



# **COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

## **REPORT ON THE SECOND SPECIAL SESSION**

**(3-7 January 1977)**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS: SIXTY-THIRD SESSION**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 2**

**UNITED NATIONS**



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#### NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A

1. The Committee on Natural Resources recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following recommendations:

"The Economic and Social Council

"(a) Approves the provisional rules of procedure for the United Nations Water Conference (annex II to the present report) and transmits them to the Conference;

"(b) Approves the revised provisional agenda for the United Nations Water Conference (annex III to the present report) and transmits it to the Conference;

"(c) Approves the recommendations regarding the organization of the work of the United Nations Water Conference (annex IV to the present report) proposed in document E/C.7/L.51 with the revised allocation of work of the two committees of the Conference approved by the Committee.

In connexion with the organization of the Conference, the Committee also agreed that:

- (i) Pre-Conference meetings should be held at Mar del Plata on Saturday, 12 March 1977, and, if necessary, on Sunday, 13 March 1977, under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources at its second special session, to consider any organizational and procedural questions that might be necessary to ensure the smooth functioning of the Conference. An oral report on the consultations held at the pre-Conference meetings would be submitted by the Chairman to the Conference on Monday, 14 March 1977;
- (ii) Taking account of the conference facilities available, working parties, contact groups and other negotiation or drafting bodies would be set up only within the structure of the sessional committees of the Conference themselves, unless the plenary meetings or meetings of one of the committees were suspended, or unless delegations agreed that such working parties should work without interpretation facilities;
- (iii) The main elements of the report of the Conference should be: (1) a brief review of the events leading to the convening of the Conference; (2) a repertorial summary of the work of each of the committees of the Conference and of the action taken in plenary meetings on the recommendations prepared by the committees; (3) a summary of the general debate; (4) the decisions and recommendations of the Conference;

- (iv) The list of speakers for the general debate would be opened at United Nations Headquarters on Tuesday, 22 February 1977, and a provision would be included in the rules of procedure to the effect that the time allowed for statements in plenary meetings would be limited to 15 minutes for the representative of each State and 10 minutes for other participants. Changes in the list of speakers would be made only on the basis of agreement among the delegations concerned;

"(d) Transmits to the Conference the reports on community water supply and sanitation (E/C.7/L.56) and on water for agriculture (E/C.7/L.54) and the recommendations of the ad hoc group of experts on technical co-operation among developing countries in water resources development (E/C.7/L.55)."

B

2. The Committee on Natural Resources brings to the attention of the Economic and Social Council the following:

(a) With regard to the report prepared by the Secretary-General entitled "Consolidated action recommendations" (E/C.7/L.52 and Add.1), the Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to prepare a guide to the documentation indicating the status and source of the recommendations. The Secretary-General of the Conference was also requested to make clear in the document containing the consolidated action recommendations that the document in fact consisted of a summary of recommendations from reports of the regional preparatory meetings which were themselves basic Conference documents. In addition, that document should be recognized as only one source of action recommendations before the Conference. Further, the Committee agreed that all documents containing recommendations should be transmitted to the Conference and suggested moreover that the section on "shared water resources" in document E/C.7/L.52 be modified to include the text produced by the meetings of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Latin America. The Committee also noted that there were several funding possibilities in addition to that contained in paragraph 101 of document E/C.7/L.52, and that those too should be considered by the Conference (see para. 52 below);

(b) With regard to the provisional agenda for the Conference, the Committee, having noted that the annotations to the provisional agenda would be revised in the light of the observations made at the second special session, approved the revised provisional agenda contained in document E/C.7/L.50 (see paras. 38 and 39 below);

(c) With regard to the revised division of work between the committees, it was stressed that while the subject headings had been based for convenience on the items listed in the document containing the consolidated action recommendations, they should be considered as indicative only. Consequently, all relevant documentation pertaining to items 10 and 11 should be accommodated within the work of the committees on a continuing basis and relevant issues should be transmitted to each committee as appropriate. Moreover, provision should be made for close contact between the committees with a view to facilitating the transfer of items for discussion from one to the other, whenever such transfer appeared to be useful and relevant (see para. 41 below).

## II. THIRD PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY- GENERAL ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS WATER CONFERENCE

3. The Committee on Natural Resources considered item 4 of its agenda at its 99th and 100th meetings. The Committee had before it the third progress report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the United Nations Water Conference (E/C.7/61).

4. Introducing the report, the Secretary-General of the Conference commented on the satisfactory pace of the preparatory activity. Reviewing certain salient matters, he drew attention to the high level of inputs by Governments. Two hundred and sixteen abstracts of thematic papers had been submitted by the end of November, at which time an overview document had been prepared. Other papers were still being received. He noted that the over-all summary had subsequently been reviewed and endorsed by an intergovernmental working group for submission to the Conference.

5. The Secretary-General of the Conference stressed the high calibre of the participation in the preparatory meetings convened by the five regional commissions, each of which had produced important documentation for the Conference. Regarding the scheduling of those meetings, he noted that the Committee on Water Problems of the Economic Commission for Europe had concluded its meeting in October 1976, and that that had delayed the preparation of the consolidated action recommendations document (E/C.7/L.52). Further, the preparatory meeting of the Economic Commission for Western Asia had been convened only in mid-December 1976, and the recommendations of that meeting were of necessity before the Committee as an addendum to the consolidated action recommendations.

6. The Secretary-General of the Conference drew the Committee's attention to documentation resulting from the initiatives taken to follow up certain proposals which had not been broached at the first special session of the Committee but which might nevertheless have a direct bearing on the action proposals that would result from the Conference. In connexion with those new inputs, he referred to the report on community water supplies prepared by the World Health Organization in co-operation with the World Bank and the United Nations Children's Fund. The resolution of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements which had given rise to that report had been adopted only in June 1976, and a subsequent review of the report by water specialists from developed and developing countries had taken place at Geneva from 14 to 17 December 1976. In consequence, in spite of the keen commitment of all concerned, it had been impossible to distribute the final document on the subject for review by the Committee prior to the second special session.

7. Similarly, the Secretary-General of the Conference referred to the action taken to follow up the recommendations of the World Food Conference on the subject of water for agriculture. He pointed out that a report on that subject had been reviewed by an expert group in November 1976 and, despite the intensive co-operation of all concerned, the final report could not be made available for review by the Committee before the second special session.



