



General Assembly

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Fortieth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 17 October 1985, at 3 p.m.

President:

Mr. DE PINIES

(Spain)

- Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs [15] (continued)

(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 15 (continued)

ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN PRINCIPAL ORGANS

(b) ELECTION OF EIGHTEEN MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly will now proceed to the election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 1985.

The 18 outgoing members are Algeria, Botswana, Bulgaria, Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador, the German Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Thailand and the United States of America. These 18 States are eligible for immediate re-election.

I should like to remind the Assembly that after 1 January 1986 the following States will remain as members of the Economic and Social Council: Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Japan, Morocco, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Turkey, Uganda, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zimbabwe.

Those 36 States should therefore not appear on the ballot papers.

Paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, provides that the 18 members should be elected as follows: five from African States, four from Asian States, three from Latin American States, four from Western European and other States and two from the socialist States of Eastern Europe. The ballot papers take that pattern into account.

(The President)

The candidates which receive the greatest number of votes and the two-thirds majority required will be declared elected. In the case of a tie vote for the last seat, there will be a restricted ballot limited to those candidates which have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations.

The Assembly will recall that in the past chairmen of regional groups have been allowed to speak at this stage to clarify the status of the candidatures.

I therefore call on the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic in his capacity as Chairman of the Asian Group.

Mr. AL-ATASSI (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic): The Asian Group, at its meeting this morning, did not reach a consensus in support of candidates for the Economic and Social Council. We therefore have six candidates for the four vacant seats, namely, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Syrian Arab Republic and Viet Nam.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I call on the representative of Chile to speak as Chairman of the Latin American Group.

Mr. DAZA (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): I wish to report to the Assembly that for the three Latin American vacancies there are five candidates: Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Suriname.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Ballot papers marked A, B, C, D and E will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers and to write on them the names of the Member States for which they wish to vote in each Group.

Ballot papers containing more names than the number assigned to that Group will be declared invalid.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Caballero Rodriguez (Cuba), Mr. Rada (Czechoslovakia), Mr. Schnelle (Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. Al-Mohamed (Oman) and Mr. Mayira (Rwanda) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 3.45 p.m. and resumed at 4.40 p.m.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The result of the voting for the election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council is as follows:

GROUP A

Number of ballot papers: 155

Number of invalid ballots: 0

Number of valid ballots: 155

Abstentions: 4

Numbers of members voting: 151

Required two-thirds majority: 101

Number of votes obtained:

Sierra Leone 146

Djibouti 145

Egypt 144

Gabon 143

Mozambique 142

Angola 1

Benin 1

Ethiopia 1

Guinea-Bissau 1

Madagascar 1

Sudan 1

GROUP B

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	155
<u>Number of invalid ballots:</u>	0
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	155
<u>Abstentions:</u>	1
<u>Number of members voting:</u>	154
<u>Required two-thirds majority:</u>	103
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Pakistan	115
Iraq	111
Philippines	108
Syrian Arab Republic	94
Viet Nam	58
Islamic Republic of Iran	50
Saudi Arabia	17
Singapore	1
United Arab Emirates	1

GROUP C

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	154
<u>Number of invalid ballots:</u>	0
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	154
<u>Abstentions:</u>	0
<u>Numbers of members voting:</u>	154
<u>Required two-thirds majority:</u>	103
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Peru	112
Panama	97
Jamaica	92
Mexico	90
Suriname	60

GROUP D

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	155
<u>Number of invalid ballots:</u>	0
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	155
<u>Abstentions:</u>	7
<u>Number of members voting:</u>	148
<u>Required two-thirds majority:</u>	99
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Italy	145
Belgium	140
Australia	139
United States of America	130
Austria	1
Netherlands	1
Portugal	1

GROUP E

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	154
<u>Number of invalid ballots:</u>	0
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	154
<u>Abstentions:</u>	13
<u>Number of members voting:</u>	141
<u>Required two-thirds majority:</u>	94
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
German Democratic Republic	138
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	137
Bulgaria	1
Hungary	1
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	1

