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### PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

#### Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Falk MELTKE (German Democratic Republic)

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1985, the General Assembly decided to include in the agenda of its fortieth session, and to allocate to the Fifth Committee, the item entitled:

"Pattern of conferences: report of the Committee on Conferences".

2. The Fifth Committee considered this item at its 9th, 10th, 14th, 15th, 17th, 22nd and 24th meetings, on 8, 9, 15, 17, 21 and 31 October and 1 November 1985. Comments and observations made in the course of the discussion of the item and replies to queries raised are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/40/SR.9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 22 and 24).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Committee on Conferences. 1/

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/40/32).

## II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

4. At the 24th meeting, on 1 November, the representative of the United States of America proposed the deletion of paragraph 4 (f) of the draft resolution submitted by the Committee on Conferences in paragraph 1 of its report. The proposal was rejected, by a recorded vote of 81 to 2, with 23 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Israel, United States of America.

Against: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavica, Zaire, Zambia.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The representatives of Algeria, Belgium (for the 10 States members of the European Economic Community), Austria, Nigeria, Cuba, Cameroon, Japan, Sweden, Canada, New Zealand and Finland spoke in explanation of vote.

5. At the same meeting, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that the scheduled venue of item 35 in the draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 1986, contained in annex II to the report of the Committee on Conferences, should read "To be determined" instead of "Nairobi". The proposal was rejected, by a recorded vote of 72 to 31, with 1 abstention. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Abstaining: Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.\*

The representatives of Nigeria and Algeria spoke in explanation of vote.

6. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America proposed that the proposed venue of item 67 in the draft calendar of conferences for 1986, contained in annex II to the report of the Committee on Conferences, should read "Santiago" instead of "Mexico City". The proposal was rejected, by a recorded vote of 83 to 7, with 15 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Australia, Canada, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Abstaining: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Rwanda, Spain, Sweden.

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\* Subsequently, the delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya notified the Secretariat that it had intended to vote against the proposal.

The delegations of Cuba, Indonesia, Austria, France, Liberia, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy and New Zealand spoke in explanation of vote.

7. At the same meeting, the Chairman informed the Committee of an error in item 45 in the draft calendar of conferences for 1987, contained in annex II of the report of the Committee on Conferences. The proposed venue of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights should be Geneva rather than New York.

8. The draft resolution submitted by the Committee on Conferences in paragraph 1 of its report was then adopted without a vote.

9. The delegations of the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Nigeria, Sweden, Israel and Kenya spoke in explanation of their position.

### III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

10. The Fifth Committee recommends for adoption by the General Assembly the following draft resolution:

#### Pattern of conferences

##### The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1202 (XII) of 13 December 1957, 1851 (XVII) of 19 December 1962, 1987 (XVIII) of 17 December 1963, 2116 (XX) of 21 December 1965, 2239 (XXI) of 20 December 1966, 2361 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2478 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968, 2609 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, 2693 (XXV) of 11 December 1970, 2834 (XXVI) of 17 December 1971, 2960 (XXVII) of 13 December 1972, 3350 (XXIX) and 3351 (XXIX) of 18 December 1974, 3491 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, 31/140, section I, of 17 December 1976, 38/32 C of 25 November 1983 and 39/68 C of 13 December 1984,

#### I

Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences, 2/

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Committee on Conferences;

2. Approves the draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for the biennium 1986-1987 as submitted by the Committee on Conferences; 3/

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2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/40/32).

3/ Ibid., annex II.

3. Authorizes the Committee on Conferences to make any adjustments in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1986-1987 that may become necessary as a result of action and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its fortieth session;

4. Reaffirms the general principle that, in drawing up the schedule of conferences and meetings, United Nations bodies shall plan to meet at their respective established headquarters, with the following exceptions:

(a) The regular sessions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme shall be held alternately at United Nations Headquarters and at the United Nations Office at Geneva;

(b) The sessions of the International Law Commission shall be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva;

(c) The sessions of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law may be held, subject to the provision in section II, paragraph 6, of General Assembly resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, alternately at United Nations Headquarters and at the United Nations Office at Vienna;

(d) The second regular session of the Economic and Social Council may be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva provided that the closing date falls at least six weeks before the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly;