8. Referring to the importance of technical co-operation among developing countries concerning water resources development, the Secretary-General of the Conference noted that a meeting had been convened to discuss the subject in December 1976 and he drew attention to the recommendations of that meeting. In the matter of global water resources assessment, he informed the Committee that a report on the subject prepared by the World Meteorological Organization in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization would also be submitted to the Conference.

9. In respect of the basic documentation for the Conference prepared with the co-operation of various organizations of the United Nations system, the Secretary-General of the Conference pointed out that of the three basic documents, two, entitled "Resources and needs: assessment of the world water situation" and "The promise of technology: potential and limitations", had been issued as documents E/CONF.70/CBP/1 and E/CONF.70/CBP/2 respectively. He noted that the third basic document, "Policy options", which was central to discussion at the Conference, had undergone considerable scrutiny by various interested organizations of the United Nations system in order to ensure its high quality and it was now before the Committee (E/C.7/L.53), as was the report by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the Environment Co-ordination Board on current and future activities of the United Nations system in the water sector (E/CONF.70/CBP/4).

10. Referring to the co-ordination of preparatory activities for the United Nations Conference on Desertification and the United Nations Water Conference, the Secretary-General of the Conference stated that the relevant recommendations emanating from the Water Conference would be transmitted to the Conference on Desertification.

11. In concluding his introduction of the progress report, the Secretary-General of the Conference pointed out that, despite constraints of time and a modest operating budget, all substantive documentation had been completed for review by the Committee. In connexion with budgetary limitations, he noted the financial assistance given to the Conference secretariat by the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the International Development Research Centre.

12. Regarding the information programme prepared for the Conference and described in an annex to the progress report, the Director of the Centre for Economic and Social Information said that an in-session Conference information programme was being planned as well as a post-Conference programme. A part of the latter programme would serve to emphasize the essential linkage between the Water Conference and the United Nations Conference on Desertification and the International Conference on Nuclear Power and its Fuel Cycle, all of which were to be held in 1977.

13. Representatives of four non-governmental organizations, the International Institute for Environment and Development, the International Society for Community Development, the non-governmental organizations Committee on the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Peace Academy, also made statements on the report.

14. In the course of the subsequent discussion, a number of representatives took note with appreciation of the initiative taken by the Secretary-General of the Conference in following up the matters of community water supplies, water for

agriculture, water assessment, and technical co-operation among developing countries in the water sector. It was generally felt that, given the constraints of time and budget, it was understandable that certain documentation, though now completed, had regrettably, but necessarily, been delayed.

15. The representatives of certain Governments expressed the hope that no extraneous issues would be raised at the Conference that might detract from its effectiveness.

16. One representative suggested that it might be useful if the Committee were given an introduction to the recently completed reports contained in documents E/C.7/L.54, E/C.7/L.55 and E/C.7/L.56. Accordingly, the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat introduced the reports on those subjects. Commenting on the recommendations of the meeting on technical co-operation among developing countries, one representative cautioned that such co-operation should not be considered as a substitute for traditional forms of assistance to developing nations. In supporting the view expressed by other representatives, he suggested that that report and other documentation should be transmitted directly to the Conference rather than receiving substantive scrutiny by the Committee.

#### Action taken by the Committee

17. The Committee decided to take note of the third progress report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the United Nations Water Conference (E/C.7/61) and recommended to the Economic and Social Council that it transmit to the Conference the reports on community water supply and sanitation (E/C.7/L.56) and on water for agriculture (E/C.7/L.54) and the recommendations of the ad hoc group of experts on technical co-operation among developing countries in water resources development (E/C.7/L.55) (see para. 1 (d) above).

### III. ARRANGEMENTS IN THE HOST COUNTRY

18. The Committee considered item 5 of its agenda at its 98th meeting.
19. The representative of Argentina, Chairman of the Argentine National Commission for the United Nations Water Conference, made a statement describing the facilities being made available by the Government of Argentina in connexion with the convening of the Conference.
20. The Argentine National Commission for the Conference, the body responsible for the local organization of the Conference, was established by National Decree.
21. The Gran Hotel Provincial at Mar del Plata had been selected as the site of the Conference. It contained all the space required for the Conference, including meeting rooms for the plenary meetings and the committees as well as for working groups, delegates' lounges, the press section, offices for the secretariat of the Conference and other facilities.
22. An agency had been contracted to act as the Official Tourist Agency for the United Nations Water Conference. It would be in charge of reception and transfer facilities, hotel reservations, ticket confirmation and any post-Conference travel or tours that the delegates might wish to undertake.
23. In order to facilitate the speedy processing of customs and immigration requirements by bilingual assistants, who would be clearly identified and would be available 24 hours a day, as well as to assist in the transfer of passengers and their luggage to Mar del Plata, delegates, representatives of intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, newspapermen, and others who would attend the Conference were especially requested to utilize the Ezeiza International Airport and the Buenos Aires City Airport.
24. The Official Tourist Agency, by initiating contact with accredited embassies at Buenos Aires and through its international representatives with all Governments, would be of service in that aspect of the preparations.
25. A brochure would be available shortly giving information about Argentina, Buenos Aires and Mar del Plata, as well as information regarding hotel reservations and various post-Conference tours. In addition, a programme of social and cultural activities to take place during the Conference was being developed.
26. As a separate activity of the Conference, and with the purpose of enhancing its significance, the Government of Argentina, through the National Commission, had organized a series of scientific and technical meetings on basic themes related to water resources, with the objective of exchanging experience and knowledge between local and foreign experts. In that connexion 14 seminars would be held and invitations had been sent to institutions and experts in Argentina and abroad. Those seminars would have simultaneous interpretation in three languages (English, French and Spanish).

27. The Government of Argentina was fulfilling its commitment to ensure the success and achieve the objectives of the Conference and was doing its utmost to provide its best hospitality to all delegates and representatives. In that connexion, given the importance of the Conference and of the decisions to be adopted by it, the wish was expressed that Governments be represented at the highest level.

28. Following a request for clarification concerning facilities available for the showing of films and other exhibits, it was suggested that delegations wishing to present films should provide the Conference secretariat with the necessary information so that an appropriate schedule might be established which would not conflict with the schedule of meetings. In relation to other facilities for exhibits the representative of Argentina said that the Government would be unable to provide such facilities.

