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GENERAL CONFERENCE

Eighteenth regular session

Agenda item 16
(GC(XVIII)/534)

AMENDMENT OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Report of the Administrative and Legal Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Jorge Ramirez del Rio (Peru)

1. The Committee considered agenda item 16: Amendment of the Rules of Procedure, which was referred to it for initial discussion, at its 69th and 70th meetings, held on 17 and 18 September^{1/}. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Director General, to which were annexed proposals for a number of amendments to the current Rules of Procedure^{2/}, and a draft resolution, supporting those amendments, submitted jointly by a number of delegations^{3/}.
2. At the outset of the discussion the Committee heard a detailed statement on the advice which had been provided to the Director General by the Working Group established by the Conference at its seventeenth regular session^{4/}. Thereafter a number of points were raised in connection with the proposed amendments. With respect to the General Committee, it was stressed that due regard should be paid to equitable geographical representation in the composition of that Committee.

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- 1/ The Committee's deliberations are summarized in documents GC(XVIII)/COM.2/OR.69 and 70.
 - 2/ GC(XVIII)/530. The Rules themselves are contained in the booklet GC(XVIII)/INF/146.
 - 3/ GC(XVIII)/535 and Add.1.
 - 4/ See Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, seventeenth regular session, Decision number GC(XVII)/DEC/7.

Furthermore, the observation was made that one of the purposes of the amendments being considered was to streamline the work of the Conference by enabling it, without impairing the efficient discharge of its functions, to complete its work within five working days; in this connection it was also suggested that arrangements be made to permit delegates at Plenary as well as Committee meetings of the Conference to make speeches from their seats rather than from the rostrum.

3. An overwhelming majority of delegations expressed full support for the amendments proposed in the Annex to the Director General's memorandum, and for the joint draft resolution^{3/}. The Committee, therefore, decided unanimously to recommend the adoption by the Conference of the draft resolution which is annexed to this report.

A N N E X

AMENDMENT OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling its discussions in 1973 of proposed amendments to its Rules of Procedure^{1/} and its decision to establish a working group to assist the Director General in preparing a revised set of draft Rules,^{2/}
 - (b) Noting that many Members have subsequently submitted written comments on the matter of amending the Rules, in response to the request of the Director General, and have made their views on the subject known to him,
 - (c) Appreciating the extensive consultations undertaken by the Director General and the members of the working group as they prepared the revised set of draft Rules now before it,^{3/}
 - (d) Having regard to its decision to consider the revised set of draft Rules as a matter of priority at its current session,
 - (e) Desirous of further enhancing the ability of the Conference to carry out effectively all of the functions conferred upon it by the Statute in the **furtherance** of the Agency's objectives and work, and
 - (f) Convinced that the revised set of draft Rules prepared by the Director General and the working group will contribute to the accomplishment of this purpose,
1. Requests the Director General to convey its appreciation to Messrs. Fujiyama (Japan), Jaipal (India) and Müller (Finland) for their great assistance in preparing the revised set of draft Rules^{3/} and in consulting extensively with Members about their preparation; and
 2. Decides to make the following changes in its Rules of Procedure:
 - (a) Replace Rule 28 by the following:

Rule 28. Examination of credentials

The credentials of all delegates shall be examined by the General Committee, meeting for this purpose as a credentials committee, which shall report on the credentials without delay to the General Conference.

(b) In Rule 29, replace the words "Credentials Committee" by the words "General Committee, meeting as a credentials committee,";

(c) Replace the heading to Chapter VI by the following:

"VI. PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENTS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE";

(d) Replace Rule 34 by the following:

Rule 34. Election of President, Vice-Presidents and Chairman of the Committee of the Whole

The General Conference shall elect a President. The President shall, having due regard to equitable geographical representation, propose to the General Conference for election, the names of eight Vice-Presidents and the name of a Chairman of the Committee of the Whole. The President, the Vice-Presidents and the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole shall hold office until the close of the session at which they are elected.

(e) Replace the first sentence of Rule 40 by the following:

"At each session the General Conference shall appoint a General Committee which shall consist of the President of the General Conference, who shall serve as chairman, the eight Vice-Presidents, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole and five additional members elected by the General Conference on the proposal of the President.";

(f) In the heading to, and in the first sentence of, Rule 41, replace the words "Main Committees" by the words "Committee of the Whole";

(g) Add the following after the first sentence of Rule 42(b):

"It shall examine the credentials of all delegates and report thereon to the General Conference.";

(h) Replace Rule 45 by the following:

Rule 45. Main committee

The main committee of the General Conference shall be the Committee of the Whole, which shall consider and report on any item referred to it by the General Conference under these Rules.

(i) Replace the first sentence of Rule 46 by the following:

"Except as provided for in Rules 34 and 40, each committee of the General Conference shall elect its own Chairman and other officers.";

(j) In the first sentence of Rule 55, replace the words "the Rapporteur" by the words "other officer";

(k) Amend the opening phrase of Rule 72 to read as follows:

"Except in elections to the Board of Governors,".

1/ Summarized in documents GC(XVII)/COM.2/OR.63, paras 19-50; OR.64; OR.65; and OR.67, paras 4-40. The proposed amendments are contained in document GC(XVII)/503, Annex.

2/ Set forth in document GC(XVII)/RESOLUTIONS(1973), Other Decisions, decision number GC(XVII)/DEC/7, sub-para. (b).

3/ GC(XVIII)/530, Annex.

