
2nd resumed session
Geneva, 22 April - 3 May 1996

Report of the Credentials Committee

1. Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects provides that:

"1. There shall be a Credentials Committee of five members elected by the Conference on the proposal of the President.

"2. The Credentials Committee shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference."

2. In accordance with the above-mentioned Rule, the Conference, at its first phase held in Vienna from 25 September to 13 October 1995, on the proposal of the President, appointed the following countries as members of the Credentials Committee: Belgium, China, Finland, Pakistan and Poland.

3. At that same meeting, in accordance with Rule 6 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference unanimously elected Professor Zdzislaw Galicki (Poland) as Chairman of the Credentials Committee and Ambassador Baron Alain Guillaume (Belgium) as Vice-Chairman of the Committee. Ms. Cheryl H. Stoute, Political Affairs Officer of the United Nations Centre for Disarmament Affairs, served as Secretary of the Committee. The Bureau and members of the Committee remained unchanged during the three sessions of the Review Conference.

4. The Credentials Committee decided that, at the first resumed session, held in Geneva from 15 to 19 January 1996, States Parties would not be required to submit formal credentials. It was also decided that, at the second resumed session and final phase of the Review Conference, those States which had in the meantime become Parties to the Convention and those which had different heads of delegation would have to submit new credentials to the Secretary-General of the Review Conference (see document CCW/CONF.1/6* for details of the Vienna session).

5. The Committee held its 1st and 2nd meetings on 24 and 30 April 1996, respectively, to examine the credentials received as of those dates. The Committee had before it two memoranda of the same dates from the Acting Secretary-General of the Conference, Mrs. Hannelore Hoppe, Senior Political Affairs Officer of the United Nations Centre for Disarmament Affairs, containing information on the status of the credentials of the representatives of the States Parties attending the Conference. Pursuant to Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure, the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, reported to the General Committee on the status of the credentials of the States Parties.
6. Noting the information contained in the memoranda of the Acting Secretary-General, the Committee requested the Chairman to invite those States Parties that had not yet done so to submit to the Secretary-General of the Conference the credentials of their representatives in accordance with Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure. The Chairman decided that he would contact those States directly to remind them of the terms of Rule 3 regarding the presentation of their credentials.
7. At its 3rd meeting, on 2 May, the Acting Secretary-General made an oral report to the Committee, which also had before it her memorandum of the same date giving current information on the status of the credentials of representatives of States Parties participating in the Conference.
8. Having examined the information contained in the Acting Secretary-General's three memoranda, as well as the documentation received from States Parties and States not parties to the Convention, the Committee noted that as of 2 May 1996:

I. States Parties

(a) Formal credentials in due form, as provided for by Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure, had been communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference for representatives from the following States Parties:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America;

(b) Provisional credentials of the representatives of the following States Parties had been communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference.

China, Cuba, Guatemala, Jordan, Malta and Uruguay.

II. States not Parties

The following States not parties to the Convention, which had been among those invited as observers, had accredited their representatives:

(a) Signatories: Afghanistan, Egypt, Iceland, Luxembourg, Morocco, Philippines, Portugal, Sudan, Turkey and Viet Nam;

(b) Non-signatories: Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Bolivia, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Holy See, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mozambique, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Union of Myanmar, Venezuela, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

9. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee agreed to accept the credentials of those States Parties referred to in paragraph 8 I(a) and (b) above, on the understanding that the originals of the credentials of the representatives of those States referred to in paragraph 8 I(b) would be submitted as soon as possible, in accordance with Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure.

10. In view of the foregoing, the present report is submitted to the Conference.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

11. The Credentials Committee recommends to the Conference the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"Report of the Credentials Committee to the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects"

"The Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,

"Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,

"Approves the report of the Credentials Committee."