#### IV. DRAFT PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS WATER CONFERENCE

29. The Committee considered item 7 of its agenda at its 98th and 99th meetings. It had before it the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference (E/C.7/L.38/Rev.1 and Amend.1 and Corr.1).

30. At those meetings, the Committee amended and revised some of the draft rules as follows:

Rule 1: The number "5" was inserted before the words "other accredited representatives";

Rule 6: The number "18" was inserted before the words "Vice-Presidents";

Rule 16: In the final sentence of paragraph 1, the words "representative of each State" were replaced by the words "representative of each participant in the Conference";

Rule 18: In the first sentence of paragraph 3, the words "representative of each State" were replaced by the words "representative of each participant in the Conference";

Rule 21: After the first sentence, a new sentence was inserted which read as follows: "Any other representative may be granted the opportunity to make a reply.";

Rule 29: The brackets were deleted. The text then read as follows:

"When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered unless the Conference by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing reconsideration, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately."

Rule 31: The first alternative text for the rule was adopted and the brackets enclosing paragraphs 1 to 3 were deleted. The last two lines were deleted. The text then read as follows:

"1. Unless the Conference decides otherwise, decisions of the Conference on all matters of substance shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting.

"2. Unless the Conference decides otherwise and except as otherwise provided, decisions of the Conference on all matters of procedure shall be taken by a simple majority of the representatives present and voting. If a vote is equally divided, the motion shall be regarded as rejected.

"3. If the question arises whether a matter is one of procedure or substance, it shall be decided by the Conference by a majority of the representatives present and voting."

Rule 44: The brackets enclosing subparagraph (d) were deleted;

Rule 45: The rule was amended as proposed in E/C.7/L.38/Rev.1/Amend.1. The text then read as follows:

"Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official languages and English, French and Spanish the working languages of the Conference."

Rule 47: The title of rule 47 was corrected as shown in E/C.7/L.38/Rev.1/Corr.1;

Rule 58: The brackets were deleted. The text then read as follows:

"These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Conference by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, after the General Committee has reported on the proposed amendment."

#### Action taken by the Committee

31. The Committee approved the provisional rules of procedure for the United Nations Water Conference (E/C.7/L.38/Rev.1 and Amend.1 and Corr.1), as amended, annexed to the present report (annex II), and recommended that the Economic and Social Council approve them and transmit them to the Conference (see para. 1 (a) above).

32. Two delegations registered reservations with regard to rule 52 and one representative put on record the fact that his delegation had strong doubts and reservations concerning the attempt to give observers and participants not representing States an expanded role in the Conference.

V. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE UNITED  
NATIONS WATER CONFERENCE

33. The Committee considered item 6 of its agenda at its 101st and 102nd meetings. The Committee had before it the draft revised provisional agenda for the Conference (E/C.7/L.50).

34. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretary-General of the Conference stated that the revised draft should be viewed as an elaboration of the draft approved by the Committee at its first special session and contained in annex II to the report of the Committee. <sup>1/</sup> He noted further that item 10 of the proposed provisional agenda would allow for a broad coverage of the entire spectrum of problems, constraints and policy options which might be encountered in the area of water resources development, while item 11 would provide the framework for the formulation of action recommendations.

35. In the ensuing discussion, one representative, while agreeing in principle with the draft provisional agenda, said that in his view emphasis should be given to the efficient utilization and distribution of water, and the protection of water quality, in order that countries might have the opportunity for the widest possible exchange of experience concerning those technologies that used little or no water and protected against pollution. Another representative expressed the hope that Governments would avail themselves of the opportunity to report on progress made in implementing the recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements concerning community water supplies, and on plans to provide clean water for their communities. Several representatives considered that given the critical importance of the matter of shared water resources, that item deserved further elaboration in the annotations to the provisional agenda. One representative suggested that action proposals on that subject were not as comprehensive as those relating to action at the national level. He went on to note, however, that several background documents would deal with the question and in that context cited the report prepared by the International Law Commission on its work on the law of non-navigational uses of international watercourses (E/CONF.70/A.12). He also made reference to the report prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3129 (XXVIII) (UNEP/GC/74) and to the report of the International Law Association at its fifty-seventh session on the administration of international water resources. There was general agreement that those items of the agenda dealing with shared water resources, and the discussion of the subject at the Conference, should concentrate on techniques for resolving conflicts rather than focusing on any specific conflict. Several representatives suggested that representatives of international river basin commissions might be invited to make statements at the Conference on experience in resolving conflict and fostering co-operation. In that connexion, a representative of the Conference secretariat noted that a background document on the subject (E/CONF.70/A.3) had recently been issued describing the methods of co-operation of some 24 river basin commissions. He went on to say that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1982 (LX), those international river basin commissions that expressed an interest would be invited to participate in the Conference as observers.

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<sup>1/</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 4 (E/5778).

36. Regarding item 10 of the proposed provisional agenda, one representative considered that the annotations did not adequately reflect the importance of technology and suggested that the text could be improved by the reintroduction of those annotations contained in the earlier draft of the provisional agenda as contained in annex II to the report of the Committee on its first special session. Another representative cautioned that sections (h) and (i) dealing with shared water resources should not preclude discussion of single use of water resources. He added that those annotations should in no way influence the positions of delegations on the subject of shared water resources, nor should they prejudice positions taken by Governments in respect of recommendations of the Habitat Conference. It was noted that in certain instances, the annotations to item 10 could be interpreted as giving an unintended tone of finality. It was recognized, however, that the annotations were to be viewed merely as guidelines for discussion and should in no way restrict any intervention a delegation might care to make.

37. Regarding item 11 of the proposed provisional agenda, it was felt that the annotations as currently formulated could give the impression that the discussion at the Conference would be limited to those action proposals emanating from document E/C.7/L.52 and, in consequence, restrict the scope of the proposals that would be considered at the Conference. It was therefore urged that the annotations should make it clear that the Conference would have before it, for discussion and subsequent action, the totality of recommendations contained in the documentation before the Conference as well as those recommendations emanating from the work of the Conference itself.

38. A representative of the Conference secretariat stated that the annotations to the provisional agenda were already being expanded, taking into account the observations made by the representatives at the second special session of the Committee.