The following countries, having obtained the required two-thirds majority, were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years beginning 1 January 1986: Australia, Belgium, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Iraq, Italy, Mozambique, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone and the United States of America.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): There remain three seats to be filled, one from the Asian Group and two from the Latin American Group. We shall therefore proceed to a second ballot restricted to the two States in the Asian Group which received the greatest number of votes in the ballot just taken, namely, the Syrian Arab Republic and Viet Nam, and to the four States in the Latin American Group which received the greatest number of votes in that ballot, namely Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and Suriname. This is consistent with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

(The President)

Ballot papers will now be distributed.

Ballot paper B, for the Asian Group, will be declared invalid if it contains more than one name or the name of any State other than the Syrian Arab Republic or Viet Nam. Ballot paper C, for the Latin American Group, will be declared invalid if it contains more than two names or the name of any State other than Jamaica, Mexico, Panama or Suriname.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Caballero Rodriguez (Cuba), Mr. Rada (Czechoslovakia), Mr. Schnelle (Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. Al-Mohamed (Oman) and Mr. Mayira (Rwanda) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 4.55 p.m. and resumed at 5.35 p.m.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The result of the voting is as follows:

GROUP B

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	156
<u>Number of invalid ballots:</u>	7
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	149
<u>Abstentions:</u>	17
<u>Number of Members voting:</u>	142*
<u>Required two-thirds majority:</u>	95*
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Syrian Arab Republic	89
Viet Nam	43

GROUP C

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	156
<u>Number of invalid ballots:</u>	2
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	154
<u>Abstentions:</u>	2
<u>Number of Members voting:</u>	152
<u>Required two-thirds majority:</u>	102
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Panama	89
Jamaica	86
Mexico	79
Suriname	42

*See p. 21.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Since none of the States has obtained the required two-thirds majority, the General Assembly will continue the voting. In accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure, the ballot will be restricted to the two States in the Asian Group which received the largest number of votes in the ballot just taken, namely, the Syrian Arab Republic and Viet Nam, and the four States of the Latin American Group which received the largest number of votes in that ballot, namely, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and Suriname.

I call on the representative of Viet Nam on a point of order.

Mr. PHAM NGAC (Viet Nam): For the past three years the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam sought candidature in the Asian Group for election to the Economic and Social Council. We have twice withdrawn our candidature to ensure a clean slate for that Group. In the same spirit of co-operation, the delegation of Viet Nam now withdraws its candidature in the present election and lends its support to the Syrian Arab Republic. My delegation wishes to thank most warmly those delegations which have supported our candidature and hopes that Viet Nam will enjoy their support in next year's elections.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Viet Nam for his co-operation, which helps speed up our procedures. I hope that his example will be followed by other groups.

I call on the representative of Suriname on a point of order.

Mr. GUDA (Suriname): Suriname has served for the past two and a half years in the Economic and Social Council and, I think, has made a valid contribution. We were prepared to continue in the same spirit and the same way. If it is the wish of the General Assembly that we serve in another capacity, we shall abide by the verdict given this afternoon. It is therefore our wish to withdraw our candidature.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Suriname for his co-operation.

Ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Caballero Rodriguez (Cuba), Mr. Rada (Czechoslovakia), Mr. Schnelle (Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. Al-Mohamed (Oman) and Mr. Mayira (Rwanda) acted as tellers.

The meeting was suspended at 5.45 p.m. and resumed at 6.17 p.m.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Before giving the result of the voting, I must apologize to the Assembly because in the previous ballot under group B there was an error in calculation. Members who noted the figures will have realized that the figure given for the two-thirds majority was incorrect.

I will give the figures again so that the position is clear. The number of ballot papers was 156, the number of invalid ballots 7, the number of valid ballots 149 and abstentions 17. The number of Members voting was then given as 142, which was not correct. The correct number of Members voting was 132. Thus the required two-thirds majority was 88, not 95 as stated, and the Syrian Arab Republic received 89 votes.

