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

Vienna, Austria
4 February - 14 March 1975

Document:-
A/CONF.67/15

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

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

Document A/CONF.67/15
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:

- 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; Pakistan; Union of Soviet Social Republics; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; United States of America; 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. Alfonso Klaflkowski (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 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 coordinating 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 cooperation,

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 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.