#### Action taken by the Committee

39. In conclusion, the Committee, having noted that the annotations to the provisional agenda would be revised, approved the revised provisional agenda for the United Nations Water Conference (E/C.7/L.50) annexed to the present report (annex III), and recommended that the Economic and Social Council approve it and transmit it to the Conference (see paras. 1 (b) and 2 (b) above).



## VI. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS WATER CONFERENCE

40. The Committee considered item 8 of its agenda at its 101st and 102nd meetings. The Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/C.7/L.51).

41. Several representatives questioned the proposed division of responsibilities between the two sessional committees of the Conference dealing with substantive matters, described in document E/C.7/L.51. Various proposals were put forward for the efficient allocation of work between the two committees. In the course of the discussion the Committee agreed to establish an informal working group to prepare a revised division of work between the committees. On behalf of the working group the representative of Sweden proposed a revised allocation of work to the two committees of the Conference. The Committee approved the working group's proposal, which is reproduced in annex IV to the present report. It was stressed that while the subject headings had been based for convenience on the items listed in the document containing the consolidated action recommendations, they should be considered as indicative only. Consequently, all relevant documentation pertaining to items 10 and 11 should be accommodated within the work of the committees on a continuing basis and relevant issues should be transmitted to each committee as appropriate. Moreover, provision should be made for close contact between the committees with a view to facilitating the transfer of items for discussion from one to the other, whenever such transfer appeared to be useful and relevant.

### Action taken by the Committee

42. In connexion with the organization of the Conference, the Committee also agreed that:

(a) Pre-Conference meetings should be held at Mar del Plata on Saturday, 12 March 1977, and, if necessary, on Sunday, 13 March 1977, under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources at its second special session, to consider any organizational and procedural questions that might be necessary to ensure the smooth functioning of the Conference. An oral report on the consultations held at the pre-Conference meetings would be submitted by the Chairman to the Conference on Monday, 14 March 1977;

(b) Taking account of the conference facilities available, working parties, contact groups and other negotiation or drafting bodies would be set up only within the structure of the sessional committees of the Conference themselves, unless the plenary meetings or meetings of one of the committees were suspended, or unless delegations agreed that such working parties should work without interpretation facilities;

(c) The main elements of the report of the Conference should be: (i) a brief review of the events leading to the convening of the Conference; (ii) a repertorial summary of the work of each of the committees of the Conference and of the action taken in plenary meetings on the recommendations prepared by the committees; (iii) a summary of the general debate; (iv) the decisions and recommendations of the Conference;

(d) The list of speakers for the general debate would be opened at United Nations Headquarters on Tuesday, 22 February 1977, and a provision would be included in the rules of procedure to the effect that the time allowed for statements in plenary meetings would be limited to 15 minutes for the representative of each State and to 10 minutes for other participants. Changes in the list of speakers would be made only on the basis of agreement among the delegations concerned (see para. 1, subparas. (i)-(iv), above).

## VII. CONSOLIDATED ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS

43. The Committee considered item 9 of its agenda at its 100th and 102nd meetings. The Committee had before it the report prepared by the Secretary-General and entitled "Consolidated action recommendations" (E/C.7/L.52 and Add.1).
44. In introducing documents E/C.7/L.52 and Add.1, the Secretary-General of the Conference made reference to the method followed in consolidating the recommendations of the regional preparatory meetings. He noted that where there was a common measure of agreement, recommendations were presented in the language of that report which was considered to reflect best the views of all. Where there was a divergence of opinion as to particular recommendations, the texts of conflicting recommendations were presented in their entirety. He went on to say that references to specific sources were minimized for the sake of brevity.
45. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives stressed that there was no possibility of, or indeed need for, formal approval or endorsement of the substantive content of the documents presented under the item at the second special session of the Committee. It was generally held that discussion should be restricted to the form of presentation, the method of consolidation and the degree to which the document reflected a balanced presentation of the recommendations adopted at the regional preparatory meetings.
46. Commenting on the document, a representative suggested that recommendations relating to the co-ordination of research and training activities at the regional and international levels were inadequately covered. Also, it was urged that an appraisal of the existing situation and an identification of goals to be achieved might properly be incorporated into the document. It was further suggested that the subjects of the environment and health and natural hazards merited separate presentation.
47. One representative felt that the document might assess to what degree the action recommendations corresponded to and fulfilled the approved objectives of the Conference. It was also suggested that the introduction to the document might describe the method of consolidation outlined by the Secretary-General of the Conference.
48. Certain representatives expressed a willingness to provide written comments on specific recommendations in the text after consultation with their Governments if the Committee considered that useful.
49. One representative asked that the Conference secretariat consider ways of indicating short-term targets and long-term priorities in the recommendations. He urged that forums be identified where negotiations on short-term progress could take place.
50. One representative considered that international technical and advisory services should be provided at the request of Governments.

51. Commenting on proposals concerning current and future activities of the United Nations system in water resources development, some representatives noted that that matter should be considered by the Conference within the context of the current review of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and that there was no need to establish any new fund or organization.

#### Action taken by the Committee

52. In order to structure and define the recommendations made under item 9 of the agenda, an informal meeting of the Committee was held. Its chairman, the representative of Canada, presented the meeting's conclusions to the Committee, on the basis of which the Committee decided to request the Secretary-General of the Conference to prepare a guide to the documentation indicating the status and source of the recommendations. The Secretary-General of the Conference was also requested to make clear in the document containing the consolidated action recommendations that the document in fact consisted of a summary of the recommendations from reports of the regional preparatory meetings which were themselves basic Conference documents. In addition, that document should be recognized as only one source of action recommendations before the Conference. Further, the Committee agreed that all documents containing recommendations should be transmitted to the Conference and suggested moreover that the section on "shared water resources" in document E/C.7/L.52 be modified to include the text produced by the meetings of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Latin America. The Committee also noted that there were several funding possibilities in addition to that contained in paragraph 101 of document E/C.7/L.52, and that those too should be considered by the Conference (see para. 2 (a) above).

53. Regarding any further work that might be carried out by the Conference secretariat in relation to the consolidated action recommendations, many representatives considered that at such a late stage of Conference preparations no further changes should be made in form or content, subject to the inclusion of the recommendations of the recent preparatory meeting of the Economic Commission for Western Asia. Some delegations suggested that the various action proposals from different sources should be reconsolidated into one basic document.

