

General Conference

GC(51)/GEN/OR.1

Issued: October 2007

General Distribution

Original: English

Fifty-First (2007) Regular Session

General Committee

Record of the First Meeting

Held at the Austria Center, Vienna, on Monday, 17 September 2007, at 2.15 p.m.

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¹ GC(51)/22.

Attendance

Chairman

Mr. HAMZE (Lebanon), President of the General Conference

Members

Mr. FAWZY (Egypt), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. GOTTWALD, representing Mr. WUERMELING (Germany), Vice-President of the
General Conference

Mr. MOHAMAD (Malaysia), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. HIGUERAS RAMOS (Peru), Vice-President of the General Conference

Ms. LACANLALE (Philippines), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. ROZHKOVA, representing Mr. KIRIYENKO (Russian Federation), Vice-President of the
General Conference

Mr. OTHMAN (Syrian Arab Republic), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. NOBLE, representing Mr. BODMAN (United States of America), Vice-President of the
General Conference

Mr. HORVATIC (Croatia), Additional Member

Ms. GOICOCHEA ESTENOZ (Cuba), Additional Member

Mr. WACHOWSKI, representing Mr. MAMBERTI (Holy See), Additional Member

Mr. DAINIUS (Lithuania), Additional Member

Mr. JOHANSEN, representing Mr. RAAS (Norway), Additional Member

Secretariat

Mr. ANING, Secretary of the Committee

- Adoption of the agenda for the meeting
(GC(51)/GEN/1)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, in conducting the Committee's business, he intended to follow the established practice whereby its meetings were private but representatives of Member States which had requested the inclusion of an item in the agenda were entitled, pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure, to attend relevant meetings and to participate, without vote, in the discussion of their request. Representatives of other Member States could also attend the Committee's meetings and participate in discussions as decided by the Committee.
2. The proposed agenda for the meeting contained the two traditional sub-items under the item "Arrangements for the Conference", namely "Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items for initial discussion" and "Closing date of the session and opening date of the next session".
3. The agenda was adopted.

6. Arrangements for the Conference

(a) Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items for initial discussion
(GC(51)/1 and 20)

4. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the provisional agenda for the Conference (GC(51)/1) and the supplementary list of items proposed for inclusion in the agenda (GC(51)/20). Given that there were currently no vacancies on the Agency's Staff Pension Committee, item 22 of the provisional agenda should be deleted.
5. Mr. NOBLE (United States of America), stressing that his country had never objected to an agenda item and a balanced resolution on the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East, said that adding an agenda item that singled out a specific country in the region was inappropriate. In a spirit of consensus, his country had not objected to the inclusion of the item in question in the past, although it was unlikely that substantive work could be conducted and a consensus reached on it. At the fiftieth session of the General Conference, debate on a resolution tabled under the agenda item in question had failed to produce results. Although it was somewhat surprised and disappointed that the item had been put forward for inclusion in the agenda of the current session, his delegation would nevertheless not object, on the understanding that all members were committed to consensus.
6. Mr. OTHMAN (Syrian Arab Republic), supported by Mr. GOTTWALD (Germany), agreed that the Conference should be guided by a spirit of consensus.
7. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the Conference that the agenda for the current session should consist of all the items listed in document GC(51)/1, except item 22, and all the items listed in document GC(51)/20.
8. It was so agreed.

9. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the allocation of items for initial discussion and the order of discussion suggested in documents GC(51)/1 and GC(51)/20. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference the allocation of agenda items for initial discussion and the order of discussion suggested in documents GC(51)/1 and GC(51)/20.

10. It was so decided.

(b) Closing date of the session and opening date of the next session

11. The CHAIRMAN said that the number of speakers registering to speak in the general debate was one of the main factors influencing the length of the session. Over 100 delegations had registered to speak so far. The cooperation and goodwill of all delegations would be required if the Conference was to finish its work on schedule. The Committee of the Whole needed to finish its work by Thursday evening at the latest. If there were no objections he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend to the Conference a closing date for the current session of Friday, 21 September 2007.

12. It was so decided.

13. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that, for the next regular session, conference facilities at the Austria Center had been provisionally booked for the week beginning Monday, 29 September 2008.

14. Mr. OTHMAN (Syrian Arab Republic) asked whether it might be possible to change the date since, as it stood, the next regular session would coincide with the Eid al-Fitr holiday.

15. Mr. ANING (Secretary of the Committee) said that no conference facilities were available for alternative dates. However, the Conference would not meet on the Eid al-Fitr holiday itself, i.e. Thursday, 2 October 2008, since it was an official United Nations holiday.

16. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the Conference an opening date for the next regular session of Monday, 29 September 2008.

17. It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 2.30 p.m.