Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

(b) *Emergency special sessions*

22. The seventh emergency special session was first convened in July 1980 at the request of Senegal²¹ and with the concurrence of a majority of the Members. On 29 July 1980, the General Assembly, rule 2 of the rules of procedure notwithstanding, adopted resolution ES-7/2, paragraph 14 of which reads as follows:

“Decides to adjourn the seventh emergency special session temporarily and to authorize the President of the latest regular session of the General Assembly to resume its meetings upon request from Member States.”

23. The seventh emergency special session was resumed four times. It was last temporarily adjourned in September 1982 and is still suspended.²²

3. ELECTIONS

(a) *Security Council*

24. At the thirty-fourth session, before balloting had begun for the election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council, the representative of Guatemala announced that his country had withdrawn its candidacy.²³

25. At the thirty-fifth session, the representative of New Zealand, on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, announced that there were three candidates, namely, Ireland, Malta and Spain, from the Group against two vacancies. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba announced that his country had withdrawn its candidacy.²⁴

26. After 10 conclusive ballots, the representative of Colombia, in his capacity as Chairman of the Latin American Group, made a statement in the course of which he informed the General Assembly that Nicaragua was not a candidate for the seat allotted to the Latin American Group in the Security Council and added that the Latin American Group had only one candidacy, namely Costa Rica. Following two more inconclusive ballots, the representative of Panama made a statement in the course of which he informed the Assembly that Panama had not submitted its candidature for a seat on the Security Council and would support Costa Rica as long as that country remained a candidate.²⁵

27. Before proceeding to the fifteenth ballot, the President of the General Assembly read out a letter received from the representative of Colombia, in his capacity as Chairman of the Latin American Group, informing him that Panama and Costa Rica were now both candidates for the seat allotted to the Latin

American Group; however, at the 59th meeting, the representative of Costa Rica informed the Assembly that Costa Rica had withdrawn its candidature.²⁶

28. At its thirty-seventh session, before proceeding to the balloting, the General Assembly was informed by two regional groups of their candidates to the seats allocated to their groups: the Chairman of the Asian Group announced that Pakistan was the sole candidate for the Asian seat and the Chairman of the Group of Western European and other States announced that there were three candidates, namely, Malta, the Netherlands and New Zealand, for the two seats allocated to that Group.²⁷

29. At the thirty-eighth session, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, on behalf of the Group of Asian States, announced the candidature of India for the Asian seat.²⁸

30. At the thirty-ninth session, before the balloting procedure had started, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, announced that Australia and Denmark were the endorsed candidates of the Group.²⁹

(b) *Economic and Social Council*

31. At the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced the candidature of his country to the Economic and Social Council.³⁰

32. At the thirty-eighth session, before the balloting procedure had begun, the representatives of four of the five regional groups announced to the General Assembly the names of the countries that were candidates from their regions.³¹

33. At the thirty-ninth session, at the start of the meeting, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, announced the names of the countries endorsed by the that Group.³²

4. QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION

(a) *Participation in debates*

34. There are no provisions in the Charter or in the rules of procedure of the General Assembly for the participation of non-member States in the debates of the Assembly. However, over the years, an increasing number of non-member States and intergovernmental organizations with observer status in the Assembly have been invited to participate in the debates and the work of the Assembly. The practice long followed by the Assembly has been to approve each request for participation case by case. The preparatory committees of special sessions incorporated

provisions in their organizational papers for the participation of such bodies in the work of forthcoming special sessions or provisions were included in the resolutions convening the special sessions.