(e) The functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council shall meet at their established headquarters unless another place is designated by the Council to achieve a more rational pattern of the work programme, taking into account any recommendation of the commission concerned and in consultation with the Secretary-General;

(f) The regular sessions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, as well as meetings of their subsidiary bodies, may be held away from their headquarters when the commission concerned so decides, subject, in the case of regular sessions of the commissions, to the approval of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly;

(g) The International Civil Service Commission shall hold its regular annual session at United Nations Headquarters and, if more than one session is required in any one year, may accept an invitation from one of its participating organizations to hold its other session or sessions at the headquarters of that particular organization;

(h) The sessions of the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space shall be held alternately at United Nations Headquarters and the United Nations Office at Geneva;

(i) The Conference on Disarmament shall meet at the United Nations Office at Geneva;

5. Decides that United Nations bodies may hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for a session to be held within its territory has agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved;

6. Reaffirms its instruction to all its subsidiary organs to complete their reports for the following session of the General Assembly not later than 1 September and to report any activity after the adoption of such reports, where necessary, to the Assembly in addenda to the reports of the organs concerned;

7. Decides that no subsidiary organ of the General Assembly may meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide interpretation services for informal meetings on an ad hoc basis in accordance with established practice;

9. Authorizes the Secretary-General to apply maximum overprogramming of meetings whenever possible to achieve better utilization of conference resources;

10. Requests the Committee on Conferences and the Secretary-General to take account of the following principles in drawing up the draft calendar of conferences and meetings:

(a) The biennial calendar of conferences and meetings approved by the General Assembly shall govern the meetings programme during the period concerned;

(b) All United Nations meetings shall be carried out within the resources allocated by the General Assembly for that purpose;

(c) Between sessions of the General Assembly, departures from the calendar may, in special or unusual circumstances, be approved by the Committee on Conferences provided that changes affecting the subsequent year of the biennium shall be approved by the Assembly;

(d) Subsidiary organs of the General Assembly shall not, without the approval of the Assembly, create new standing bodies or ad hoc sessional or intersessional bodies that require additional resources, and other principal organs of the United Nations should make similar decisions with regard to their respective subsidiary bodies, if they have not already done so;

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(e) An adequate interval of time, to be determined by the body concerned, shall be allowed between sessions of the same bodies to permit Member States to derive maximum benefit from the activities and to provide sufficient time for the preparation of future activities;

(f) United Nations bodies shall meet at their respective established headquarters, subject to the exceptions to this principle approved by the General Assembly;

(g) The implications of the capacity of the documentation services of the Secretariat to process and issue in time the documentation required for the sessions of all scheduled organs should be taken into account;

(h) No more than one special conference of the United Nations shall be convened at the same time;

(i) In any given year, no more than five special conferences should be convened, unless the General Assembly specifically decides otherwise;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the most rational and effective use of all United Nations conference centres and facilities;

12. Requests the Committee on Conferences to continue its periodic examination of the rules governing conference planning;

## II

1. Urges all United Nations bodies to increase their efforts to ensure that their requests for conference-servicing resources correspond accurately to their requirements;

2. Further urges those bodies to plan their work well in advance in order to make full use of the conference-servicing resources allocated to them and so that any unused conference-servicing resources can be reassigned to ensure their most effective utilization;

3. Requests subsidiary organs of the General Assembly to include in their reports to the Assembly a statement on the progress made in response to the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 39/68 B on the rational and efficient utilization of conference-servicing resources;

4. Urges intergovernmental bodies reporting to the Second Committee of the General Assembly that have not yet adjusted their meeting cycles to conform to that Committee's biennial programme of work to do so as soon as possible;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to review the composition and frequency of planning missions for meetings and conferences held away from Headquarters and, in particular, those sent to cities where United Nations conference facilities already exist;

6. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Conferences at its substantive session of 1986 on the results of that review concerning planning missions sent in 1985 and, as far as possible, in 1986;

III

1. Decides that the Committee on Conferences should review the question of the provision of summary records at its substantive session in 1986;

2. Further decides that the present experimental arrangements for summary records, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/14 C of 16 November 1982, should remain in effect until the Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Conferences, takes further action.

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