

**ARTICLE 72**

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## TEXT OF ARTICLE 72

1. The Economic and Social Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its President.

2. The Economic and Social Council shall meet as required in accordance with its rules, which shall include provision for the convening of meetings on the request of a majority of its members.

## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. During the period under review the Council revised several of its rules of procedure.<sup>1</sup> The Council also took action with respect to meetings at the ministerial level, discussed below under section II-C, "Special Meetings".

<sup>1</sup> E S C (XL), 1415th mtg., and (XLI), 1458th mtg.

## I. GENERAL SURVEY

2. The Council revised its rules of procedure at its fortieth and forty-first sessions.<sup>2</sup> At the fortieth session amendments were made to rule 82 regarding the composition of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.<sup>3</sup> Amendments made at the forty-first session related to rules 20, 22 and 23 concerning the President and Vice-Presidents of the Council.<sup>4</sup>

3. At its 1403rd meeting the Council decided<sup>5</sup> to defer action on the report of its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations<sup>6</sup> and on the pro-

<sup>2</sup> In addition to these changes the Council, in conformity with part III of resolution 1156 (XLI), at its forty-second session, that is to say, subsequent to the period covered by this *Supplement*, decided to make minor consequential amendments to rules 4, 19, 26 and 27 of its rules of procedure, as a result, *inter alia*, of the enlargement of its membership and changes in its pattern of meetings: E S C (XLII), 1471st mtg., paras. 26-44 and 50-60.

<sup>3</sup> E S C (XL), 1415th mtg., paras 11-13.

<sup>4</sup> E S C (XLI), 1455th mtg., paras. 38-53 and 1458th mtg., paras. 37-46.

<sup>5</sup> E S C (XL), 1403rd mtg., paras. 28-47.

<sup>6</sup> E/4136.

posal to enlarge that Committee. It meanwhile suspended rule 86 of its rules of procedure, empowering the Committee to make recommendations to the Council on which organization in category A should be heard by the Council, so that requests for hearings from organizations in category A could be granted by the Council itself.

4. At its 1455th meeting the Council suspended rule 88 of its rules of procedure, which calls for a report from a committee of the Council before any amendment may be made to the rules of procedure, in order to consider amendments to rules 20, 22 and 23.<sup>7</sup>

5. Reference to Article 72 was made several times during the discussion<sup>8</sup> at the meeting of seventeen members of the Council on the question whether the Council could meet with a vacancy in its membership.

<sup>7</sup> E S C (XLI), 1455th mtg., para. 38 and 1458th mtg., paras. 37-46.

<sup>8</sup> E S C meeting of 17 members held on 4 April 1961, (listed as 1137th mtg., paras. 17, 21 and 24).

## II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE

### A. Adoption and revision of the rules of procedure of the Council

6. At its fortieth session the Council established an *ad hoc* Committee of the Whole,<sup>9</sup> in accordance with rule 88 of its rules of procedure, to consider, at the Council's request, the amendment of rule 82. Having taken note of the Committee's report,<sup>10</sup> the

<sup>9</sup> E S C (XL), 1414th mtg., para. 54.

<sup>10</sup> E/4166; E S C (XL), 1415th mtg.

Council adopted a resolution<sup>11</sup> by which the membership of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations was enlarged from seven to thirteen, chosen on the principle of equitable geographical representation as specified in the revised rule. The amended text of the Rule 82 reads as follows:

"Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations  
"Rule 82

"The Council shall establish a Committee on

<sup>11</sup> E S C resolution 1099 (XL).

Non-Governmental Organizations consisting of thirteen members of the Council to be elected annually. The Committee shall serve for one year following the election and shall be chosen on the principle of equitable geographical representation from States which will be members of the Council for that year. Accordingly the membership of the Committee shall include:

“Five members from Afro-Asian States;

“Four members from western European and other States;

“Two members from Latin American States;

“Two members from socialist States of eastern Europe.

“The Committee shall carry out the functions assigned to it by the Council in connexion with the arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations adopted by the Council in accordance with Article 71 of the Charter.

“The Committee shall elect its own officers.

“When considering applications for granting consultative status to non-governmental organizations, the Committee shall be guided by the rules of procedure of the Council. Non-governmental organizations applying for consultative status shall have an opportunity to submit written statements or be heard by the Committee at the request of the latter, by means of an oral statement made by a duly authorized representative.”

