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on New and Renewable Sources  
of Energy**

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ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Note by the Secretariat

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\* A/CONF.100/1.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS: ELECTIONS, ALLOCATION OF ITEMS TO THE  
MAIN COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. At its third session (from 31 March to 16 April 1981) and first part of its fourth session (8-26 June 1981) held at Headquarters, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy considered certain matters relating to the organization of the Conference. The present document contains the recommendations of the Committee on those matters as well as suggestions based on procedures followed at previous special United Nations conferences. It is recalled that the Preparatory Committee decided to resume its fourth session at Nairobi, from 3 to 5 August 1981 (decision 2 (IV)). Further information regarding the recommendations to be made by the Preparatory Committee at its resumed fourth session will be given at the pre-Conference consultations.
2. The Committee decided that pre-Conference consultations should be held at Nairobi on 6 and 7 August 1981. The purpose of the consultations, which will be open to all participating States, is to reach agreement on recommendations to be made on all procedural and organizational matters to be dealt with by the Conference on the opening day.
3. The Committee recommended that the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee should preside over the pre-Conference consultations.

A. Election of officers other than the President

4. It is noted that at special conferences held away from established United Nations headquarters it has been the practice to elect the head of the delegation of the host country as President. This is normally done by acclamation, and the requirement of a secret ballot is dispensed with.
5. Under rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure (A/CONF.100/2) the Conference is to elect 23 Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur-General, as well as a chairman for each of the main committees established under rule 42. Under rule 40, elections are to be held by secret ballot, unless the Conference decides otherwise in an election where the number of candidates does not exceed the number of elective places to be filled.
6. At the pre-Conference consultations the question of the election of officers other than the President and the composition of the General Committee will be considered. In that connexion, attention is drawn to decision 2 (IV), in which the Preparatory Committee, inter alia, authorized its Chairman to consult the chairmen of the regional groups with a view to resolving the outstanding questions relating to the General Committee of the Conference, having due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation on that Committee and to the practice of special United Nations conferences with regard to the distribution of the major posts of the Conference, and to report thereon to the Preparatory Committee at its resumed fourth session.

B. Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

7. Under rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure (A/CONF.100/2), a Credentials Committee of nine members is to be appointed at the beginning of the Conference, and its membership is to be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its thirty-fifth session. 1/

8. During the pre-Conference consultations a consensus is to be reached on the composition of the Credentials Committee.

C. Allocation of items to the main committees and organization of work

9. The Preparatory Committee (decision 2 (IV)) decided to recommend that item 5 of the provisional agenda for the Conference (see A/CONF.100/1), entitled "Consideration and adoption of the programme of action", should be allocated to the two main committees established under rule 42 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference, as follows:

(a) The First Committee should consider issues dealt with in the introduction and chapters I, II, III and V (B) and (C) of the preliminary draft programme of action (A/CONF.100/PC/51 and Add.2);

(b) The Second Committee should consider issues dealt with in chapters IV (A) and (B) and V (A) of the preliminary draft programme of action (A/CONF.100/PC/51/Add.1 and 2).

10. It is recalled that the Preparatory Committee decided to consider further the draft programme of action at its resumed fourth session with a view to submitting an agreed text of the draft programme to the Conference. During the pre-Conference consultations, a tentative timetable for the work of the Conference will be circulated, taking into account, as necessary, the decisions of the Preparatory Committee at its resumed fourth session.

D. Organization of the meetings

11. The Conference may wish to adopt the following recommendations made by the Preparatory Committee (decision 7 (III)):

(a) Meetings should normally be scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and they should start punctually;

(b) The general debate should be held in plenary meetings starting on 10 August and should be concluded by Tuesday, 18 August. There should be no general debate in the main committees;

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1/ The Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session consisted of representatives of the following countries: Angola, China, Costa Rica, Haiti, Kenya, Singapore, Spain, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America.

(c) The list of speakers in the general debate should be closed at noon on Wednesday, 12 August 1981, at Nairobi;

(d) The time limit for statements in the general debate should be 15 minutes for the representatives of each State and 10 minutes for other participants;

(e) Statements in the exercise of the right of reply should be made at the end of the day whenever two meetings have been scheduled for that day and whenever they are devoted to the same item; the number of such statements by any delegation should be limited to two per item at a given meeting, with the first intervention lasting not more than five minutes and the second not more than three minutes.

#### E. Adoption of the report of the Conference

12. The Preparatory Committee recommended that the report of the Conference should consist of the decisions of the Conference, a brief account of the events leading to the convening of the Conference, the proceedings, including a summary of the general debate in plenary and a repertorial account of the work of the main committees and of the action in plenary on their recommendations.

13. It has been the practice of previous conferences to request each regional group to designate, before the opening of the Conference, two persons to serve as friends of the Rapporteur-General to assist the latter in preparing the draft report of the Conference. The Conference may wish to follow that practice.

#### F. Officers to be elected by the main committees

14. Rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure provides for the election by the main committees of three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. Consultations on the nomination of candidates to fill those posts will take place at the pre-Conference consultations, and it is hoped that agreement will be reached on a slate of candidates equal to the number of positions to be filled, thus allowing elections by acclamation and dispensing with the requirements of a secret ballot.

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