

DOCUMENT A/2402

Report of the Special Committee on Measures to Limit the Duration of Regular Sessions of the General Assembly

[Original text: English]
[26 June 1953]

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 380th plenary meeting, held on 16 October 1952, the General Assembly decided to include in the agenda of the seventh session the item "Measures to limit the duration of regular sessions of the General Assembly". The memorandum¹ submitted on the subject by the Secretary-General for consideration by the governments of Member States was discussed at the 387th and 388th plenary meetings of the General Assembly, held on 23 and 24 October.

2. At its 388th plenary meeting the General Assembly decided to adjourn further consideration of this item and to instruct the Sixth Committee to consider and report on the amendments contained in the Annex to the memorandum and on any other amendments to the rules of procedure proposed by the members of the Sixth Committee;² at the same time, pursuant to rule 152 of the rules of procedure, the Fifth Committee was requested to report on the financial implications of paragraph 47 of the memorandum.³

3. At its 410th plenary meeting held on 21 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, adopted resolution 689 (VII). Under its terms, a Special Committee of fifteen members was established. The Special Committee was requested "to consider the Secretary-General's memorandum and any other relevant information communicated to it by Member States and to submit its recommendations to the General Assembly at its eighth session". The Secretary-General, in turn, was requested "to transmit the Special Committee's report to Member States for comment and to include the item in the provisional agenda of the eighth session of the General Assembly".

4. The Special Committee on Measures to Limit the Duration of Regular Sessions of the General Assembly held 13 meetings at the Headquarters of the United Nations, from 25 May to 22 June 1953; at the last meeting the Special Committee approved its report to the Assembly (8 votes in favour, 2 against with one abstention). The Members appointed by the General Assembly to the Special Committee were represented during the meetings as follows:⁴

Afghanistan: Mr. Mohammed Ismail Osman;
Australia: Mr. K. G. Brennan;
Chile: Mr. Alfonso Grez;
China: Mr. Chiping H. C. Kiang;
Czechoslovakia: Dr. Karel Petrzalka, Mr. J. Rybar;
El Salvador: Mr. Carlos Serrano García;
France: Mr. Pierre Ordonneau;

Iran: Mr. F. N. Kia;
Netherlands: Mr. H. Scheltema;
Norway: Mr. Erik Dons;
Philippines: Mr. Mauro Mendez;
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Mr. N. P. Emelyanov;
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Mr. F. A. Vallat;
United States of America: Mr. William O. Hall, Mr. Paul Taylor;
Uruguay: Mr. E. Rodríguez Fabregat, Mr. Darwin Bracco.
Mr. E. Rodríguez Fabregat (Uruguay) was elected Chairman, Mr. Karel Petrzalka (Czechoslovakia) was elected Vice-Chairman and Mr. Erik Dons (Norway) was elected Rapporteur.

5. Following a general debate, the Special Committee proceeded to a discussion of each section of the Secretary-General's memorandum, together with the comments and suggestions which had been submitted pursuant to paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 689 A (VII) by the Governments of Colombia, Belgium, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, India, Iraq, Pakistan, Poland and Yugoslavia (A/AC.69/L.1, L.1/Add.1, 2, 3); the Special Committee also had before it a draft resolution submitted by Norway (A/AC.69/L.2). On the invitation of the Chairman, the representative of Iraq, who had expressed the desire to explain his Government's views, participated in the discussions which took place from the fourth to the seventh meetings of the Special Committee.

6. As a result of its deliberations and in compliance with the request of the General Assembly, the Special Committee has the honour to submit the observations and conclusions set forth below.