54. One delegation pointed out that, with regard to the institutional follow-up to the Conference, an important role for the Economic and Social Council and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination would seem appropriate.

55. In view of the late circulation of document E/C.7/L.52 and certain other documents, several delegations emphasized that they had not had the opportunity to study the documents and consult their Governments. Their positions would therefore be made clear at the Conference.

### VIII. DOCUMENTATION FOR THE UNITED NATIONS WATER CONFERENCE

56. At its 100th and 102nd meetings, the Committee considered item 10 of its agenda. The Committee had before it a preliminary list of documents which had been made available as a conference room paper.

57. Introducing the item, the Secretary-General of the Conference emphasized that the recommendations emanating from all documentation, and not exclusively those contained in the consolidated action recommendations document (E/C.7/L.52), were to be viewed as sources for subsequent discussion and proposals at the Conference.

58. In that context, he drew attention to the thematic papers contributed by Governments, the basic documentation prepared by the Conference secretariat in co-operation with various interested organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, and the reports of the regional preparatory meetings.

59. During the discussion of the item, certain representatives expressed the wish that the recommendations of other meetings organized under the auspices of the United Nations might also be submitted to the Conference.

60. In that regard, reference was made to the Tripartite World Conference on Employment, Income Distribution, Social Progress and the International Division of Labour organized by the International Labour Organisation. A representative referred to the working group of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization convened in Sweden on water problems in urban areas, a summary of the report of which would be transmitted to the Conference. Another representative pointed out that an international seminar on eutrophication of surface water sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme had been convened in September 1976 in the German Democratic Republic, and requested that the Conference secretariat take steps to have the recommendations of that seminar transmitted to the Conference as part of the official documentation. It was also suggested that the second report of the United Nations Environment Programme on shared natural resources should be submitted to the Conference for its information.

61. It was suggested that the report on current and future activities of the United Nations system in water resources development (E/CONF.70/CBP/4) should incorporate the specific proposals mentioned in paragraph 106 and contained in the annex to document E/C.7/L.52, which in fact reproduced the recommendations already contained in document E/CONF.70/CBP/4.

62. In connexion with community water supplies, one representative suggested that countries should inform the Conference of the measures taken at the national level to implement those recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements that had relevance to the Water Conference.

63. Referring to the various ways in which recommendations had been presented in the documentation, a representative suggested that it would be useful for Governments in formulating their positions if the Conference secretariat were to clarify its thinking on the form and content of the final recommendations that would emanate from the Conference.

64. Another representative stressed that documents before the Committee at its second special session did not represent the totality of the documentation to be available at the Conference since other papers had yet to be submitted.

65. Replying to various matters raised by delegations, a member of the Conference secretariat indicated that constraints of time had prevented the secretariat from including the recommendations of the Tripartite World Conference in the main body of Conference documentation. He added, however, that every opportunity would be available for discussion at the Conference of the water-related issues that had been raised at the Tripartite World Conference.

## IX. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

66. At its 103rd meeting, the Committee adopted by consensus the report on its second special session (E/C.7/L.57 and Add.1-7), as amended.

## X. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

### Opening and duration of the session

67. The Committee on Natural Resources, acting as the preparatory committee for the United Nations Water Conference, in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979 (LIX) of 31 July 1975, held its second special session at Headquarters, New York, from 3 to 7 January 1977. The summary records of the meetings of the Committee at that session are contained in documents E/C.7/SR.98-102.

68. The session was opened by the temporary Chairman, L. O. Harriman (Nigeria), Chairman of the Committee at its first special session.

69. At the 98th meeting, statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Secretary-General of the Conference; those statements are recorded in the summary record of the meeting.

### Membership and attendance

70. By Economic and Social Council resolution 1621 A (LI) of 30 July 1971, the membership of the Committee was increased to 54 as from 1 January 1972. Four seats remain to be filled.

71. The following States members of the Committee were represented: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Central African Empire, Colombia, Egypt, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Romania, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

72. The following States Members of the United Nations participated in the session as observers: Austria, Bulgaria, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Ghana, Hungary, Israel, Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia.

73. The following State non-member of the United Nations participated in the session as an observer: Switzerland.

74. The following regional commissions were represented: the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Western Asia. The following United Nations bodies were also represented: the United Nations

Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme.

75. The following specialized agencies sent representatives: the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Bank and the World Meteorological Organization. The International Atomic Energy Agency also sent a representative.

76. The European Economic Community and the Islamic Conference were also represented.

77. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Category I: International Chamber of Commerce; Category II: Bahá'i International Community, Caritas Internationalis (International Conference of Catholic Charities), Community Development Foundation, Inc., International Catholic Child Bureau, International Federation of University Women, International Organization of Consumers Unions, Muslim World League, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, and World Muslim Congress; Roster: International Institute for Environment and Development, International Peace Academy, International Society for Community Development, International Humanist and Ethical Union and the Sierra Club.

#### Election of officers

78. At its 98th meeting, the Committee re-elected by acclamation the following officers who had served at the first special session of the Committee: Chairman: L. O. Harriman (Nigeria); Vice-Chairmen: V. Kryzhanovsky (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), M. Al-Badri (Iraq) and J. P. Bruce (Canada); Rapporteur: P. Camacho (Venezuela).

#### Agenda and documentation

79. At its 98th meeting, the Committee adopted the agenda for the session (E/C.7/60) which is reproduced in annex I to the present report.

80. The documents before the Committee at its second special session are listed in annex V.

#### Method of work

81. At its 98th meeting, the Committee agreed, following its practice at previous sessions, to take decisions by consensus. In the event that consensus was not possible but a majority readily discernible, the Committee would decide the matter accordingly. Opposing views would be recorded in the report, together with the reasons for disagreement.



### Summary records

82. By decision 137 (ORG-76), the Economic and Social Council stipulated that the Committee on Natural Resources should be required to dispense with summary records for organizational, procedural and valedictory discussions and for the adoption of its reports, and be urged to dispense with them for substantive discussions of lesser importance also.

83. At its 98th meeting, the Committee decided to retain summary records for items 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10 of its agenda.

