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Sixth Session

Item 19 of the Agenda

QUESTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL REGIME FOR THE JERUSALEM

AREA AND PROTECTION OF THE HOLY PLACES

DRAFT STATUTE FOR JERUSALEM

Dominican Republic: Amendments to Articles 22, 23 and 24.

Article 22 (former Article 20)

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. A Legislative Council, consisting of a single chamber, shall have power to legislate in accordance with this Statute and may deliberate and adopt resolutions, consistent with the provisions of this Statute, upon any matters affecting the interests of the City.
2. The functions of the Legislative Council shall be as follows:
 - (a) To legislate on matters of taxation;
 - (b) To estimate annual revenue and to fix annual expenditure, and to examine the revenue and expenditure accounts for each financial year. If the budget for the ensuing year is not

adopted by 31 December the estimates for the previous year shall continue to apply and any changes required in these estimates shall be made by an order of the Governor;

- (c) To authorize the contracting of loans or any other kind of operation which may pledge the credit of the City or involve the City in financial liability, and to determine the means of repayment;
- (d) To regulate the use and transfer of the land and estates of the City;
- (e) To establish, and make rules for the conduct of, an official bank for the City, the said bank to have the right to issue banknotes;
- (f) To mint the money, to fix its value and its parity rates with foreign currencies, and to adopt a uniform system of weights and measures;
- (g) To determine the civil, commercial, penal and procedural laws to be applied in the City, with due regard to the legislation in force therein when this Statute is promulgated, and to make such amendments in these laws as it may from time to time deem advisable;
- (h) To pass the laws required for the administration of the City and its advancement;
- (i) To establish courts in accordance with the provisions of Article 27;
- (j) To fix the remuneration of members of the Legislative Council itself; to create or to abolish public offices, determine their functions, and increase or reduce the emoluments attached thereto. No change in the remunerations provided for in this Article shall take effect until one year after it has been approved;
- (κ) To confirm or reject appointments of diplomatic representatives for the City;
- (l) To confirm or reject international agreements concluded by the Governor with representatives of foreign States and to determine

the multilateral conventions or treaties to which the City should accede;

- (m) To declare a state of siege in case of internal disorder, and to confirm or suspend any state of siege declared by the Governor during periods when the Legislative Council is not in session;
- (n) To grant amnesties or general pardons for political offences, subject to approval by a two-thirds majority of its members;
- (o) To arrange for the division of the City into districts or wards, and to lay down regulations for the election of members to the Legislative Council and of any other elective official of the City. The Council shall also have the right to adjudicate on the disqualification of voters or candidates on legal grounds.

3. The Legislative Council shall be composed of citizens of the City, twenty-five years of age and over, elected in accordance with the provisions of this Article and of the following Article.

4. The Legislative Council shall consist of forty members who shall be elected by the system of proportional representation. The number of members of the Council to be elected by each electoral district of the City shall be fixed by law.

Article 23 (former Article 21)

ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The members of the Legislative Council shall be elected by residents of the City, twenty-one years of age and over, on the basis of universal and secret suffrage, and proportional representation in each electoral district.

(Transitional provision consequent upon these two Articles, which may be inserted at the end of the Statute):

"With a view to arranging the first election of members to the Legislative Council the Governor shall issue orders provisionally delimiting the

electoral districts of the City, determining the number of members to be elected by each district, and providing for the preparation of electoral rolls and any other arrangements he may deem necessary for the implementation of the provisions of Articles 22 and 23 of this Statute regarding elections.

Article 24 (former Article 22)

DURATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The term of the Legislative Council shall be four years from the date of its election, unless it is earlier dissolved.
2. The Legislative Council shall hold two regular sessions a year, one beginning in March and the other at the end of October.
3. If a serious political crisis arises in the City and if, in the opinion of the Governor, dissolution of the Legislative Council would be justified, he shall report the circumstances to the Trusteeship Council which may, after examining the said report, authorize the Governor to order such dissolution, while at the same time fixing a date for the holding of new elections.