

**2478 (XXIII). Pattern of conferences***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 1202 (XII) of 13 December 1957, 1851 (XVII) of 19 December 1962, 1987 (XVIII) of 17 December 1963, 2116 (XX) of 21 December 1965, 2239 (XXI) of 20 December 1966 and 2361 (XXII) of 19 December 1967,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee on Conferences;<sup>28</sup>

2. *Approves* the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 1969 contained in annex III of the report of the Committee on Conferences;

3. *Approves further* the recommendations regarding the pattern of recurrent conferences and meetings contained in paragraph 24 of the report of the Committee on Conferences and in this connexion requests the United Nations bodies, committees and commissions concerned to review their meetings programmes and to report to their parent organs so as to enable them to make their decisions available to the Committee on Conferences in time for the latter to present its relevant conclusions to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session;

4. *Decides* that no meetings not covered by the calendar for 1969 shall be convened, except for an emergency meeting;

5. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2239 (XXI), all proposals for new conferences and meetings made during the regular session of the Assembly will be subject to the recommendation of the Committee on Conferences and to final approval by the Assembly and that proposals made outside the regular session for changes in the approved calendar will also be subject to the recommendations of the Committee on Conferences;

6. *Reaffirms*, for application in 1969, the general principle that in drawing up the schedule of conferences and meetings for future years United Nations bodies shall plan to meet at their respective established headquarters, with the following exceptions:

(a) The Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme may, in accordance with its rules of procedure, hold one of its sessions at the United Nations Office at Geneva;

(b) The sessions of the International Law Commission shall be held at Geneva;

(c) The sessions of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law may be held, subject to the provision in paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, alternately at Headquarters in New York and at Geneva;

(d) The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, as well as the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, may meet at Geneva if the exigencies of their work so require;

(e) The regular summer session of the Economic and Social Council may be held at Geneva provided that the closing date falls at least six weeks before the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly;

(f) One Headquarters-based functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, to be determined

by the Council, may meet at Geneva during the period from January to April;

(g) Sessions of not more than three other Headquarters-based functional commissions or committees of the Economic and Social Council may, by decision of the Council taken after consultation with the Secretary-General, be held at Geneva during the period from September to December without overlap;

(h) In addition, a session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs may, in exceptional circumstances and by decision of the Economic and Social Council taken after consultation with the Secretary-General, be held at Headquarters in New York; in that event, one other functional commission or committee may meet at Geneva in its place;

(i) The regular sessions of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic Commission for Africa, as well as meetings of their subsidiary bodies, may be held away from their headquarters when the commission concerned so decides, subject, in the case of regular sessions of the commissions, to the approval of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly;

7. *Confirms* that bodies not mentioned in paragraph 6 above may hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for a session to be held within its territory has agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved;

8. *Decides* that, as a general rule, not more than one major special conference shall be scheduled in any one year;

9. *Urges* all organs and subsidiary bodies of the United Nations to plan their future conferences and meetings in accordance with the following recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies:

“(i) Priorities should be established for fixing the areas and programmes of meetings and conferences on a long-term basis;

“(ii) The availability of human and physical resources necessary for servicing conferences should be determined and taken into account;

“(iii) The financial ability of the organizations and of member States to meet the requirements necessary to hold conferences should be determined and taken into account;

“(iv) An adequate interval of time should be allowed between conferences of the same body or of similar nature;”<sup>29</sup>

10. *Endorses* Economic and Social Council resolution 1379 (XLV) of 2 August 1968 and, in particular, paragraph 2 of that resolution, in which the Council requested those of its subsidiary organs which had not yet done so to consider at their next sessions dispensing with summary records for their meetings and for those of their own subsidiary bodies in the future and in this connexion called to their attention the decision taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to replace summary records by shorter minutes, while reserving the right to ask for a summary record in respect of any discussion which required exceptional treatment;

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, *Twenty-third Session*, agenda item 75, documents A/7361 and Add.1.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, *Twenty-first Session*, *Annexes*, agenda item 80, document A/6343, para. 104 (k).