Annex I

AGENDA OF THE SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. Third progress report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the United Nations Water Conference
5. Arrangements in the host country
6. Provisional agenda for the United Nations Water Conference
7. Draft provisional rules of procedure for the United Nations Water Conference
8. Organization of the work of the United Nations Water Conference
9. Consolidated action recommendations
10. Documentation for the United Nations Water Conference
11. Adoption of the report of the Committee

## Annex II

### PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS WATER CONFERENCE

#### I. REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

##### Composition of delegations

###### Rule 1

Each State participating in the Conference shall be represented by a head of delegation and not more than five other accredited representatives and such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

##### Alternates and advisers

###### Rule 2

The head of delegation may designate an alternate representative or an adviser to act as a representative.

##### Credentials

###### Rule 3

The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of the Conference, if possible not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference. Credentials shall be issued either by the head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

##### Credentials Committee

###### Rule 4

A Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its membership shall, as far as possible, be the same as that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its thirty-first session. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

## Provisional participation

### Rule 5

Pending a decision of the Conference upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the Conference.

## II. OFFICERS

### Election

#### Rule 6

The Conference shall elect the following officers: a President, 18 Vice-Presidents, a Rapporteur-General and the chairmen of the main committees established in accordance with rule 42. Such committees shall elect their own vice-chairmen and rapporteurs.

### Acting President

#### Rule 7

1. If the President is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, he shall designate a Vice-President to take his place.

2. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the powers and duties of the President.

## Voting rights of the President

### Rule 8

The President, or a Vice-President acting as President, shall not vote, but shall appoint another member of his delegation to vote in his place.

## III. GENERAL COMMITTEE

### Composition

#### Rule 9

The General Committee shall comprise the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and the chairmen of the main committees established in accordance with rule 42. The President of the Conference, or in his absence, one of the Vice-Presidents designated by him, shall serve as Chairman of the General Committee. The Chairman of the Credentials Committee may participate, without the right to vote, in the work of the General Committee.

## Functions

### Rule 10

The General Committee shall assist the President in the general conduct of the business of the Conference and, subject to the decisions of the Conference, shall ensure the co-ordination of its work.

## IV. CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

### Duties of the Secretary-General and the secretariat

#### Rule 11

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, or, in his absence, the Secretary-General of the Conference, shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference and its committees. The Secretary-General of the United Nations or the Secretary-General of the Conference may designate a member of the secretariat to act in his place at these meetings.

2. The Secretary-General of the Conference shall direct the staff required by the Conference.

### Duties of the secretariat

#### Rule 12

The secretariat of the Conference shall, in accordance with these rules:

- (a) Interpret speeches made at meetings;
- (b) Receive, translate and circulate the documents of the Conference;
- (c) Publish and circulate the report of the Conference;
- (d) Make and arrange for the keeping of sound recordings of meetings;
- (e) Arrange for the custody of the documents of the Conference in the archives of the United Nations; and
- (f) Generally perform all other work that the Conference may require.

### Statements by the secretariat

#### Rule 13

The Secretary-General of the United Nations or the Secretary-General of the Conference, or any member of the secretariat designated by either for that purpose, may, subject to rule 18, make oral as well as written statements concerning any question under consideration.

## V. CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

### Report

#### Rule 14

The Conference shall adopt a report, the draft of which shall be prepared by the Rapporteur-General.

## VI. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

### Quorum

#### Rule 15

The President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States participating in the Conference shall be required for any decision to be taken.

### General powers of the President

#### Rule 16

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the President shall preside at the plenary meetings of the Conference, declare the opening and closing of each meeting, direct the discussion, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order thereat. The President may propose to the Conference the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times the representative of each participant in the Conference may speak on a question, the adjournment or the closure of the debate and the suspension or the adjournment of a meeting.

2. The President, in the exercise of his functions, remains under the authority of the Conference.

### Points of order

#### Rule 17

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be decided immediately by the President in accordance with these rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be put to the vote immediately, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the

representatives present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

## Speeches

### Rule 18

1. No one may address the Conference without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rules 17, 19 and 21 to 24, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak.

2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Conference and the President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

3. The Conference may limit the time allowed to speakers a/ and the number of times the representative of each participant in the Conference may speak on a question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. Each intervention on a procedural question shall not exceed five minutes. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call him to order without delay.

## Precedence

### Rule 19

The chairman or rapporteur of a committee may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by the committee.

## Closing of list of speakers

### Rule 20

During the course of a debate the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Conference, declare the list closed. When there are no more speakers, the President shall, with the consent of the Conference, declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by decision of the Conference.

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a/ The Committee on Natural Resources, at its second special session, recommended and the Economic and Social Council approved the recommendation, that the time allowed for statements should be limited to 15 minutes for the representative of each State and 10 minutes for other participants.

## Right of reply

### Rule 21

The right of reply shall be accorded by the President to a representative of a State participating in the Conference who requests it. Any other representative may be granted the opportunity to make a reply. Representatives should attempt, in exercising this right, to be as brief as possible and preferably to deliver their statements at the end of the meeting at which this right is requested.

## Suspension or adjournment of the meeting

### Rule 22

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted, and they shall be put to the vote immediately.

## Adjournment of debate

### Rule 23

A representative may at any time move the adjournment of the debate on the question under discussion. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing the adjournment, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately.

## Closure of debate

### Rule 24

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the question under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately.

## Order of motions

### Rule 25

The motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

- (a) To suspend the meeting;
- (b) To adjourn the meeting;



- (c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;
- (d) To close the debate on the question under discussion.

### Submission of proposals and substantive amendments

#### Rule 26

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General of the Conference, who shall circulate copies to all delegations. Unless the Conference decides otherwise, substantive proposals shall be discussed or put to the vote no earlier than 24 hours after copies have been circulated in the official languages of the Conference to all delegations.

### Withdrawal of proposals and motions

#### Rule 27

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before voting on it has commenced, provided that it has not been amended. A proposal or a motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

### Decisions on competence

#### Rule 28

A motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before a vote is taken on the proposal in question.

### Reconsideration of proposals

#### Rule 29

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered unless the Conference by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing reconsideration, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately.

## VII. VOTING AND ELECTIONS

### Voting rights

#### Rule 30

Each State represented at the Conference shall have one vote.

## Majority required

### Rule 31

1. Unless the Conference decides otherwise, decisions of the Conference on all matters of substance shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting.

2. Unless the Conference decides otherwise and except as otherwise provided, decisions of the Conference on all matters of procedure shall be taken by a simple majority of the representatives present and voting. If a vote is equally divided, the motion shall be regarded as rejected.

