

36/117. Pattern of conferences

A

FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES

The General Assembly

I

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Committee on Conferences¹⁸ and approves the recommendations contained therein,¹⁹ as amended;²⁰

2. *Approves* the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 1982-1983 as submitted by the Committee on Conferences²¹ and amended by subsequent decisions taken by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session;

3. *Authorizes* the Committee on Conferences to make any adjustments, within approved resources, in the calendar of conferences for 1982-1983 that may become necessary as a result of action and decisions by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session and at its second special session devoted to disarmament;

4. *Decides* that in drawing up future calendars of conferences and meetings the implications on the capacity of the documentation services of the Secretariat to process and issue in time the documentation required for the sessions of all scheduled organs should be taken into account;

5. *Invites* the Committee on Conferences to pursue its efforts towards accomplishing a shortening of sessions or a biennial cycle of sessions of United Nations organs, as specified in paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 35/10 A of 3 November 1980, with a view to submitting further concrete proposals to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session;

6. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council should consider calling upon the Committee on Conferences to review, prior to their adoption by the Council, all proposals made at sessions of the Council that affect the schedule of conferences and meetings;

7. *Decides* to extend until the end of 1982 the moratorium on the establishment of new subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly, as declared in paragraph 1 of its resolution 35/5 of 20 October 1980;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a manual for secretaries of United Nations organs to guide them in the efficient preparation and organization of their work, in the scheduling of meetings and in the submission of documentation in good time;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, through the Committee on Conferences, a programme of systematic and progressive replacement and upgrading of the electronic equipment in the conference rooms at United Nations Headquarters;

II

1. *Requests* the Committee on Conferences to undertake, on a priority basis, a comprehensive study of the rationale that currently determines the provision of meeting

records to the United Nations organs, with a view to identifying criteria for the selection of organs that should receive records in the future and, in this connection, to take fully into account the potential offered by new technologies;

2. *Further requests* the Committee on Conferences to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session appropriate recommendations in connection with paragraph 1 above and with Assembly resolution 35/10 B of 3 November 1980;

3. *Requests* the Committee on Conferences to examine the practices and policies followed by the reproduction and documents distribution services of the Secretariat with a view to identifying areas for achieving economies and improving efficiency;

4. *Requests* the Committee on Conferences, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/83 of 24 July 1981 on control and limitation of documentation, to review the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1982-1983, with particular reference to the economic and social fields, with a view to adjusting the calendar to the servicing capacities within the Secretariat, taking into account the problems that are occurring with regard to the submission and distribution of documents in good time and to consult with the Bureau of the Council concerning the implementation of this request;

5. *Confirms* the rule that thirty-two pages should be the maximum length of all action-oriented documents prepared by the Secretariat for intergovernmental meetings, in accordance with the internal instructions of the Secretariat, and requests its subsidiary organs to ensure that their reports shall be as brief as possible and shall not exceed the desired limit of thirty-two pages;

6. *Urges* all its subsidiary organs to reduce the number of requests for additional documents and to attempt to limit the number of reports required to cover any one subject of specific concern to a given organ;

7. *Requests* its subsidiary organs to consider inviting the Secretariat to make brief oral statements in lieu of written reports, in particular progress reports, at the outset of each session;

8. *Decides* that lists of all documents requested by each United Nations organ, including the Main Committees of the General Assembly, shall be submitted by the Secretary-General at the end of each session, with an indication of the date on which it will be possible to issue each document in all required languages, reflecting the time required for its preparation by both the substantive and conference-servicing units of the Secretariat;

9. *Insists* that the Secretary-General take the necessary administrative measures within available resources to prevent in future the undue delays in the submission of documents for translation, reproduction and distribution which continue to be experienced;

10. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to make wider use of contractual translation services in view of their demonstrated financial advantages;

11. *Decides* to refer the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on control and limitation of documentation in the United Nations system,²² together with the comments of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination²³ and the Secretary-General,²⁴ to the Committee on Conferences for further examination;

12. *Requests* the Committee on Conferences to consider this and future reports of the Joint Inspection Unit containing

¹⁸ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/36/32 and Corr.1).