7. At its resumed forty-first session, at the 1455th meeting, the Council decided to suspend application of rule 88<sup>12</sup> in order to consider the amendment of rules 20, 22 and 23 of its rules of procedure concerning the Vice-Presidents of the Council. In view of the enlargement of its membership, and in order to improve the administrative organization of the Council under which two sessional committees had heretofore been headed by two Vice-Presidents and one by an elected chairman, it decided to increase the number of Vice-Presidents from two to three, making them of equal rank, to head the three sessional committees, namely, the Economic, Social and Co-ordination Committees.<sup>13</sup> The Council further specified that in the election of the President, geographical rotation of the office should be observed among the following regional groups: African States; Asian States; Latin American States; socialist States of eastern Europe; western European and other States. The three Vice-Presidents should also be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution from the regional groups other than the one to which the President belonged.<sup>14</sup> The Council adopted resolution 1193 (XLI), incorporating the amended text of rules 20, 22 and 23.

<sup>12</sup> Rule 88 calls for a report on the proposed amendment from a committee of the Council before the rules may be amended.

<sup>13</sup> See this *Supplement*, under Article 68, paras. 62–64.

<sup>14</sup> E S C resolution 1193 (XLI), Annex.

## **\*\*B. Some basic features of the rules of procedure of the Council**

### **C. Special meetings**

8. At its twenty-ninth session<sup>15</sup> the Council approved the arrangements proposed by the Secretary-General for meetings at the ministerial level to take place during the Council's thirtieth session.

9. The Secretary-General, in making his proposal, had considered that such meetings might contribute to the formulation of international economic policies, and had suggested issues to which the ministerial meetings might first address themselves. He further had suggested the thirtieth session of the Council for the first of such meetings. The Secretary-General's proposal had been discussed by the General Assembly at its fourteenth session<sup>16</sup> and by the Council at its resumed twenty-eighth session, when it had approved the principle of the proposal.<sup>17</sup>

10. Five meetings at the ministerial level took place at the thirtieth session of the Council, upon completion of which the Council made arrangements for consultations on a further series of such meetings.<sup>18</sup>

11. At its thirty-first session, the Council considered the question of when the next meeting at the ministerial level should take place.<sup>19</sup> It was decided to consider at the resumed thirty-second session preparations for a meeting of the Council at the ministerial level to be held at the thirty-fourth session.<sup>20</sup> That subject was discussed at both the resumed thirty-second and thirty-third sessions.<sup>21</sup> Differences of opinion were expressed as regards the agenda for such a meeting. A proposal that the Secretary-General should be asked to proceed with arrangements for a meeting at the ministerial level at the thirty-fourth session was not pressed. However, acting upon a proposal by the representative of India, the Council requested the Secretary-General to invite the attention of States members of the Council to the importance of the questions on the agenda of the thirty-fourth session and to convey the hope of the Council that Member States would be represented at the session at a high level.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>15</sup> E S C (XXIX), 1109th mtg., para. 1.

<sup>16</sup> G A (XIV), 3rd Com., 941st mtg., paras. 19–33.

<sup>17</sup> E S C (XXVIII), 1090th mtg., para. 1; 1091st mtg., paras. 1–32 and 1093rd mtg., paras. 1–25. E S C resolution 745 (XXVIII).

<sup>18</sup> E S C (XXX), 1117th to 1121st mtgs.

<sup>19</sup> E S C (XXXI), 1148th mtg., paras. 25–56 and 1149th mtg., paras. 3–9.

<sup>20</sup> E S C resolution 818 (XXXI).

<sup>21</sup> E S C (XXXII), 1184th mtg., paras. 12–21; E S C (XXXIII), 1205th mtg., paras. 1–31; 1206th mtg., para. 1.

<sup>22</sup> E S C (XXXIII), 1208th mtg., paras. 43–45.





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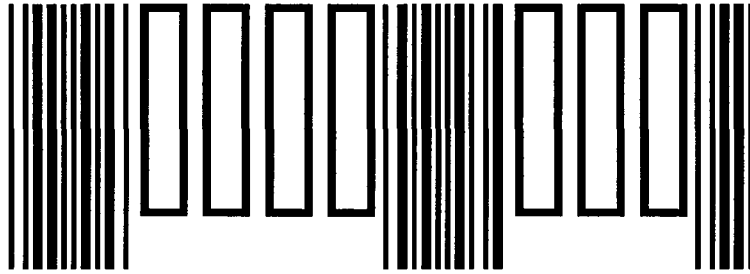
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