



## PROGRAMME OF CONFERENCES AT HEADQUARTERS AND GENEVA

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, on 20 December 1952, adopted resolution 694 (VII), by which it decided that a regular pattern of conferences should be established for a period of four years commencing 1 January 1954, under which sessions of all Headquarters-based bodies should be held in New York and sessions of all Geneva-based bodies should be held in Geneva, with certain exceptions. These exceptions were (a) the regular summer session of the Economic and Social Council would be held each year in Geneva, during which period no other meetings of United Nations bodies would be held in Geneva; (b) sessions of a functional commission or of functional commissions (but preferably not more than one) of the Economic and Social Council, to be determined by the Economic and Social Council, would meet in Geneva without overlap for a total period not exceeding five weeks between mid-March and the end of April; (c) the International Law Commission would meet in Geneva only when sessions could be held there without overlapping with the summer session of the Economic and Social Council.

2. The Secretary-General was requested to transmit to all organs of the United Nations and to the specialized agencies a conference pattern based on the principles enumerated above. The Assembly recommended to all organs of the United Nations that "they arrange their meetings in accordance with the dates and places set forth in the pattern presented by the Secretary-General", and invited the specialized agencies concerned "to give due consideration to this pattern in drawing up their own programme of meetings".

3. The annexed pattern has been prepared on the basis of the principles set out in the resolution referred to above, taking into account the rules of procedure and the decisions of the competent organs, as well as past practice.

The pattern should be regarded as provisional pending consideration of it by the Economic and Social Council, the International Law Commission and other organs concerned.

4. It should be noted that certain Headquarters-based organs (e.g., the Interim Committee of the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Disarmament Commission, the Collective Measures Committee, the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds), which are in continuous session or the meetings of which cannot be determined in advance, have not been included in the pattern. The committees and sub-committees of the Economic Commission for Europe which meet throughout the year in Geneva, ad hoc committees and committees of experts which require only minor conference facilities for their meetings, as well as bodies which are at present inactive, are likewise excluded. Nor does the pattern include provision for any special conferences that may be convened within the period covered.

5. The Special Committee on the Programme of Conferences suggested in its report to the General Assembly (A/2323) that the Secretary-General, in preparing the pattern of conferences, might take into account a proposal that two two-week gaps should be left in the annual calendar of meetings during which staff members of the Secretariat and the delegations might take leave. It will be noted that no meetings have been foreseen for the first half of January in the pattern and that the schedule for the latter half of August is very light. The Secretary-General believes that this arrangement will meet the suggestion of the Committee.

6. The pattern indicates, for purposes of information, the periods reserved for the regular meetings of important organs of certain specialized agencies which use the facilities of the European Office of the United Nations.

ANNEX

PATTERN OF CONFERENCES AT HEADQUARTERS  
1954 THROUGH 1957

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
<b>JANUARY</b>				
TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (third week for six weeks)	X	X	X	X
Fiscal Commission (every two years) <sup>1/</sup> (third week for two weeks)		X		X
Population Commission (every two years) <sup>1/</sup> (third week for two weeks)		X		X
<b>FEBRUARY</b>				
TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (continuation for four weeks)				
Transport and Communications Commission <sup>1/</sup> (every two years) (first week for two weeks)		X		X
Statistical Commission (every two years) <sup>1/</sup> (third week for two weeks)	X		X	
<b>MARCH</b>				
Commission on Human Rights <sup>1/ 2/</sup> (annual sessions) (first week for four weeks)	X	X	X	X
Commission on the Status of Women <sup>1/</sup> (annual sessions) (third week for two (three) weeks)	X	X	X	X
Social Commission (every two years) <sup>1/</sup> (third week for two (three) weeks)		X		X
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (last week for one week)	X	X	X	X

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
<b>MARCH (cont'd)</b>				
Technical Assistance Committee (third week for one week)	X	X	X	X
<b>APRIL</b>				
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (first week for five weeks)	X	X	X	X
Joint Staff Pension Board (third week for two weeks)	X	X	X	X
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (second week for two/three weeks)	X	X	X	X
<b>MAY</b>				
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continuation for one week)	X	X	X	X
Commission on Narcotic Drugs <sup>2/ 3/</sup> (annual sessions) (first week for four weeks)	X	X	X	X
International Civil Service Advisory Board (second week for one week)	X	X	X	X
<b>JUNE</b>				
TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (first week for six weeks)	X	X	X	X
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (first week for eight weeks)	X	X	X	X

