

United Nations Conference on Consular Relations

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3rd meeting of the Plenary

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Official Records of the United Nations Conference on Consular Relations, vol. I
(Summary records of plenary meetings and of meetings of
the First and Second Committees)

SECOND PLENARY MEETING*Tuesday, 5 March 1963, at 3.55 p.m.**President: Mr. VEROSTA (Austria)***Adoption of the rules of procedure**

[Agenda item 4]

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the provisional rules of procedure prepared by the secretariat.

*The provisional rules of procedure were adopted.***Meeting of Committees to elect their Chairmen**

[Agenda item 5]

2. The PRESIDENT said that the meeting would be suspended to enable the committees to meet and elect their chairmen.

*The plenary meeting was suspended at 4 p.m. and resumed at 4.15 p.m.***Election of Vice-Presidents**

[Agenda item 6]

3. The PRESIDENT pointed out that eighteen vice-presidents were to be elected under rule 6 of the rules of procedure. Subject to the approval of the Conference, he proposed that the representatives of the following States should be appointed vice-presidents: Algeria, Argentina, Canada, Ceylon, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, France, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Romania, Thailand, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Upper Volta, Yugoslavia.

*It was so agreed.***Appointment of the credentials committee**

[Agenda item 7]

4. The PRESIDENT announced that nine members were to be appointed to the credentials committee under rule 4 of the rules of procedure. Subject to the approval of the Conference, he proposed that the committee should consist of the representatives of the countries which had served on the credentials committee of the General Assembly at its seventeenth session. Those countries were: Canada, El Salvador, Greece, Guinea, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America.

*It was so agreed.***Organization of work (A/CONF.25/3 and Add.1)**

[Agenda item 8]

5. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Conference should approve the Secretary-General's suggestions concerning the organization of work (A/CONF.25/3 and Add.1).

*It was so agreed.¹***Appointment of the drafting committee**

[Agenda item 9]

6. The PRESIDENT observed that, although the question of the appointment of the drafting committee was not on the agenda of the Conference, agreement had been reached on the composition of the committee. Under rule 49 of the rules of procedure, the drafting committee was to consist of twelve members. He suggested that the provision in rule 49 that the drafting committee should be appointed by the general committee be waived, and that the drafting committee should consist of representatives of Argentina, Brazil, China, France, Ghana, Hungary, India, Spain, Switzerland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

*It was so agreed.**The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.***THIRD PLENARY MEETING***Thursday, 28 March 1963, at 10 a.m.**President: Mr. VEROSTA (Austria)***Reallocation of articles to committees:
first report of the general committee**

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the first report of the general committee (A/CONF.25/9), which recommended that articles 52, 53, 54 and 55 should be transferred from the Second Committee to the First Committee. The reasons for that recommendation were stated in paragraph 2 of the report.

2. Both the committees had made good progress in their work: the First Committee had almost completed consideration of the articles originally allocated to it and the Second Committee had examined twenty-two highly technical articles. The allocation plan approved by the Conference at its second plenary meeting had given the Second Committee much the heavier workload, however, and it still had twenty articles, also of a technical character, to deal with. The general committee therefore considered it advisable to transfer some of those articles to the First Committee; it would make further recommendations at a later stage if necessary.

3. If there were no objections, he would consider that the Conference approved the general committee's recommendation.

The general committee's recommendation was approved.

¹ Under the Secretary-General's scheme, the First Committee was to consider the preamble, articles 2-27, 68, 70 and 71, final clauses, the Final Act of the Conference, and any protocols which the Conference might consider necessary. The Second Committee was to consider articles 28-67 and 69. Article 1 (Definitions) was to be considered by the drafting committee, after the examination of the other articles.

This arrangement was slightly altered later in the Conference; see the summary records of the third and fourth plenary meetings.

4. The PRESIDENT thanked delegations for their co-operation and expressed his appreciation of the work they had done under the able guidance of the two committee chairmen.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING

Tuesday, 2 April 1963, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. VEROSTA (Austria)

Reallocation of articles to committees: second report of the general committee (A/CONF.25/10)

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the second report of the general committee (A/CONF.25/10), which recommended that the text of article 1 prepared by the drafting committee be referred to the First Committee. It had originally been intended that the drafting committee should report direct to the Conference on that article, but the general committee had taken the view that the procedure proposed in document A/CONF.25/10 would save time. There could be a broad exchange of views in the First Committee, which would be sure to expedite subsequent consideration of the article in plenary.

2. The First Committee had finished examining the articles allocated to it and could therefore take up article 1 immediately, while the Second Committee went on with its own programme of work, which should be completed by the end of the week or the beginning of the following week.

3. In the absence of any objection, he would take it that the Conference approved the general committee's recommendation.

The recommendation of the general committee was approved.

The meeting rose at 10.10 a.m.

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING

Monday, 8 April 1963, at 3.10 p.m.

President: Mr. VEROSTA (Austria)

Consideration of the question of consular relations in accordance with resolution 1685 (XVI) adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 1961

[Agenda item 10]

REPORT OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to consider the draft convention on consular relations, as prepared by the drafting committee in accordance with the decisions of the two committees (A/CONF.25/L.11). The Conference also had before it the report of the First Committee (A/CONF.25/L.10), which he would invite the rapporteur of that committee to introduce.

2. Mr. WESTRUP (Sweden), rapporteur of the First Committee, said that the Committee's report comprised a brief record of the work of the Committee carried out in accordance with the terms of reference as set out by the Conference and an outline of the decisions taken by the Committee on each of the articles that it had been called upon to consider. The text of the articles adopted by the Committee was annexed to the report.

DRAFT CONVENTION

3. The PRESIDENT invited the chairman of the drafting committee to introduce the text prepared by the committee for the title, the preamble and articles 1-27 of the draft convention (A/CONF.25/L.11).

4. Mr. KRISHNA RAO (India), chairman of the drafting committee, said that, departing from the precedent of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the drafting committee had kept the titles and sub-titles of the International Law Commission's draft articles, considering that they would make for easier reference to the articles and, consequently, facilitate consultation of the convention. The text submitted to the Conference had been adopted unanimously by the drafting committee with the exception of one or two points of slight importance. A small change had been made in the third paragraph of the preamble in order to indicate that the date mentioned was that on which the 1961 Convention had been opened for signature. The drafting committee had had before it also an amendment to article 1 referred to it by the First Committee.

Title

The title of the convention was adopted unanimously.

5. Mr. KIRCHSCHLAEGER (Austria) thanked the Conference for the honour done to his country by associating the name of Vienna with the title of the Convention.

Preamble

The text of the preamble was adopted unanimously.

Article 1 (Definitions)

6. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the amendments to article 1 submitted by Ghana and Spain (E/CONF.25/L.12).

7. Mr. de ERICE y O'SHEA (Spain) recalled that after a long discussion, which had resulted in 29 votes in favour, 29 against and 6 abstentions, the First Committee had failed to adopt the proposal of the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan and Nigeria to include the residence of a head of consular post in the definition of consular premises. In view of that equal vote, the Spanish delegation, which had voted in favour of the proposal, thought that an attempt should be made to reconcile the opposing points of view and had therefore submitted, jointly with the Ghanaian delegation, an amendment to sub-paragraph (i) of paragraph 1 of