

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Saturday, 1 October 1994, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. TOTH (Hungary)

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (agenda item 10) (BWC/SPCONF/CC/1)

1. Mr. EKSTEEN (South Africa), speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the Credentials Committee, said that the Committee's report required no particular explanation, but he wished to draw attention to paragraphs 5 and 6 of the report. After carefully examining the credentials transmitted to the Secretary-General of the Conference, the Committee had decided to accept the credentials of representatives of the participating States, on the understanding that States which had not yet submitted credentials of their representatives in due form, in accordance with rule 2 of the rules of procedure would communicate them to the Secretary-General of the Conference as soon as possible. The Committee had adopted its report (BWC/SPCONF/CC/1) unanimously on 29 September 1994.
2. The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Conference wished to adopt the report of the Credentials Committee.
3. It was so decided.

ADOPTION OF THE FINAL REPORT (agenda item 13) (continued) (BWC/SPCONF/L.4)

4. Mr. KHERADI (Secretary-General of the Conference), introducing the draft final report (BWC/SPCONF/L.4), said that the report was divided into four main parts: (I) Organization and work of the Conference, including the work of the Preparatory Committee; (II) Final Declaration; (III) Reports of the subsidiary bodies; (IV) Summary records of plenary meetings, which would be included in the report in due course. The report also contained four annexes: annex I, List of documents of the Conference; annex II, Report of the Preparatory Committee; annex III, Rules of procedure of the Conference; annex IV, List of participants.

Part I

5. Mr. KHERADI (Secretary-General of the Conference) drew attention to a number of amendments and corrections which needed to be made to part I of document BWC/SPCONF/L.4.
6. In paragraph 17, the Republic of Korea should be deleted from the list of countries in the first sentence.
7. In paragraph 18, the number and list of States parties should be corrected (80 instead of 79, Cuba being inserted after "Croatia" in the fifth line).
8. After paragraph 19, a new paragraph should be inserted reading: "At the ... plenary meeting, Israel was admitted to participate, as an observer to the Conference, in accordance with rule 44 (2) (a) of the rules of procedure". The following paragraphs would be renumbered accordingly.

9. A footnote would be added to the existing paragraph 23 and would be indicated by an asterisk after the last sentence of the paragraph. The footnote would read: "Germany made a statement on behalf of the European Union".
10. After the existing paragraph 25, a new paragraph should be inserted reading: "At the ... plenary meeting, the Conference adopted the estimated costs of the Special Conference, as contained in document BWC/SPCONF/L.3".
11. In addition, drafting changes could, of course, be made if necessary.
12. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Conference wished to adopt part I of the draft final report distributed under the symbol BWC/SPCONF/L.4, as orally amended.
13. It was so decided.

Part II

14. The PRESIDENT suggested that part II of the draft report (Final Declaration), the text of which had been distributed at the meeting, should be considered paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 30 to 33

15. Paragraphs 30 to 33 were adopted.

Paragraph 34

16. Mr. COTAN (Indonesia) expressed regret that the word "should" had been used in the English text, without prior consultation, instead of "shall". However, in a spirit of compromise, his delegation was prepared to accept the wording as it stood.

17. Paragraph 34 was adopted.

Paragraph 35

18. Paragraph 35 was adopted.

Paragraph 36

19. Mr. HOU Zhitong (China) said he was surprised that the last two sections of the paragraph were not, like the others, preceded by a dash. He wondered whether the lay-out had been adopted intentionally, but was prepared to endorse it if the other delegations agreed to it.
20. The PRESIDENT said that, during informal consultations, it had apparently been agreed that the first four subsections after the introductory part of paragraph 36 would begin with a dash, but the final two would not. If that was acceptable, he would confirm that point.

Paragraph 37

21. Mr. RAMAKER (Netherlands) observed that the participants had agreed on the title "Ad Hoc Group" and not "Ad Hoc Working Group". It therefore appeared necessary to harmonize the text in that respect.

22. The PRESIDENT confirmed that "Ad Hoc Group" would be used throughout the final text.

23. Paragraph 37 was adopted.

Paragraphs 38 and 39

24. Paragraphs 38 and 39 were adopted.

25. The PRESIDENT asked whether the text as a whole was acceptable.

26. Mr. OLADEJI (Nigeria) said that an important recommendation on the way in which the proposed Ad Hoc Group would take decisions seemed to have been omitted. It had been agreed that the Ad Hoc Group would take its decisions by consensus.

27. The PRESIDENT drew attention to paragraph 38, in which it was stated that the Ad Hoc Group's rules of procedure and report would be adopted by consensus. In his opinion, that wording provided an adequate guarantee that the recommendation in question would be taken into account. He wondered whether, in the light of that explanation and the subsequent work of the Ad Hoc Group on its rules of procedure, the Conference could adopt the final report. If there was no objection, he would take it that the report as a whole was adopted as orally amended.

28. It was so decided.

CLOSURE OF THE SPECIAL CONFERENCE

29. The PRESIDENT thanked all the participants for their dedicated work, their spirit of compromise and their cooperation. He also thanked the coordinators, who had greatly contributed to the success of the Conference, the Secretary-General of the Conference and the support staff.

30. After an exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared the Special Conference closed.

The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.