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
<b>JULY</b>				
<b>TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL</b> (continuation for two weeks)	X	X	X	X
<b>Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions</b> (continuation for four weeks)	X	X	X	X
<b>AUGUST</b>				
<b>Committee on Contributions</b> (second week for two weeks)	X	X	X	X
<b>Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories</b> (third week for four weeks)	X	X	X	X
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
<b>Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories</b> (continuation for two weeks)	X	X	X	X
<b>Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions</b> (second week for eleven weeks)	X	X	X	X
<b>United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund</b> (second week for one week)	X	X	X	X
<b>GENERAL ASSEMBLY</b> (third week for ten weeks)	X	X	X	X
<b>OCTOBER</b>				
<b>Advisory Committee and Administrative and Budgetary Questions</b> (continuation for four weeks)	X	X	X	X
<b>GENERAL ASSEMBLY</b> (continuation for four weeks)	X	X	X	X

1954      1955      1956      1957

NOVEMBER

Advisory Committee on Administrative  
and Budgetary Questions  
(continuation for four weeks)

X                      X                      X                      X

GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
(continuation for four weeks)

X                      X                      X                      X

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, Resumed session  
(during or shortly after the General Assembly  
for a brief series of meetings)

X                      X                      X                      X

PATTERN OF CONFERENCES AT THE  
EUROPEAN OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA  
1954 THROUGH 1957

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
<b>JANUARY</b>				
World Health Organization Executive Board (third week for three to four weeks)	X	X	X	X
<b>FEBRUARY</b>				
World Health Organization Executive Board (continuation for one week)	X	X	X	X
<b>MARCH</b>				
Economic Commission for Europe - Plenary session (first week for two weeks)	X	X	X	X
A functional commission of Economic and Social Council <u>4/</u> (last week for five weeks)	X	X	X	X
<b>APRIL</b>				
A functional commission of Economic and Social Council <u>4/</u> (continuation for four weeks)	X	X	X	X
<b>MAY</b>				
World Health Assembly <u>5/</u> (first week for two weeks or slightly more)	X	X	X	X
World Health Organization Executive Board (last week for two weeks)	X	X	X	X

1954      1955      1956      1957

JUNE

World Health Organization Executive Board (continuation for one week)	X	X	X	X
Permanent Central Opium Board and Narcotic Drugs Supervisory Body (meet jointly or separately for a two-week period)	X	X	X	X
International Labour Conference <sup>6/</sup> (first week for three weeks)	X	X	X	X

JULY

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL <sup>7/</sup> (first week for six weeks)	X	X	X	X
Technical Assistance Committee <sup>8/</sup> (second week for one week)	X	X	X	X

AUGUST

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continuation for two weeks)	X	X	X	X
International Law Commission <sup>9/</sup> (third week for eight weeks)	X	X	X	X

SEPTEMBER

International Law Commission (continuation for four weeks)	X	X	X	X
Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (last week for six weeks)	X	X	X	X



	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
<b>OCTOBER</b>				
International Law Commission (continuation for two weeks)	X	X	X	X
Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (continuation for four weeks)	X	X	X	X
<b>NOVEMBER</b>				
Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (continuation for one week)	X	X	X	X
Permanent Central Opium Board, and Narcotic Drugs Supervisory Body (meet jointly or separately for a two- week period)	X	X	X	X

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- 1/ Pending the decision of the Economic and Social Council regarding the functional commissions that should meet in Geneva (see footnote 4 below), all such commissions are provisionally listed under the Headquarters pattern.
  - 2/ By Economic and Social Council resolution 414 (XIII), the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs continue to meet annually, subject to a review by the Council after 31 December 1954.
  - 3/ In order to comply with the six-weeks' rule of the Economic and Social Council, the opening date of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs could, if necessary, be advanced to mid-April.
  - 4/ A functional commission or commissions (but preferably not more than one) of the Economic and Social Council to be determined by the Council would meet in Geneva without overlap for a total period not exceeding five weeks between mid-March and the end of April.
  - 5/ The World Health Assembly will consider at its 1953 session the possibility of holding biennial sessions. If it is decided that biennial sessions should be held in place of the present annual sessions it is likely that the change-over would not take place until after 1954 or 1955.

(footnotes continued on page 10)

(footnotes cont'd)

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- 6/ The International Labour Conference traditionally starts at the beginning of June and lasts for three weeks or slightly more.
- 7/ The opening date of the summer session of the Economic and Social Council may occasionally be advanced to the last few days of June.
- 8/ Economic and Social Council decided at its fourteenth session that the TAC would meet during the early part of its sixteenth session with a view to reporting at that session of the Council. It is assumed that the same procedure would be followed in future years.
- 9/ In accordance with General Assembly resolution 698 (VII), the International Law Commission may meet in Geneva provided that it does not overlap with the summer session of the Economic and Social Council.

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