II. GENERAL

7. During the general debate on the documents which were before the Special Committee, statements were made ranging from broad agreement with the observations contained in the memorandum of the Secretary-General, to the doubt whether it was desirable in principle to attempt to limit the duration of regular sessions of the General Assembly. Some members feel that past experience clearly indicates that it is in the general interest for the Assembly to accept certain restrictions, and that this can be done, without prejudice to the fulfilment of its tasks, by the adoption of specific measures and practices such as have been proposed; others consider that the majority of the measures and practices suggested in the memorandum are unacceptable, running counter to the interests of the General Assembly and infringing the rights of individual Members; still others are of the opinion that the length of recent sessions is an indication of growth, reflecting the increasing influence of the Assembly in international life.

8. There is agreement among the members of the Special Committee that the best interests of the General

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventh Session Annexes*, Agenda item No. 50, page 2.

² *Ibid.*, page 14.

³ *Ibid.*, page 13.

⁴ At the first meeting, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that the Special Committee should exclude the representative of the Government of China and invite the representative of the People's Republic of China. The Committee sustained a ruling by the Acting Chairman that the proposal was out of order, under paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 396 (V) of 14 December 1950 (10 votes in favour, 2 against).

Assembly, not the length of its sessions as such, must remain the overriding consideration in any study of measures designed to limit the duration of the regular sessions. It should be kept in mind that the Assembly has special characteristics which distinguish it from other more homogeneous parliamentary bodies; its processes are largely conditioned by the wide scope of its purposes and defined by the very nature of its composition. Furthermore, the question under review cannot be judged solely on technical grounds or on grounds of efficiency. The length of the regular sessions of the Assembly has been determined mainly by the complexity and number of the international problems which have been brought to its attention as the result of differences among the Members, and by the atmosphere of deep-seated international tension in which the Assembly's discussions have taken place.

9. It follows, therefore, that if the General Assembly of the United Nations is to fulfil the high responsibilities placed upon it by the Charter and if the peoples of the world are to look with increasing respect and confidence to that body as the highest forum of the international community, all questions relating to the manner in which it functions must be considered primarily from the standpoint of their effect on the General Assembly as a whole. In the opinion of the majority of the members of the Special Committee, the unnecessary lengthening of the regular sessions would detract from the stature of the Assembly in the eyes of the world.

10. At the same time, it is the consensus of opinion that considerations of a practical nature must also be taken into account. The excessive length of regular sessions in itself has disadvantages for the Assembly as well as for the Organization as a whole. The past tendency to prolong the General Assembly each year has made it difficult for governments to maintain the same delegations throughout an entire session. Members of national governments and parliaments cannot be expected to be absent from their duties at home beyond a reasonable period of time. On the other hand, the work of the Assembly would benefit by the direct participation of leading statesmen, in so far as possible, at every stage of the deliberations. The majority of the members of the Special Committee believe that a greater continuity in the composition of delegations would have a favourable effect on the work of the General Assembly, and that continuity might be more easily attained if the duration of the regular sessions were more strictly limited.

11. The duration of the regular sessions has an important bearing also on questions of expense and efficiency. The necessity for every reasonable economy is the concern of all; unnecessary expenditures and unfruitful procedures must be avoided. An unduly long session is not only a burden on the United Nations budget, but it increases the expenditures incurred by the individual Members.

12. The total programme of all the organs of the United Nations cannot but be affected by the length of the regular sessions. It is essential that sufficient time should be allowed for the implementation of the Assembly's recommendations as well as for the Councils and subsidiary organs to carry out their work. Lengthy Assembly sessions shorten the period available for those purposes with possible detriment to the execution of programmes.

13. The Special Committee acknowledges that these and other difficulties related to the duration of the regular sessions should not be resolved at the expense either of the effectiveness of the General Assembly or of the right of any representative freely to explain his government's attitude on the problems before the Assembly. It is felt, however, that the Assembly, through the co-operation of its members, can initiate or strengthen certain practices so as to expedite and simplify the conduct of business.

14. That objective, rather than the formulation of rigid measures or extensive amendments to the rules of procedure, has guided the Special Committee in the preparation of the present report.