(i) Non-member States

35. At the thirty-fourth session, His Holiness Pope John Paul II addressed the General Assembly.³³

36. At the thirty-sixth session, during the commemoration of the International Year of Disabled Persons, the observer of the Holy See made a statement.³⁴

37. At the eleventh and twelfth special sessions, in accordance with decisions taken by the General Assembly, the Special Envoy of His Holiness Pope John Paul II read messages which His Holiness had addressed to the Assembly.³⁵

38. The observer non-member States generally did not participate in the work of the General Assembly in plenary meeting. However, in accordance with Article 93 of the Charter, Liechtenstein, San Marino and Switzerland participated in the election of the judges to the International Court of Justice at the thirty-fifth, thirty-sixth and thirty-ninth sessions.³⁶

(ii) Intergovernmental and other organizations
with observer status in the General
Assembly

39. Since its twenty-ninth session, the General Assembly has adopted a number of resolutions granting observer status to intergovernmental organizations and other entities in the Assembly. In those resolutions the Assembly has invited them to participate in the sessions and the work of the Assembly in the capacity of observer. During the period under review, the following intergovernmental organizations were granted observer status by the Assembly:

	<i>Resolution</i>	<i>Date</i>
Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee	35/2	13 October 1980
Latin American Economic System	35/3	13 October 1980
African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States	36/4	15 October 1981

40. With the approval of the General Assembly, several intergovernmental organizations were given the opportunity to participate in the debates of regular sessions of the Assembly on items of particular

interest to them and, in some cases, in debates on other items. Some of the organizations also participated in the debates of special and emergency special sessions.

Organization of American States

41. Although the Organization of American States was granted observer status in the General Assembly by resolution 253 (III), it rarely participated in the work of the plenary. At its thirty-sixth session, during the commemoration of the International Year of Disabled Persons, the Assembly was informed by its President that a message had been received from the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States in which he described the efforts made by his organization during the International Year.³⁷

League of Arab States

42. The item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States" was first included in the agenda of the General Assembly at the thirty-sixth session. On the basis of precedents and taking into account Assembly resolution 477 (V) of 1 November 1950, by which the League of Arab States had been granted observer status, the observer of the League made statements in the course of the consideration of this item at all the regular sessions during the period under review. The observer of the League also participated in the debates on several other items in the course of the regular sessions during the period:

(a) The situation in the Middle East (thirty-fourth to thirty-ninth sessions);

(b) Question of Palestine (thirty-fifth to thirty-ninth sessions);

(c) Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security (thirty-sixth session);

(d) Question of Namibia (thirty-seventh and thirty-ninth sessions).

43. Also taking into account resolution 477 (V), the General Assembly approved requests to give the observer of the League of Arab States an opportunity to address the Assembly at its eleventh and twelfth special sessions as well as its seventh, eighth and ninth emergency special sessions.³⁸

Organization of African Unity

44. Although the Organization of African Unity was granted observer status at the twentieth session by the

General Assembly in its resolution 2011 (XX) of 11 October 1965, and the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity" was included in the agenda of the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session, in 1973, as well as at all the regular sessions during the period under review, the observer for the Organization of African Unity did not participate in the discussions of the item. The representative of the Member State holding the current chairmanship of the Group of African States spoke on behalf of the organization at the time of the consideration of the item at each session.

45. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly, during the consideration of the item entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees", acceded to a request to hear a statement by the Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity at the time of the adoption of resolution 35/42, entitled "International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa".³⁹

46. At its eleventh special session, the General Assembly invited, at his request, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to address the Assembly in the course of the debate.⁴⁰

Organization of the Islamic Conference

47. The item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference" was included in the agenda of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 3369 (XXX) of 10 October 1975, by which the Assembly granted observer status to the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the organization participated in the debate on the item concerned at the regular sessions during the period under review.

48. The Organization of the Islamic Conference also addressed the General Assembly at the seventh and ninth emergency special sessions.⁴¹

Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee

49. The item entitled "Twenty-fifth anniversary of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee" was included in the agenda of the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly. At that session, the Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-seventh session an item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee".⁴² Following the adoption of the resolution, the Secretary-General of the Consultative Committee made a statement.⁴³

50. Subsequent to the thirty-seventh session, the item was included in the agenda of each regular session during the period under review and the Secretary-General of the Consultative Committee made statements at each regular session at the time of the consideration of the item by the General Assembly.

