

A/C.5/38/CRP.1  
1 November 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-eighth session  
FIFTH COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 114

PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

Note by the Chairman

In order to facilitate consideration of the draft proposals before the Committee, following is the text of the draft resolutions on this agenda item as they would read if the draft amendments contained in document A/C.5/38/L.6 are accepted:

Pattern of conferences

A

Report of the Committee on Conferences

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Committee on Conferences;
2. Approves the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 1984-1985 as submitted by the Committee on Conferences and amended by subsequent decisions taken by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to take all appropriate measures with a view to achieving maximum efficiency and effectiveness in the use of conference resources while implementing the calendar of conferences for 1984-1985.

B

Renewal of the mandate of the Committee on Conferences

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3351 (XXIX) of 18 December 1974, 32/72 of 9 December 1977 and 35/10 A of 3 November 1980,

Requests the President of the General Assembly, after consultations with the chairmen of the regional groups, to appoint 22 Member States, on the basis of an equitable geographical balance, to serve on the Committee on Conferences for a three-year term.

C

Pattern of conferences

The General Assembly,

Requests the Committee on Conferences to examine the provisions of General Assembly resolution 31/140, section I, as well as all other provisions relating to the pattern of conferences, and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session,

Requests the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the Committee on Conferences the summary of the discussion in the Fifth Committee during the current session of the subject Pattern of conferences, including the text of all amendments proposed to draft resolution C recommended by the Committee on Conferences in its report (A/38/32, para. 4).

D

Shortening of sessions or a biennial cycle for sessions of  
United Nations organs

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 32/71, section IV, and 32/72 of 9 December 1977 and 35/10 A of 3 November 1980,

Concerned at the serious under-utilization of conference-services resources by United Nations organs,

1. Takes note of the proposals submitted by the Committee on Conferences designed to relieve the overloading of conference services;

2. Invites the Committee to pursue further its consultations with the officers of those organs which have over the past three years utilized 75 per cent

or less of the conference resources made available to them with a view to adjusting the length of their sessions accordingly;

3. Requests its subsidiary organs to consider, in the interests of greater efficiency, meeting and reporting on a biennial basis;

4. Requests United Nations organs, especially those which have over the past few years under-utilized the meeting time allocated to them, to consider at their organizational sessions the question of improving the organization of their work in order to secure a more effective use of conference resources and to put forward concrete proposals on this matter including where feasible for shortening their sessions.

5. Invites United Nations organs to hold informal consultations with the aim of reaching agreement on organizational questions as well as on the composition of the bureau before the opening of their substantive sessions.

E

Control and limitation of documentation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2292 (XXII) of 8 December 1967, 2538 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, 2732 (XXV) of 16 December 1970, 31/140, section II, of 17 December 1976, 33/56, section II, of 14 December 1978, 34/50 of 23 November 1979, 36/117 A, C and D of 10 December 1981 and 37/14 C and D of 16 November 1982 and its decision 34/401 of 19 September 1980,

1. Proposes to Member States that they take into consideration the aim of limiting to a minimum requests for the preparation of reports or the circulation of documents;

2. Proposes to Member States and specialized agencies that, when preparing their replies to questionnaires or submissions of agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, they take into consideration the aim of achieving maximum brevity in setting out their positions;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, when sending out such questionnaires, to attach to them a reference to the present resolution;

4. Invites its subsidiary organs to include in their agendas an item on control and limitation of documentation with a view to ensuring the production of concise reports;

5. Commends the Secretary-General for his efforts in reducing the length and number of reports originating in the Secretariat and requests him to continue with these measures;

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6. Requests the Secretary-General to examine ways of improving the drafting skills of Secretariat officials who are involved with the various phases of preparing final reports of United Nations bodies with a view to the production of more concise reports;

7. Calls upon its subsidiary organs not to reproduce in their reports the full text of earlier resolutions relevant to their work. Instead, as a frame of reference, those bodies should include a list of relevant documents in their reports, giving the exact titles and symbols;

8. Decides that the practice of reproducing as separate documents statements in extenso shall be discontinued for all its subsidiary organs that are entitled to summary records;

9. Decides further that any exceptions to this rule may be made by the body concerned only if the statements are to serve as bases for discussions and if, after hearing a statement of the financial implications, the body decides that one or more statements in extenso may be included in the summary record, or reproduced as separate documents or as annexes to authorized documents;

10. Requests the Committee on Conferences to undertake a study into the feasibility of instituting an abbreviated form of summary record;

11. Requests the Committee on Conferences to examine the various causes of the late issuance of documentation in the different official and working languages and to consider possible solutions to this problem;

12. Urges all treaty bodies to review their documentation requirements, with particular reference to the possible reduction of their need for summary records;

13. Invites the Committee on Conferences to examine the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on publications policy and practice in the United Nations system;

14. Requests its subsidiary organs responsible for the issuance of recurrent publications to review them with the objective of identifying and discontinuing those which no longer serve a useful purpose;

15. Invites the Economic and Social Council similarly to request its subsidiary organs responsible for recurrent publications to undertake such a review;

16. Requests the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to review recurrent publications in the context of the medium-term plan or the programme budget, as appropriate;

17. Recommends that in conducting their reviews, intergovernmental bodies bear in mind the following criteria:

(a) Usefulness to the end-user of the publication, as gauged from end-user response or from the sales record of a publication;

- (b) The filling of a need;
- (c) A high standard of analysis or data;
- (d) Promotion of the purposes and principles of the Organization;
- (e) The continued validity of the original mandate;
- (f) The recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in its report on publications policy and practice in the United Nations system, if applicable.

F

Improved organization of work and effective use of  
conference resources

The General Assembly,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Committee on Conferences with data in summary form on:

(a) the physical and human conference-servicing resources for United Nations Headquarters and United Nations offices generally and per meeting or conference, including: rooms available, documentation capacity, interpretation and translation and, in a format which enables comparison of the supply and demand for conference servicing since 1980, for

- (i) the calendar of all categories of United Nations organs' meetings scheduled, anticipated to the extent possible and held, grouped according to subject-matter;
- (ii) external conference servicing available to the United Nations in case of urgent and unforeseen demands on the calendar;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to all United Nations bodies the relevant sections of operative paragraph 1 as supplementary data for their implementation of part of this resolution.

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