11. *Requests* all organs other than those listed in paragraph 35 of the report of the Committee on Conferences to consider, in response to General Assembly resolution 2292 (XXII) of 8 December 1967, dispensing with summary records for their meetings and to report to their parent organs as appropriate, so as to enable them to make their decisions available to the Committee on Conferences in time for the latter to present its relevant conclusions to the Assembly at its twenty-fourth session;

12. *Requests* the Committee on Conferences to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session, bearing in mind particularly the results of the reviews envisaged in paragraph 3 above, recommendations relating to the pattern of conferences for the years 1970, 1971 and 1972.

*1752nd plenary meeting,  
21 December 1968.*

**2479 (XXIII). Inclusion of Russian among the working languages of the General Assembly (amendment to rule 51 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly) and question of including Russian and Spanish among the working languages of the Security Council**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 2359 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967 on the use of the working languages, which pointed out that the use of several languages by the United Nations could constitute not a hindrance but rather an enrichment and a means of attaining the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Having examined* the relevant part of the report submitted by the Secretary-General,<sup>30</sup>

1. *Decides* to include Russian among the working languages of the General Assembly and to amend accordingly rule 51 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly;

2. *Considers* it desirable to include Russian and Spanish among the working languages of the Security Council;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the President of the Security Council.

*1752nd plenary meeting,  
21 December 1968.*

**2480 (XXIII). Composition of the Secretariat**

**A**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 2359 A (XXII) of 19 December 1967,

*Reaffirming* the need for an equitable distribution of the staff of the Secretariat among Member States as between regions, and within each region, in particular at the level of senior posts,

*Reiterating* its invitation to the Secretary-General to give preference to candidates from inadequately represented countries, keeping in mind paragraph 73 of the report of the Committee on the Reorganization of the Secretariat,<sup>31</sup>

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, *Twenty-third Session, Annexes*, agenda item 81, document A/7334.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, addendum to agenda item 74 (A/7359), annex.

1. *Notes with appreciation* the information in table 10, based on weighted geographical distribution, contained in the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>32</sup>

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to include in his future reports a table based on weighted geographical distribution;

3. *Renews* its request to the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to achieve a better geographical distribution of the staff of the Secretariat at all levels;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

*1752nd plenary meeting,  
21 December 1968.*

**B**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 2241 B (XXI) of 20 December 1966 and 2359 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967 relating to the use of the working languages and to the establishment of a language bonus, and in particular paragraph 3 (a) of resolution 2359 B (XXII) concerning the need to ensure a linguistic balance within the Secretariat,

*Having considered* the relevant part of the report submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 2359 B (XXII),<sup>33</sup>

*Having noted with satisfaction* the measures recommended by the Secretary-General in his report with a view to bringing about a broad expansion of the language training programme already conducted by the Secretariat and ensuring its effectiveness by incentives in the matter of the promotion of staff in the Professional category subject to geographical distribution,<sup>34</sup>

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with a view to ensuring a linguistic balance, to take the following steps:

(a) From 1 January 1970 the acceptable minimum requirement at the moment of recruitment will be:

(i) Ability to use one of the working languages of the Secretariat, or

(ii) Ability to use one of the working languages of a United Nations organ in the case of staff members recruited for one of the sections of the Secretariat working for that organ, it being understood that such staff members will not be appointed on a permanent basis, or that their fixed-term engagement will not be extended beyond two years, until they are able to work in one of the working languages of the Secretariat;

(b) From 1 January 1972:

(i) All promotions from one grade to another, from P-1 to D-2 inclusive, for staff subject to geographical distribution will be conditional upon adequate and confirmed knowledge of a second language; nevertheless, the Secretary-General may authorize the promotion of the staff members specified above who do not fulfil that condition if he deems it necessary for the proper functioning of the Secretariat; the Secretary-General shall indicate what action has been taken in this respect in his annual report to the General Assembly on personnel questions;

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, agenda item 81, document A/7334, annex III.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, document A/7334.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 52-60 and 88-95.