3. If the question arises whether a matter is one of procedure or substance, it shall be decided by the Conference by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

## Meaning of the phrase "representatives present and voting"

### Rule 32

For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "representatives present and voting" means representatives casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting shall be regarded as not voting.

## Method of voting

### Rule 33

Except as provided in rule 40, the Conference shall normally vote by show of hands, but if a representative requests a roll-call, it shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the States participating in the Conference, beginning with the delegation whose name is drawn by lot by the President. The name of each State shall be called in all roll-calls, and its representative shall reply "yes", "no" or "abstention".

## Explanation of vote

### Rule 34

Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanation of their votes, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed. The representative of a State sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon except if it has been amended.

## Conduct during voting

### Rule 35

The President shall announce the commencement of voting, after which no

representative shall be permitted to intervene until the result of the vote has been announced, except on a point of order in connexion with the process of voting.

### Division of proposals

#### Rule 36

A representative may move that parts of a proposal be voted on separately. If a representative objects, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing the division. If the motion is carried, those parts of the proposal that are subsequently approved shall be put to the vote as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

### Amendments

#### Rule 37

An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, delete from or revise part of another proposal. Unless specified otherwise, the word "proposal" in these rules shall be considered as including amendments.

### Order of voting on amendments

#### Rule 38

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

### Order of voting on proposals

#### Rule 39

1. If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Conference decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted. The Conference may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

2. Revised proposals shall be voted on in the order in which the original proposals were submitted unless the revision substantially departs from the

original proposal. In that case the original proposal shall be considered as withdrawn and the revised proposal shall be treated as a new proposal.

3. A motion requiring that no decision be taken on a proposal shall have priority over that proposal.

## Elections

### Rule 40

All elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless the Conference decides otherwise.

### Rule 41

1. When one or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, in a number not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast and the largest number of votes shall be elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of places to be filled, additional ballots shall be held to fill the remaining places.

## VIII. COMMITTEES

### Main committees and working groups

#### Rule 42

There shall be two main committees, each of which may establish working groups.

### Representation on the main committees

#### Rule 43

Each State participating in the Conference may be represented by one representative on each main committee. It may assign to these committees such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

### Officers and procedures

#### Rule 44

The rules relating to officers, the Conference secretariat, conduct of business and voting of the Conference (contained in chapters II (rules 6-8),

IV (rules 11-13), VI (rules 15-29) and VII (rules 30-41)) shall be applicable, mutatis mutandis, to the proceedings of committees and working groups, except that:

(a) Unless otherwise decided, the Credentials Committee and any working group shall elect a chairman and such other officers as it may require and each main committee shall elect three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur;

(b) The Chairmen of the General and Credentials Committees and the chairmen of working groups may exercise the right to vote;

(c) A majority of the representatives on the General or Credentials Committee or on any working group shall constitute a quorum; the chairman of a main committee may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one quarter of the States participating in the Conference are present;

(d) Decisions of Committees and working groups shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting, except that the reconsideration of a proposal shall require the majority established by rule 29.

## IX. LANGUAGES AND RECORDS

### Languages of the Conference

#### Rule 45

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official languages and English, French and Spanish the working languages of the Conference.

### Interpretation

#### Rule 46

1. Speeches made in an official language of the Conference shall be interpreted into the other official languages.

2. A representative may speak in a language other than an official language of the Conference if he provides for interpretation into one such language. Interpretation into the other official languages of the Conference by interpreters of the Secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first such language.

### Languages of resolutions and other formal decisions

#### Rule 47

All resolutions and other formal decisions of the Conference shall be published in the official languages of the Conference.

## Languages of reports

### Rule 48

Any reports submitted by the General Committee, the Credentials Committee or the main committees established in accordance with rule 42, as well as the report of the Conference referred to in rule 14, shall be published in the official languages of the Conference.

## Records of meetings

### Rule 49

1. There shall be neither verbatim nor summary records of meetings.
2. Sound recordings of meetings of the Conference and of all main committees shall be made and kept in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. Unless otherwise decided by the committee concerned, no such recordings shall be made of the meetings of a working group thereof.

## X. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

### General principles

#### Rule 50

1. The plenary meetings of the Conference and the meetings of the main committees shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise.
2. Meetings of other organs of the Conference shall be held in private.

## XI. OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Representatives of organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under the auspices of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer

#### Rule 51

Representatives designated by organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under the auspices of the General Assembly have the right to participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, its committees and working groups.

Representatives of national liberation movements

Rule 52

Representatives designated by national liberation movements invited to the Conference may participate, as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, its committees and, as appropriate, the working groups thereof, on any matter of particular concern to those movements.

Representatives of the specialized agencies b/

Rule 53

Representatives designated by the specialized agencies may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, its committees and, as appropriate, the working groups thereof, on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of other intergovernmental organizations

Rule 54

Representatives designated by other intergovernmental organizations invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, its committees and, as appropriate, the working groups thereof on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of interested United Nations organs

Rule 55

Representatives designated by interested organs of the United Nations may participate, as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, its committees and, as appropriate, the working groups thereof, on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations

Rule 56

1. Non-governmental organizations invited to the Conference may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Conference and its main committees.

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b/ For the purpose of these rules, the term "specialized agencies" includes the International Atomic Energy Agency.

2. Upon the invitation of the presiding officer of the body concerned and subject to the approval of that body, such observers may make oral statements on questions in which they have a special competence.

#### Written statements

##### Rule 57

Written statements submitted by the designated representatives referred to in rules 51-56 shall be distributed by the secretariat to all delegations in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements are made available to the secretariat for distribution, provided that a statement submitted on behalf of a non-governmental organization is on a subject in which it has a special competence and is related to the work of the Conference.

### XII. AMENDMENT AND SUSPENSION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

#### Method of amendment

##### Rule 58

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Conference by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, after the General Committee has reported on the proposed amendment.

#### Method of suspension

##### Rule 59

Any of these rules may be suspended by the Conference provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given, which may be waived if no representative objects. Any such suspension shall be limited to a specific and stated purpose and to a period required to achieve that purpose.