III. AGENDA

15. The majority of the members of the Special Committee are in agreement with the observations contained in the memorandum of the Secretary-General relating to the agenda and to the responsibility of the General Assembly to determine what it can most usefully undertake within the practical limitations of the time and resources available to it during any given session. It is recognized, furthermore, that these limitations make it inevitable that some items must be given priority over others. At the same time, the Special Committee believes that the Assembly should plan the work of each session in such manner as to allow for the adequate consideration of all the items whose inclusion in the agenda has been approved.

16. The Special Committee believes that economy would result should the Assembly in future indicate clearly its intentions when drafting resolutions calling for the preparation of special or annual reports. Some previous resolutions have contained specific decisions that an item or the subject of a report should be placed on the provisional agenda of a subsequent session; others have called only for the submission of a report; yet others have requested that the question should be dealt with in a section of another report to be presented by an organ or by the Secretary-General.

17. It is evident that in some instances in the past, it was not the intention of the Assembly that the subject of a report should appear as an item in the agenda. In others, however, doubts existed on the point and an item covering such a report might have been included in the agenda when no action on the part of the Assembly was called for. The situation would be clarified if the practice were adopted of stating in the resolution whether it is intended that the report should be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration or to Members for their information. In the first case it would be included in the provisional agenda of the following session; in the second, it would not.

18. As regards, in particular, resolutions calling for the submission of annual reports, it is especially desirable to avoid any possible uncertainty as to whether or not the Secretary-General should include such reports each year in the provisional agenda.

19. Certain agenda items which recur from year to year do not necessarily require the attention of the Assembly at every session; during the seventh session, for example, with respect to at least three items it was decided that they should next appear on the agenda of the ninth session. This practice would no doubt help to relieve the agenda and it might result in an

appreciable saving of time. In the view of the majority of the members of the Special Committee it would be desirable, therefore, for the Assembly to specify, whenever practicable, that an item of this character should appear only on the agenda of alternate sessions or at longer intervals.

20. The Secretariat could be of considerable assistance to the Chairmen of the Main Committees in ensuring that the above-mentioned practices are observed. It would also be desirable to make full use of the services of the Secretariat with a view to achieving a wider degree of uniformity, precision and clarity in the drafting of Committee documents.

21. The Special Committee further suggests that the work of the Assembly might progress more smoothly and the deliberations in the Main Committees might follow a more regular pace if the closing date of the sessions were taken into account by the Chairmen at the outset. Informal time-tables for the completion of the items on a Committee's agenda, drawn up by the Chairman for his guidance early in the session, might be helpful in maintaining an even distribution of work throughout the entire period.

IV. REPORTS OF COUNCILS

22. The majority of the members of the Special Committee believe that consideration of the reports of the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council would be facilitated if the General Assembly were to encourage the Councils to continue the practice of indicating in their annual reports those matters on which they desire that the Assembly should take action. This trend, which should be strengthened, does not prejudice the right of the Assembly to debate any aspect of the reports, and it has the advantage of providing Members in advance with more precise information on what questions covered in the reports would be the subject of debate during a session of the General Assembly. It is, therefore, of particular interest that the reports of the Councils should be circulated to Members as much in advance of the opening of the sessions as the schedules of the Councils themselves permit.

23. A time-limit for the presentation of draft resolutions on matters contained in the reports would also be useful. The General Committee might recommend to the General Assembly that it should instruct the Chairmen of the Main Committees to which the reports are allocated that they should establish reasonably early time-limits for that purpose.

V. SCOPE OF PROPOSALS MADE IN COMMITTEES

24. It is the view of the majority of the members of the Special Committee that the past tendency in Main Committees to interpret too liberally the scope of the items referred to them has, on occasions, caused the range of subjects dealt with during a session to extend beyond the limits set by the agenda items as adopted. There have been cases in which debates have taken place and draft resolutions have been proposed on matters only remotely or indirectly related to the items under discussion.