Palestine Liberation Organization

51. On the basis of General Assembly resolution 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974, the Palestine Liberation Organization participated in the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer. The observer of the PLO participated in the debate on the item entitled "Question of Palestine" at all the regular sessions during the period under review; the observer of the PLO also participated in the debate on the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East" at all the sessions during the period, with the exception of the thirty-eighth session. The observer of the PLO also participated in debates on several other items:

(a) General debate (thirty-fifth, thirty-sixth, thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions);

(b) Question of Namibia (thirty-fifth and thirty-seventh sessions);

(c) Solemn observance of the twentieth anniversary of the first Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries (thirty-sixth session);

(d) Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories (thirty-sixth session);

(e) International Year of Disabled Persons (thirty-sixth session);

(f) Report of the Economic and Social Council (thirty-sixth session);

(g) Credentials of representatives to the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly (thirty-eighth session);

(h) The situation in Central America: threats to international peace and security and peace initiatives (thirty-ninth session).

At the thirty-seventh session, the observer of the PLO also participated in paying tribute to the memory of H.E. Mr. Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.⁴⁴

52. Also in accordance with resolution 3237 (XXIX), the observer of the PLO participated in the

debate at the twelfth special session, as well as at the sixth, eighth and ninth emergency special sessions.⁴⁵

53. At its seventh emergency special session, the General Assembly considered the item entitled "Question of Palestine". The Palestine Liberation Organization participated in the debate at the seventh emergency special session and at all the resumptions of the session. The seventh emergency special session has been temporarily adjourned since 24 September 1982.⁴⁶

South West Africa People's Organization

54. On the basis of General Assembly resolution 31/152 of 20 December 1976, the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) participated in the sessions and the work of the Assembly in the capacity of observer. At its eighth emergency special session, the Assembly considered the item entitled "Question of Namibia". The observer of SWAPO made a statement in the debate.⁴⁷ The observer of SWAPO also participated in the debate on the item entitled "Question of Namibia" during the regular sessions of the Assembly.

African National Congress of South Africa Pan Africanist Congress of Azania

55. The General Assembly, on 10 December 1974, adopted resolution 3280 (XXIX), in which it decided "to invite as observers, on a regular basis and in accordance with earlier practice, representatives of the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity to participate in the relevant work of the Main Committees of the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs concerned, as well as in conferences, seminars and other meetings held under the auspices of the United Nations which relate to their countries". In accordance with that resolution and the decision of the Assembly taken at the organizational meeting at the beginning of each regular session, the African National Congress of South Africa and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania participated in plenary meetings in the consideration of the item entitled "Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa" at all the regular sessions during the period under review.

- (iii) Intergovernmental organization with special observer status

Latin American Economic System

56. At the eleventh special session, on the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole of the Eleventh Special Session, the General Assembly approved the granting of observer status for the duration of the special session to the Latin American

Economic System.⁴⁸ By its resolution 35/3 of 13 October 1980, the General Assembly granted observer status for the Latin American Economic System in the Assembly.

(b) Statements in reply

Palestine Liberation Organization

57. At the thirty-fourth session, during the general debate, the observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization asked to be allowed to reply to the statement made by one of the speakers in the debate. The President of the General Assembly called on him "to reply on the basis of General Assembly resolution 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974, and particularly on the basis of the ruling made by the President of the thirty-first session and of the precedents established under similar circumstances during the previous two sessions of the Assembly".⁴⁹ The observer of the PLO made statements in reply during the general debate at all the sessions during the period under review.

