

METHODS AND PROCEDURES OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter, dated 29 March 1949, from the delegations of Denmark,  
Norway and Sweden to the Secretary-General

New York, 29 March 1949

On behalf of our respective delegations, we submit herewith a revised edition of the draft resolution on General Assembly methods and procedures presented by us in Paris.\* We should appreciate it if you would be good enough to circulate this revised edition as soon as possible among the delegations to the United Nations together with the enclosed memorandum containing some suggestions concerning the subject matter.

(Signed) William BORBERG

(Signed) Arne SUNDE

(Signed) Sven GRAFSTROM

---

\* A/743.

A. CREATION OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE ON METHODS AND PROCEDURES  
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REVISED DRAFT RESOLUTION\*

The General Assembly,

In the exercise of its power under Article 10 of the Charter to make recommendations relating to the powers and functions of any organs of the United Nations,

Mindful of the increasing length of General Assembly sessions, and the growing tendency towards protracted debates in its plenary meetings and committees,

Decides to create an ad hoc committee consisting of the following fifteen Members of the General Assembly \_\_\_\_\_

in order to:

1. Consider methods and procedures which would enable the General Assembly and its Committees to discharge their functions more effectively and expeditiously;
2. Submit a preliminary report to the General Assembly during the second part of its third session;
3. Transmit a second report to the Secretary-General, not later than 15 August 1949, for circulation to Members, and for consideration at the fourth regular session of the General Assembly;

Invites the Secretary-General to collaborate closely with the ad hoc committee in its work.

\* For the text of the original draft resolution, see A/743.

B. SOME SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE SCANDINAVIAN PROPOSAL ON  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY METHODS AND PROCEDURES

The Danish, Norwegian and Swedish delegations fully realize that the important problem of increasing the effectiveness of the work and procedures of the United Nations merits not only careful but also continued study. However, it is the hope of these delegations that the proposed ad hoc committee should reach some conclusions during the second part of the third session with a view to putting these conclusions into effect already at the beginning of the fourth regular session.

The sponsors would like to outline here a few suggestions which might be of some help to the ad hoc committee as a basis for discussion.

1. Reduction of the amount of work to be completed by the General Assembly at a given session
  - (a) The General Committee should give greater attention to the urgency of proposed items in relation to the total agenda and the time available for the session;
  - (b) The rules of procedure could be amended to provide that items proposed for inclusion in the agenda be accompanied by a draft resolution or by a memorandum stating the reasons in favour of including such items.
2. Increase in the speed at which the Assembly deals with matters before it
  - (a) Mechanical and technical processes. The kind of technical process the sponsors have in mind is especially the electric voting system which has produced very good results in several Parliaments.
  - (b) In collaboration with the Secretary-General, the General Committee could, with the recommendation regarding the adoption of the agenda, suggest a target date for the termination of the session.
  - (c) Each main committee, after examination of its agenda as allocated to it, could fix its tentative schedule with target dates for each item.
  - (d) All meetings should be called to order at the scheduled hour. Changes in the present quorum rules might be suggested.
  - (e) Re-examination of the rules regarding time limit for speeches.