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 84.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, Thirty-sixth Session, Annexes, agenda items 105, 8 (b) and 12, document A/36/787, sect. A.

²¹ *Ibid.*, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/36/32 and Corr.1), annex III.

²² See A/36/167.

²³ A/36/167/Add.1, annex.

²⁴ A/36/167/Add.2, annex.

recommendations which deal with matters falling within the mandate of the Committee and to submit its observations thereon to the General Assembly for its attention when examining the relevant reports of the Unit;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-seventh session an item entitled "Control and limitation of documentation";

III

Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Conferences and to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions a comprehensive analysis of the existing budgetary techniques used in the calculation and presentation of conference-servicing costs in statements of administrative and financial implications prepared pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in the consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs and in the programme budget and invites both organs to submit appropriate recommendations relevant to their respective areas of competence to the Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

*93rd plenary meeting
10 December 1981*

B

SIMULTANEOUS DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENTS IN THE DIFFERENT LANGUAGES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The General Assembly,

Aware that the diversity of languages of the United Nations is a source of general enrichment and of better understanding among Member States,

Recalling its resolution 2 (I) of 1 February 1946 entitled "Rules of procedure concerning languages",

Recalling further its resolutions 2247 (XXI) of 20 December 1966 and 2292 (XXII) of 8 December 1967 as well as its resolutions 3189 (XXVIII), 3190 (XXVIII) and 3191 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973,

Noting the necessity of giving full effect to paragraph 3 of resolution 2247 (XXI) and paragraph 4 of resolution 2292 (XXII) concerning the simultaneous distribution of documents,

Reiterating its deep concern at the steady lengthening of delays in the distribution of documents in the different official languages,

1. *Decides* that documents shall be given effective simultaneous distribution in sufficient time in the official and working languages of the organs of the United Nations;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*93rd plenary meeting
10 December 1981*

C

CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION FOR TREATY BODIES

The General Assembly,

Concerned at the critical situation prevailing with regard to the issuance of documentation in all the official languages in good time,

Noting the considerable volume of documentation and summary records for treaty bodies whose conference-servicing costs are borne by the regular budget of the United Nations and their adverse effect on the processing capacity of the central conference services for other documentation required for intergovernmental meetings,

1. *Invites* the officers of treaty bodies to consult with the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences on possible measures to control and limit documentation;

2. *Urges* all treaty bodies, as a matter of priority, to review their requirements for documentation in all languages and for meeting records, with a view to adopting immediate measures to restrict substantially the present volume of documentation;

3. *Requests* all bodies to inform the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, through the Committee on Conferences, about the practical measures they have taken.

*93rd plenary meeting
10 December 1981*

D

CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION FOR SPECIAL CONFERENCES²⁵

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 35/10 C of 3 November 1980,

1. *Decides* that, if and when special conferences of the United Nations are convened, particular attention shall be given to harmonizing the proposed design of the conference with the documentation needs, so as to foster attainment of the stated objectives of the conference during both the preparatory phase and the conference phase itself;

2. *Declares* that the submission of national papers on the occasion of special conferences should be proposed only if such papers are intended to play an integral part in the preparatory activities and at the conference itself, taking into account the time required for a useful integration of such papers both in the preparatory activities and in the negotiating process of the conference;

3. *Approves* the guidelines for the control and limitation of documentation for special conferences of the United Nations set forth in the annex to the present resolution.

*93rd plenary meeting
10 December 1981*

ANNEX

Guidelines for the control and limitation of documentation for special conferences of the United Nations

1. All measures to control and limit documentation in force at the time when a special conference is being prepared or held shall apply to documentation prepared for that conference as well as to any preparatory organ that may be designated.

2. Summary records shall not be provided to special conferences and their preparatory organs, with the exception of legal codification conferences, for which the needs will be determined in each case.