58. During the sessions covered by the present *Supplement*, the observer of the PLO also made statements in reply during the consideration of the items entitled "Question of Palestine" and the "The situation in the Middle East".⁵⁰

59. The observer of the PLO also made statements in reply during the consideration of other items at the regular sessions during the period, for example, at the thirty-fourth and thirty-sixth sessions, during the debate on the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories".⁵¹

League of Arab States

60. At the thirty-fifth session, during the debate on the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", the observer of the League of Arab States, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 477 (V), made a statement in reply.⁵² The observer of the League also made a statement in reply during the consideration of the item entitled "Question of Palestine" at the thirty-ninth session.⁵³

Pan Africanist Congress of Azania

61. At the thirty-ninth session, during the consideration of the item entitled "Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa", the observer of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania was given the floor in order to make a statement in reply in accordance with the decision taken by the General Assembly.⁵⁴

5. RECORDS OF MEETINGS

62. The General Assembly continued to deal with the question of the records of meetings of the plenary and its Main Committees as stipulated in rule 58 of the rules of procedure and recommended by the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly.⁵⁵

63. At its thirty-fourth session, during the consideration of the item entitled "Pattern of conferences", the General Assembly adopted resolution 34/50, recommended by the Fifth Committee in its report,⁵⁶ the understanding that the International Law Commission and the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174 would continue to have summary records for an experimental period of one year.⁵⁷

6. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

64. At the resumption of the thirty-third session on 15 January 1979, the President announced that, owing to a technical oversight, resolution 33/148, entitled "United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy", had been adopted on 20 December 1978 without compliance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure. To remedy the situation, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee took up the administrative and financial implications of resolution 33/148 and reported to the Assembly in that regard at the resumed session.⁵⁸

65. At a subsequent meeting, the President of the General Assembly announced that the report of the Fifth Committee on resolution 33/148 was now before the Assembly in document A/33/556. Taking into account the fact that, with the submission of the report of the Fifth Committee, rule 153 of the rules of procedure had been complied with, resolution 33/148 was considered adopted.⁵⁹

C. Elections

1. PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

66. At the thirty-sixth session, there were three candidates for the post of President of the General Assembly. In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the Assembly proceeded to elect the President.⁶⁰

67. As the results of the first ballots were inconclusive, the General Assembly proceeded to a

second ballot restricted to the two candidates who had obtained the greatest number of votes. In the second ballot, the votes were equally divided. In accordance with rule 93, the temporary President drew lots.

68. His name having been drawn, Ismat T. Kittani (Iraq) was elected President of the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

2. VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

69. At the thirty-eighth session, after having elected 19 of the 21 Vice-Presidents, the President of the General Assembly announced that he had received a communication from the Chairman of the Latin American Group informing him of the candidacies of two countries (Chile and Guatemala) and that he had received a request that the vote be taken by secret ballot for the two vacancies. In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the Assembly proceeded to the election of the two vice-presidents. In the final result, two countries (Guyana and Venezuela) other than those that had been candidates were elected Vice-President.⁶¹

D. Appointment of members of subsidiary organs

1. CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

70. At its eleventh special session, the General Assembly decided that the Chairmen of the thirty-fourth session, the latest regular session, should serve in the same capacity at the eleventh special session, on the understanding that appropriate arrangements would be made for the replacement by a member of the same delegation or by a member of a delegation from the same region of those chairmen who were unable to serve.⁶²

71. Regarding the Chairman of the Special Political Committee, the President requested that the Secretariat be informed as soon as possible of the name of the representative who would be replacing the preceding year's Chairman, Hammoud El-Choufi of the Syrian Arab Republic.⁶³

72. At the 7th plenary meeting, the President recalled the decision taken by the General Assembly at its 1st plenary meeting regarding the chairmanship of the Special Political Committee and announced that he had now been informed that Mohammad Samir Mansouri of the Syrian Arab Republic would replace the preceding year's chairman and would therefore be Chairman of the Special Political Committee at the eleventh special session.⁶⁴

2. INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

73. At the thirty-sixth session, during the consideration of the item entitled "Appointment of five members of the International Civil Service Commission", the Fifth Committee had before it the names of five persons suggested for appointment by the Secretary-General.⁶⁵ The representative of Finland proposed that the Fifth Committee should hold an election to decide on the persons to be recommended for appointment to the Commission with all five of the candidates submitted by the Group of Western European and other States being considered; the Secretary-General had proposed the names of three persons from that Group.