25. A reasonable interpretation of the limitations implied by the agenda of a Main Committee, as agreed upon by the Assembly, should not restrict the freedom of a Committee to give full consideration to its items; it should, however, provide a clear frame of reference for the debates, and the right and obligation of Chair-

men to rule out of order extraneous remarks and proposals falling outside its bounds should be recognized.

VI. DEBATE IN COMMITTEES

26. The Special Committee discussed several suggestions submitted in connexion with the debates in Committees. Clearly, this is one of the most important areas in the proceedings of the General Assembly and proposals touching on it should be viewed with caution. Certain practices, however, have developed over the years which, in the opinion of the Special Committee, could profitably be re-examined. The tendency has grown in the Main Committees automatically to observe independent and succeeding stages with respect to each item on the agenda — a general debate on the item, followed by debates on specific proposals, further debates on amendments and still others under the right of reply and the explanation of vote. This formal segmentation often provokes duplication of speeches and increases, as well, the risk of engaging in protracted procedural discussions.

27. The mechanics of a Main Committee cannot be simplified or altered beyond a certain point, it is true, but greater flexibility in the procedure for considering items is desirable. In general, the discussion on the broad aspects of a subject should be combined with the consideration of specific proposals. Time would be saved if Members were to introduce draft resolutions and amendments as soon as practicable in order that the Committees might direct their attention at the earliest opportunity to the examination of specific texts. The work in Committees would also be accelerated if the items proposed for inclusion in the agenda were more frequently accompanied by a draft resolution in accordance with the provisions of rule 20 of the rules of procedure.

28. The Special Committee examined a proposal to approve a new rule, as follows: "When the discussion of any item is opened, the Chairman or any representative may propose that the debate should be confined to observations on draft resolutions or amendments thereto and that statements of a general character should only be allowed in so far as they pertain to the specific proposals under discussion". The majority of the members agree with the ideas contained in the proposal but do not feel that it is necessary to recommend the adoption of a specific rule to that effect. The objectives in view, however, might well serve as a guide to the Chairmen in the conduct of debate in Committees.

29. The Special Committee also considered the suggestion that representatives should be entitled to submit written statements instead of making oral explanations of vote. In this connexion, it was pointed out that explanations of vote frequently touch on the substance of the question under discussion and that, consequently, if these statements were made after rather than before the voting takes place, they might tend to conform more strictly to the intent of rules 88 and 127; if, in addition, they were submitted in writing, time would be gained during the sessions. The Special Committee concluded, however, that serious problems would arise regarding such questions as, for example, the relevance of remarks which had been submitted in writing and the exercise of the right of reply with respect to them; it was further felt that this procedure would entail considerable difficulties in the preparation and distribution of the records of meetings. In view of these considerations and inasmuch as some members

were opposed in principle to the suggestion, the Special Committee has not formulated recommendations to this effect.

30. On the other hand, the practice in plenary meetings of imposing a limitation on the time allowed for explanations of vote has produced good results. The majority of the members of the Special Committee believe that the Main Committees could profitably follow the same procedure.

VII. LIMITATION OF DEBATE

31. As was stated at the outset of the present report, the members of the Special Committee were inclined in general to suggest measures which would improve the methods and practices of the General Assembly rather than to recommend specific amendments to the rules of procedure. This approach was prompted by the conviction that the co-operation of Members in all matters relating to the work of the Assembly and the voluntary exercise of discipline and restraint in the observance of the existing rules of procedure could do more to further the aim of limiting the duration of regular sessions than the adoption of additional regulations to govern the proceedings.

32. While it may be unwise to amend the rules of procedure unless substantial reasons demand it, a common understanding as to their intention and the manner in which they should be applied is essential. This has not always existed in the past. Consequently, some rules have been used reluctantly whereas others have been repeatedly invoked without due regard to a strict interpretation of their provisions and in circumstances which it would be difficult to justify.