3. Whenever Governments are requested to submit national papers or reports, the following rules might apply:

(a) The organ which decides to convene the conference or preparatory organ, whenever it has been designated, should adopt specific rules to limit the length of national papers or summaries thereof, to the extent possible, and to determine the language versions in which they should be issued, taking into account experience gained on the occasion of past special conferences in the same area of activity;

(b) Each paper or report and each summary or abstract should be prepared in the format described in the layout appended to annex II to the report of the Committee on Conferences;²⁶

(c) A firm deadline for the submission of such papers or reports and their summaries and abstracts should be established, taking into account

²⁵ See also sect. X.B.6, decision 36/427.

²⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/36/32 and Corr.1).*

the purpose for which they are required in the preparatory process, but which in any event should not be later than eight weeks before the opening of the conference;

(d) All papers or reports received, as well as summaries or abstracts thereof, should be listed by the Secretariat in an information document and grouped in various ways, such as alphabetically by country, region or by subject;

(e) National papers or reports should not be redistributed at the conference site, if the conference is held away from established headquarters; instead, a library should be established at such a conference site which shall contain in single copies all relevant material pertaining to the conference;

(f) The Secretary-General should keep the total number of copies printed for this type of documentation under constant review and adjust it to a realistic level of demand.

4. Submissions by non-governmental organizations shall bear a uniform cover page with a document symbol and number provided by the Secretariat. It shall be the responsibility of each submitting non-governmental organization to make sure that this cover page appears on each copy of the report. The Secretariat shall then distribute such a report if it is submitted in a sufficient number of copies. Reports by non-governmental organizations will not be translated or reproduced by the Secretariat, nor will they be transported to the conference site by the Secretariat if the conference is held away from established headquarters. Furthermore, a deadline shall be set for the presentation of such reports to the Secretariat. A list of all documents presented by non-governmental organizations will then be issued by the Secretariat.

36/118. Report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board

A

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to the General Assembly and to the member organizations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund for 1981,²⁷ chapter III of the report of the International Civil Service Commission²⁸ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,²⁹

I

SUPPLEMENTARY MEASURES

Decides, with effect from 1 January 1982, to revise the pension adjustment system contained in General Assembly resolution 35/215 of 17 December 1980, in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board contained in section III.H of its report to the Assembly for 1981;

II

EMERGENCY FUND

Authorizes the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to supplement the voluntary contributions to the Emergency Fund for a further period of one year by an amount not exceeding \$100,000;

III

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Approves expenses, chargeable directly to the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, totalling \$5,456,900 (net)

for 1982 and supplementary expenses of \$147,000 (net) for 1981 for the administration of the Fund.

*93rd plenary meeting
10 December 1981*

B

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the actuarial situation of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund,

Welcoming the intention of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to undertake a comprehensive analysis of all possible measures to improve the actuarial balance of the Fund,

1. *Requests* the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, in co-operation with the International Civil Service Commission where necessary, to consider alternative courses of action that might be taken;

2. *Further requests* that the analysis to be undertaken take into account all the views expressed during the discussion in the Fifth Committee³⁰ and that it be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

*93rd plenary meeting
10 December 1981*

C

The General Assembly,

Noting that no provision exists under the Regulations and Rules of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund with respect to the financial obligations of a pensioner to his or her spouse or former spouse,

Concerned that this may give rise to serious injustice and hardship,

Requests the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to study, at its thirtieth session, the desirability and feasibility of measures to deal with such situations and to make recommendations thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

*93rd plenary meeting
10 December 1981*

36/119. Investments of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 34/222 A of 20 December 1979 and 35/216 A of 17 December 1980,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the investments of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund;³¹

2. *Endorses* the policy of diversification of the investments of the Fund in developing countries, wherever this serves the interests of the participants and beneficiaries, in accordance with the four criteria of safety, profitability, liquidity and convertibility;

3. *Reaffirms* its confidence in the Secretary-General as trustee of the assets of the Fund.

*93rd plenary meeting
10 December 1981*

²⁷ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 9 (A/36/9 and Corr.1).

²⁸ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 30 (A/36/30 and Corr.1).

²⁹ A/36/624.

³⁰ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Fifth Committee*, 40th, 48th and 50th meetings; and *ibid.*, *Fifth Committee, Sessional Fascicle*, corrigendum.

³¹ A/C.5/36/12.