74. By 78 votes to 8, with 16 abstentions, the Fifth Committee decided that the nominees should be determined by an election.

75. Acting on a proposal by the Chairman, the Fifth Committee decided by acclamation to recommend the appointment of the nominees from Brazil and Japan.

76. The Fifth Committee then proceeded to elect by secret ballot the three remaining nominees from among the five candidates submitted by the Group of Western European and other States. As a result of the voting, the Committee recommended that, in addition to the candidates from Brazil and Japan, the General Assembly should appoint as members of the Commission the candidates from Finland, France and the Federal Republic of Germany.

77. At its 105th plenary meeting, on 18 December 1981, the General Assembly had before it the report of the Fifth Committee on the item.⁶⁶ The representative of France made a statement on a point of order and moved that consideration of the item be postponed. Several representatives, also on points of order, made statements objecting to this procedure.

78. The Legal Counsel made a statement in which he referred to article 4 of the Commission's statute. He stated that, when it had decided to vote for some candidates whose names had not been on the list suggested by the Secretary-General, the Fifth Committee had ipso facto rejected the list compiled by the Secretary-General and was requesting a new list.

79. By 48 votes to 43, with 42 abstentions, the General Assembly rejected the motion put forward by France.

80. The representative of the United States of America made a statement and moved that the Secretary-General should draw up a new list of

candidates for appointment as members of the Commission. By a recorded vote of 46 votes to 35, with 49 abstentions, the General Assembly rejected the motion by the United States.

81. By a recorded vote of 105 votes to 6, with 25 abstentions, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, appointed five persons as members of the Commission for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1982.⁶⁷

NOTES

¹ A/520/Rev.15 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.I.13).

² A/34/250/Add.6, para. 4.

³ G A (34), Plen., 4th mtg., para. 344.

⁴ See *Repertory, Supplement No. 5*, vol. I, under Article 21, paras. 45 and 46.

⁵ G A (34), Plen., 4th mtg., paras. 344-357; 46th mtg., paras. 71-76; 82nd mtg., paras. 3 and 4; and 99th mtg., paras. 2-8.

⁶ See *Repertory, Supplement No. 5*, vol. I, under Article 21, paras. 24-26.

⁷ A/C.5/35/18 and Corr.1.

⁸ A/C.5/35/L.30.

⁹ A/35/780.

¹⁰ G A (35), Plen., 99th mtg., para. 114.

¹¹ A/39/781.

¹² A/520/Rev.15, annex VII; see also G A (39), Plen., 99th mtg., para. 568.

¹³ G A (S-11), Plen., 1st mtg., para. 67.

¹⁴ G A (S-12), Plen., 1st mtg., para. 106.

¹⁵ G A (S-11), Plen., 1st mtg., paras. 78 (a) and (f) and 79; see also G A decision S-11/22.

¹⁶ G A (S-12), Plen., 1st mtg., para. 79; *ibid.*, Suppl. No. 1, paras. 47 and 51; see also G A decision S-12/21.

¹⁷ G A (S-11), Plen., 1st mtg., para. 78 (c); A/S-11/25, para. 3; see also G A decision S-11/22.

¹⁸ G A (S-12), Plen., 1st mtg., para. 102; see also G A decision S-12/15.

¹⁹ A/S-11/25, para. 3.

²⁰ A/S-12/32, para. 11; see also G A decision S-12/15.

²¹ A/ES-7/1, annex.

²² A/ES-7/PV.32, p. 172.

²³ G A (34), Plen., 47th mtg., paras. 25-33.

²⁴ G A (35), Plen., 41st mtg., paras. 44 and 45.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, 51st mtg., paras. 1, 2, 12 and 13.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 57th mtg., paras. 128-130; and 59th mtg., paras. 17 and 18.