33. As regards rules 73 and 113, the Special Committee considered the proposal to replace the broad term "The General Assembly (the committee)" by the phrase "The President (Chairman) or any representative". The majority of the members agree that these rules would be used more freely if the text indicated clearly who might propose a motion thereunder. The majority are also of the opinion that explicit reference in rules 73 and 113 to the President and the Chairman would not confer any right which they do not already possess under rules 35 and 106; such a reference would, on the other hand, help to overcome a certain hesitancy regarding the application of those rules which the present wording appears to occasion. The same view prevailed in the Special Committee concerning the powers of the President and the Chairman when it considered similar modifications to rules 75 and 115 and 76 and 116.

34. The majority of the members of the Special Committee trust that the Assembly will endorse the understanding outlined above, namely, that the President (Chairman) as well as any representative may take the initiative under the rules in question at such times as may be appropriate.

35. Experience has demonstrated that there are substantial advantages in limiting the number of speakers on procedural motions which might otherwise themselves be the subject of protracted debates; in effect, such limitations obtain in rules 75 and 115, and 76 and 116. A similar limitation should be introduced in rules 73 and 113. The Special Committee recommends the adoption of an additional sentence in these rules as follows: "In addition to the proposer of a motion to that effect, two representatives may speak in favour

of, and two against, the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote." (9 votes in favour, 6 against).

36. At the same time, it should be acknowledged that a Member which has requested the inclusion of an item in the agenda or which has presented a draft resolution on an item under discussion, has a particular interest in procedural motions affecting the consideration of that item. The Special Committee suggests that it would be reasonable to expect the President or the Chairman, within the framework of the rules of procedure, to include the representative of that Member among those speaking on such a motion, if he so desires.

37. Certain members of the Special Committee object in principle to the measures proposed in this and in the previous section of the present report because they believe that such measures would curtail the rights of Member States freely to express their views on items which appear on the agenda of the General Assembly.

VIII. LIST OF SPEAKERS

38. The Special Committee believes that the presiding officers of the General Assembly and of the Main Committees should urge the representatives to signify at their earliest convenience their desire to be placed on the list of speakers. Compliance with this request and readiness to speak in accordance with the order of the list would promote the orderly conduct of business in the Assembly and, particularly, in the Main Committees. This practice and the closure of the list as soon as is reasonably possible can lead to a measurable saving of time during the sessions.

IX. POINTS OF ORDER

39. In accordance with rules 35 and 106, the President of the General Assembly and the Chairmen of the Main Committees are responsible for ensuring the observance of the rules of procedure and, subject to the rules, have complete control of the proceedings. It should be understood that the presiding officers, in discharging this responsibility with regard to the application of a given rule, are guided by the purpose and the spirit of the rules as a whole.

40. The application of rules 72 and 112, which relate to points of order, has given rise to particular difficulties in the past. The Special Committee considered the proposal to amend these rules by the addition of the sentence: "A point of order may relate only to such questions as lie within the competence of the President (Chairman)." It concluded, however, that the difficulties which have arisen have been due primarily to the manner in which these rules have been applied rather than to the text of their provisions. A clarification of the term "point of order" and of the method of implementing the two rules would, however, contribute greatly to the development of more orderly debate.

41. A point of order is, basically, an intervention directed to the presiding officer requesting him to make use of some power inherent in his office or specifically given him under the rules of procedure. It may, for example, relate to the material conditions under which the meeting is taking place. It may be a request that the presiding officer should accord the speaker some privilege which it is in the officer's power to grant. Under

* See annex.

a point of order, a representative may request the presiding officer to apply a certain rule of procedure or he may refer to the manner in which the presiding officer should apply a given rule, or the rules of procedure as a whole.

42. Rules 72 and 112 properly require the President or Chairman immediately to decide on points of order without debate. The clear implication of this provision is that a point of order must relate to a question which lies within the competence of the presiding officer to dispose of, either by means of his own ruling or, in his discretion, by referring the question at issue to the judgment of the body as a whole. Matters which lie outside his competence clearly cannot be raised as points of order. If interventions made under points of order were limited to questions which lie within the competence of the presiding officer and if the second essential provision of the rules were always observed — namely, that the point of order shall be immediately decided by the presiding officer in accordance with the rules of procedure — no difficulty should arise in connexion with these rules.