Annex III

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE UNITED NATIONS  
WATER CONFERENCE

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of the President
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure
4. Adoption of the agenda
5. Establishment of committees and organization of work
6. Election of officers other than the President
7. Appointment of the Credentials Committee
8. Report of the Credentials Committee
9. General debate
10. The world water situation: prospects, problems and solutions
11. Recommendations for action
12. Adoption of the report of the Conference

## Annex IV

### ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS WATER CONFERENCE

1. The Committee agreed that the work of the Conference should be structured on the basis of plenary meetings and two main committees, each of which would be a committee of the whole. The Committee further agreed to propose the following allocation of the items of the provisional agenda:

#### Plenary meetings

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of the President
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure
4. Adoption of the agenda
5. Establishment of committees and organization of work
6. Election of officers other than the President
7. Appointment of the Credentials Committee
8. Report of the Credentials Committee
9. General debate
12. Adoption of the report of the Conference

#### Committees I and II

10. The world water situation: prospects, problems and solutions
11. Recommendations for action

The Committee also agreed that the subjects included in items 10 and 11 should be divided between Committees I and II as follows:

#### Committee I

Assessment of water resources

Water use and efficiency:

Measurement and projections of water demand

Efficiency in distribution and regulation

Agricultural water use

Industrial water use

Community water supply and waste disposal

Hydroelectric power generation

Inland navigation and other uses

Environment and health:

Environment and health

Pollution

Committee II

Planning, management and institutional aspects:

National water policy

Institutional arrangements

Legislation

Public participation

Instruments to improve the efficiency of water use

Development and application of appropriate technologies

Flood loss management

Drought loss management

Education, training and research:

Education and training

Research needs

Regional co-operation:

Development of shared water resources

Specific regional recommendations

International co-operation:

International technical and advisory services

International research programme

Financing arrangements for water development

Co-ordination of United Nations programmes for the implementation  
of action proposals

2. With regard to the division of work between the committees, it was stressed that while the subject headings had been based for convenience on the items listed in the document containing the consolidated action recommendations (E/C.7/L.52), they should be considered as indicative only. Consequently, all relevant documentation pertaining to items 10 and 11 should be accommodated within the work of the committees on a continuing basis and relevant issues should be transmitted to each committee as appropriate. Moreover, provision should be made for close contact between the committees with a view to facilitating the transfer of items for discussion from one to the other, whenever such transfer appeared to be useful and relevant.

3. Having noted that the budgetary and staffing provisions for the Conference allow for three simultaneous meetings of 2 1/2 hours' duration each in the morning and 3 hours' duration each in the afternoon, or six meetings a day, and

that the translation and related services provide for 15 pages of documentation per day or a total of 150 pages for the duration of the Conference, the Committee also agreed that:

(a) Taking account of the conference facilities available, working parties, contact groups and other negotiation or drafting bodies would be set up only within the structure of the sessional committees of the Conference themselves, unless the plenary meetings or meetings of one of the committees were suspended, or unless delegations agreed that such working parties should work without interpretation facilities;

(b) The main elements of the report of the Conference should be: (i) a brief review of the events leading to the convening of the Conference; (ii) a repertorial summary of the work of each of the committees of the Conference and of the action taken in plenary meetings on the recommendations prepared by the committees; (iii) a summary of the general debate; (iv) the decisions and recommendations of the Conference;

(c) The list of speakers for the general debate would be opened at United Nations Headquarters on Tuesday, 22 February 1977, and a provision would be included in the rules of procedure to the effect that the time allowed for statements in plenary meetings would be limited to 15 minutes for the representative of each State and 10 minutes for other participants. Changes in the list of speakers would be made only on the basis of agreement among the delegations concerned.

4. The Committee decided that pre-Conference meetings should be held at Mar del Plata on Saturday, 12 March 1977, and, if necessary, on Sunday, 13 March 1977, under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources at its second special session, to consider any organizational and procedural questions that might be necessary to ensure the smooth functioning of the Conference. An oral report on the consultations held at the pre-Conference meetings would be submitted by the Chairman to the Conference on Monday, 14 March 1977.

Annex V

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT ITS SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/C.7/60	3	Provisional agenda
E/C.7/61	4	Third progress report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the United Nations Water Conference
E/C.7/L.38/Rev.1 and Amend.1 and Corr.1		Draft provisional rules of procedure for the United Nations Water Conference
E/C.7/L.50	6	Provisional agenda for the United Nations Water Conference: note by the Secretary-General
E/C.7/L.51	8	Organization of the work of the United Nations Water Conference: note by the Secretary-General
E/C.7/L.52 and Add.1	9	Consolidated action recommendations: note by the Secretary-General
E/C.7/L.53	10	Policy options
E/C.7/L.54	4	Water for agriculture
E/C.7/L.55	4	Recommendations of the <u>ad hoc</u> group of experts on technical co-operation among developing countries in water resources development
E/C.7/L.56	4	Community water supply and sanitation
E/C.7/L.57 and Add.1-7	11	Draft report of the Committee
E/C.7/NGO/1	-	The world water situation: prospects, problems and solutions
E/C.7/NGO/2	-	People needing water
E/C.7/NGO/3	-	Special situation of women in regard to water

Documents submitted by non-governmental organizations

E/CN.7/NGO/1

The world water situation: prospects, problems and solutions: statement submitted by the Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, a non-governmental organization in category II consultative status.

E/C.7/NGO/2

People needing water: statement submitted by International Council on Social Welfare, International Council of Women, International Union of Local Authorities, organizations in category I consultative status; Bahá'i International Community, Baptist World Alliance, Caritas Internationalis, Community Development Foundation, Inc., International Senior Citizens Associations, Muslim World League, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, World Muslim Congress, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, Zonta International, organizations in category II consultative status; International Humanistic and Ethical Union, International Peace Academy, International Society for Community Development and the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., organizations on the Roster

E/C.7/NGO/3

Special situation of women in regard to water: statement prepared by the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on UNICEF for the Preparatory Committee, United Nations Water Conference, and endorsed by International Council on Social Welfare and League of Red Cross Societies, organizations in category I consultative status; Associated Country Women of the World, Agudas Israel World Organization, Bahá'i International Community, CARE, Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations, Friends World Committee for Consultation, International Catholic Child Bureau, International Council of Jewish Women, International Organization of Consumer's Unions, International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, Jaycees International, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Women's International Zionist Organization, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World Jewish Congress, World Women's Christian Temperance Union, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, World Young Women's Christian Association, Zonta International, organizations in category II consultative status







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