²⁷ G A (37), Plen., 36th mtg., paras. 5-8.

²⁸ G A (38), Plen., 36th mtg., paras. 5-8.

²⁹ G A (39), Plen., 36th mtg., paras. 5-8.

³⁰ G A (37), Plen., 38th mtg., para. 12.

³¹ G A (38), Plen., 40th mtg., paras. 24-29.

³² G A (39), Plen., 40th mtg., paras. 24-29.

³³ G A (34), Plen., 17th mtg.

³⁴ G A (36), Plen., 89th mtg., paras. 362-379.

³⁵ G A (S-11), Plen., 2nd mtg., para. 2; G A (S-12), Plen., 8th mtg., para. 127.

³⁶ G A (35), Plen., 100th mtg., para. 12; G A (36), Plen., 48th mtg., para. 2; *ibid.*, 107th mtg., para. 2; G A (39), Plen., 53rd mtg., para. 9.

³⁷ G A (36), Plen., 89th mtg., para. 412.

³⁸ G A (S-11), Plen., 17th mtg., paras. 146-180; G A (S-12), Plen. 23rd mtg., paras. 192-228; A/ES-7/PV.7, A/ES-7/PV.15, A/ES-7/PV.25, A/ES-7/PV.27 and A/ES-7/PV.32; G A (ES-8), Plen., 8th mtg., paras. 114-140; G A (ES-9), Plen., 3rd mtg., paras. 93-115.

³⁹ G A (35), Plen., 73rd mtg., paras. 37-52.

⁴⁰ G A (S-11), Plen., 2nd mtg., paras. 138-188.

⁴¹ A/ES-7/PV.2, pp. 8-10; G A (ES-9), Plen., 3rd mtg., paras. 2-27.

⁴² G A resolution 36/38.

⁴³ G A (36), Plen., 63rd mtg., paras. 24-27.

⁴⁴ G A (37), Plen., 64th mtg., paras. 182-185.

⁴⁵ G A (S-12), Plen., 19th mtg., paras. 111-150; G A (ES-6), Plen., 7th mtg., paras. 59-75; G A (ES-8), Plen., 10th mtg., paras. 139-151; and G A (ES-9), Plen., 2nd mtg., paras. 98-135.

⁴⁶ A/ES-7/PV.32, p. 172.

⁴⁷ G A (ES-8), Plen., 3rd mtg., paras. 68-117.

⁴⁸ G A (S-11), Plen., 1st mtg., para. 80; see also G A decision S-11/22.

⁴⁹ See *Repertory, Supplement No. 5*, vol. I, under Article 21, para. 65; see also G A (34), Plen., 12th mtg., paras. 347-364.

⁵⁰ See, e.g. G A (36), Plen., 81st mtg., paras. 175-186; G A (39), Plen., 77th mtg., paras. 31-36.

⁵¹ G A (34), Plen., 71st mtg., para. 160; G A (36), Plen., 42nd mtg., para. 66.

⁵² G A (35), Plen., 86th mtg., para. 230.

⁵³ G A (39), Plen., 95th mtg., paras. 254-264.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, 99th mtg., paras. 315-320; see also para. 55 above.

⁵⁵ A/250/Rev.15, annex V, para. 108.

⁵⁶ A/34/625.

⁵⁷ G A (34), Plen., 76th mtg., paras. 45 and 46; see also G A decision 34/418.

⁵⁸ G A (33), Plen., 92nd mtg., para. 10.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, 95th mtg., para. 12.

⁶⁰ G A (36), Plen., 1st mtg., paras. 49-53.

⁶¹ G A (38), Plen., 2nd mtg., paras. 8-43.

⁶² G A (S-11), Plen., 1st mtg., para. 73.

⁶³ *Ibid.*, para. 76.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, 7th mtg., para. 1.

⁶⁵ A/36/166.

⁶⁶ A/36/546.

⁶⁷ G A (36), Plen., 105th mtg., paras. 23-74; see also G A decision 36/324.