43. Responsibility for improvement in the use of rules 72 and 112 lies in the first instance with the representatives in the Assembly and in the Committees in that remarks made under points of order should be limited to those matters which can properly be raised thereunder, and in the second instance with the presiding officer who should discharge his obligation under the rules immediately to dispose of the question. Correctly applied, the point of order is a most useful instrument for clarifying debate and for providing each Member with an orderly and expeditious procedure for ensuring the protection of its rights. The provision for appeal against the ruling of the presiding officer, if applied in conformity with the rule, permits a body as a whole immediately to resolve any disagreement which arises on the manner in which the officer disposes of a point of order.

X. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS IN PLENARY MEETINGS

44. During the fourth session, the General Assembly approved the recommendation contained in paragraph 23 of the report of the Special Committee on Methods and Procedures, as follows: "Another means of lightening the task of any given Main Committee would be to consider directly in plenary meeting, without preliminary reference to committee, certain questions which fall within the terms of reference of the Main Committee".

45. Some experience has been gained from succeeding sessions where a limited number of items were considered directly in plenary meetings. This procedure is still in the process of development. It is not felt, therefore, that it would be opportune to make further recommendations on the question at this time.

46. The Special Committee would, however, urge that in accordance with the intention of rule 67 of the rules of procedure, during each session the Assembly should avoid repetitious debate in plenary meetings of proposals already examined in the Main Committees.

XI. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS BETWEEN SESSIONS

47. The Special Committee considered the suggestion that, in certain cases, *ad hoc* committees which are

established by the General Assembly to report on agenda items to the following regular session should provide for the representation of all the Members of the General Assembly. The purpose of this suggestion is to limit the duration of the sessions by completing preliminary studies of such items between sessions in order to facilitate their consideration in the Assembly itself. The Special Committee is of the opinion that it would not be advisable at present to make specific recommendations to this effect. The majority of the members feel that it should be left to the Assembly, in the light of its own experience and according to the particular circumstances, to decide on the application in future of such a procedure; it should be pointed out, however, that certain members are opposed to the procedure in principle.

XII. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

48. The Special Committee considered the proposal that, in future, arrangements should be made to schedule the holding of simultaneous meetings of five main committees throughout the sessions, and, with that proposal, the recommendation that the Assembly, in order to facilitate the participation of all the Member States, should authorize the payment by the United Nations of travel expenses for two additional members of each delegation to the General Assembly. While no decision was taken in the Special Committee regarding a recommendation to this effect, it should be noted that, as circumstances have required it, arrangements have been made in the past for more than four main committees to meet simultaneously.

49. The Special Committee wishes to draw attention to the serious loss of time that results from the lack of punctuality in the opening of meetings and from adjournments before the appointed time. On the basis of two and one-half hours per meeting, during the sixth session, for example, the total apparent loss of time amounted to fourteen working days. Allowing that these figures are of only relative value inasmuch as they reflect a mechanical computation, it can be seen, nevertheless, that the duration of regular sessions could be effectively reduced if meetings were held more closely on schedule.

50. Early adjournment of meetings, and the late cancellation of others, frequently occur owing to a lack of speakers on the item which is being considered in a Main Committee. These situations could often be avoided by the inclusion of more than one item in the Committee's daily agenda; representatives would then be in a position, when necessary, to leave one item temporarily and pass to the discussion of another without interrupting the schedule of meetings.

XIII. PARTICIPATION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE *Ad Hoc* POLITICAL COMMITTEE IN THE WORK OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

51. During the last three regular sessions, the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee has been established at the beginning of the sessions to assist the General Assembly in the consideration of a number of political questions on the agenda. It has had a schedule of work equivalent to that of the Main Committees and has held meetings throughout the duration of the sessions.