This does not prevent me from reiterating our gratitude to the representative of Viet Nam for his gesture.

I apologize again to the Assembly for the inexcusable, but certainly unintentional, error.

The Syrian Arab Republic having been elected in the earlier vote, the subsequent ballot to fill the post which it was thought was not yet filled has been invalidated.

The result of the voting to fill two seats from group C, Latin American States, is as follows:

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	153
<u>Number of invalid ballots:</u>	5
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	148
<u>Abstentions:</u>	2
<u>Number of Members voting:</u>	146
<u>Required majority:</u>	98
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Panama	114
Jamaica	91
Mexico	79
Suriname	2

Panama and the Syrian Arab Republic, having obtained the required two-thirds majority, were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1986.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Since one seat remains to be filled in the Latin American Group, we shall now proceed, in accordance with rule 94, to a second ballot, restricted to two States, namely, Mexico and Jamaica, which were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the ballot just taken.

Ballot papers will now be distributed. I ask representatives to write on the ballot paper the name of the one State for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers containing the name of any State other than Jamaica or Mexico or containing more than one name will be declared invalid.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Caballero Rodriguez (Cuba), Mr. Rada (Czechoslovakia), Mr. Schnelle (Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. Al-Mohamed (Oman) and Mr. Mayira (Rwanda) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 6.25 p.m. and resumed at 6.48 p.m.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The result of the voting is as follows:

GROUP C

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	154
<u>Number of invalid ballots:</u>	1
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	153
<u>Abstentions:</u>	2
<u>Number of Members voting:</u>	151
<u>Required two-thirds majority:</u>	101
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Jamaica	88
Mexico	63

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): As the result of the third restricted vote has also been inconclusive, we must, in accordance with the rules of procedure, proceed to an unrestricted ballot.

May I remind the Assembly that Members will have the right to vote for any of the States of the Latin American Group, except, of course, those which are already members of the Economic and Social Council, and those just elected. For greater clarity I shall mention the names of the States for which no one should vote on this occasion: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guyana, Haiti, Panama, Peru and Venezuela.

Ballot papers will now be distributed. I request Members to write the name of one State only.

I call on the representative of Mexico on a point of order.

Mr. MOYA PALENCIA (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish: Mexico is a country which believes firmly in multilateralism and participates very seriously in the work of our Organization in all its bodies and organs. Mexico has worked for some years in the Economic and Social Council with great determination, and that is why it presented its candidature for re-election, counting on the support of an important segment of the international community. However, to facilitate the election in this case and while we express our gratitude to all the countries that have supported us in the previous ballots, we have decided to withdraw our candidature.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Mexico for his gesture, but, as I understand it, we must proceed to the vote because the rules stipulate that the vote must be secret and that a two-thirds majority is required. In an unrestricted ballot, Members have the right to vote for any State from the Latin American Group except, of course, those I have just listed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Caballero Rodriguez (Cuba), Mr. Rada (Czechoslovakia), Mr. Schnelle (Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. Al-Mohamed (Oman) and Mr. Mayira (Rwanda) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 6.55 p.m. and resumed at 7.13 p.m.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The result of the voting is as follows:

GROUP C

Number of ballot papers: 152

Number of invalid ballots: 2

Number of valid ballots: 150

Abstentions: 10

Number of members voting: 140

Required two-thirds majority: 94

Number of votes obtained:

Jamaica 116

Mexico 17

Suriname 3

Bolivia 1

Chile 1

Cuba 1

Honduras 1

Jamaica, having obtained the required two-thirds majority, was elected a member of the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years beginning 1 January 1986.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I congratulate the States which have been elected members of the Economic and Social Council and I thank the tellers for their assistance in this election.

This concludes our consideration of agenda item 15 (b).

The meeting rose at 7.15 p.m.