At the seventh session, the Assembly decided that for the duration of that session, its Chairman would have the right to vote in the General Committee. The Special Committee believes that in future the Chairman of an *Ad Hoc* Political Committee of this character should participate in the work of the General Committee with the right to vote. It is recommended that rule 38 should be amended accordingly.⁶ (8 votes in favour, 3 against, with 4 abstentions).

XIV. CONTINUING REVIEW OF THE QUESTION

52. The General Assembly will, no doubt, continue to adapt its methods to meet changing needs and new requirements; its procedures also will develop in the light of its own experience. The Special Committee believes that this process should be kept under review and that Member States and the Secretary-General should be encouraged to submit proposals on the

matter at such times as they may deem it appropriate.

53. In this connexion, the Special Committee has in mind that in resolution 362 (IV) of 22 October 1949, the General Assembly, "without prejudice to any initiative which Member States may take in this respect", requests the Secretary-General "to carry out appropriate studies and to submit, at such times as he may consider appropriate, suitable proposals for the improvement of the methods and procedures of the General Assembly and its committees, including proposals to extend the use of mechanical and technical devices".

54. In conclusion, the Special Committee recommends that an outline of the practices recommended in the Committee's report should be included in a consolidated annex to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly in order to facilitate and encourage the observance of such practices in the future. (7 votes in favour, 3 against, with one abstention).

Annex

Amendments to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly recommended by the Special Committee on Measures to Limit the Duration of Regular Sessions of the General Assembly

1. *Rule 73 (113)*: The General Assembly (the committee) may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker and the number of times each representative may speak on any question. *In addition to the proposer of a motion to that effect, two representatives may speak in favour of, and two against, the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.* When the debate is limited and a representative has spoken his allotted time, the President (Chairman) shall call him to order without delay.

2. *Rule 38*: The General Committee shall comprise

⁶ See annex.

the President of the General Assembly, who shall preside, the seven Vice-Presidents, the Chairman of the six Main Committees and the Chairman of the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee when one is established. No two members of the General Committee shall be members of the same delegation, and it shall be so constituted as to ensure its representative character. Chairmen of other committees upon which all Members have the right to be represented and which are established by the General Assembly to meet during the session, shall be entitled to attend meetings of the General Committee and may participate without vote in the discussions.

DOCUMENT A/C.6/L.292/REV.1⁷

Norway: revised draft resolution

[Original text: English]
[29 September 1953]

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee on Measures to Limit the Duration of Regular Sessions of the General Assembly (A/2402),

Recognizing the importance of adopting measures calculated to accomplish this purpose, without restricting the right of Members to speak fully and freely in the debates in plenary meetings and in the various Committees,

1. *Amends* rule 38 of its rules of procedure to read as follows:

"*Rule 38*: The General Committee shall comprise the President of the General Assembly, who shall preside, the seven Vice-Presidents, the Chairmen of the six Main Committees and the Chairman of the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee when one is established.

No two members of the General Committee shall be members of the same delegation, and it shall be so constituted as to ensure its representative character. Chairmen of other committees upon which all Members have the right to be represented and which are established by the General Assembly to meet during the session, shall be entitled to attend meetings of the General Committee and may participate without vote in the discussions;"

2. *Amends* rule 73 (113) of its rules of procedure to read as follows:

"*Rule 73 (113)*: The General Assembly (the committee) may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker and the number of times each representative may speak on any question. In addition to the proposer of a motion to that effect, two representatives may speak in favour of, and two against, the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. When the debate is limited and a representative has spoken his allotted time, the President (Chairman) shall call him to order without delay;"

⁷ The text of document A/C.6/L.292, dated 25 September 1953, is identical with this text, except that operative paragraph 3 mentions "an outline of the practices . . ." instead of "the attached outline of the practices . . .", and the outline itself is not annexed to the resolution.