

Third session

CREATION OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER METHODS AND
PROCEDURES WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO DISCHARGE
ITS FUNCTIONS MORE
EFFECTIVELY AND
EXPEDITIOUSLY

Report of the ad hoc Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Homero VITERI-LAFRONTÉ (Ecuador)

1. The General Assembly, at its 189th meeting on 12 April 1949, decided to refer the item, proposed jointly by Denmark, Norway and Sweden, entitled "Creation of an ad hoc Committee to consider methods and procedures which would enable the General Assembly to discharge its functions more effectively and expeditiously" to the ad hoc Political Committee for consideration and report (A/825 and A/AC.24/47).
2. The ad hoc Political Committee, at its 33rd meeting held on 18 April 1949, discussed the joint draft resolution presented by the sponsoring countries (A/825).
3. During the discussion a number of oral amendments were introduced. After discussion the joint draft resolution was voted upon, paragraph by paragraph, with the following results:

Paragraph 1 of the preamble

The representative of Iran proposed that reference be made in paragraph 1 of the preamble to Article 21 of the Charter instead of to Article 10. This suggestion was accepted by the sponsors of the joint draft resolution but, at a later stage, in view of new observations made concerning which Article of the Charter it was proper to invoke, and before a vote was taken on the joint draft resolution, paragraph 1 of the preamble was withdrawn by the sponsors with the agreement of the representative of Iran.

Paragraph 2 of the preamble

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted an amendment to delete the following words in paragraph 2 of the preamble: "and the growing tendency towards protracted debates

/in its plenary

in its plenary meetings and committees". This amendment was rejected by 30 votes to 13, with 5 abstentions. The original proposal was adopted by 41 votes to 9, with 8 abstentions.

First paragraph of the operative part

The representative of the United Kingdom suggested that the proposed Committee be called a "special committee" and not an "ad hoc committee". This suggestion was accepted by the sponsors of the joint draft resolution.

With regard to the composition of the proposed committee, the representative of Peru suggested that it consist of Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, India, Iran, Mexico, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom, United States of America and Uruguay.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that the membership of the committee be limited to ten. The representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic also proposed that the membership of the committee be limited to ten, as follows: China, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Mexico, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom, United States of America and Uruguay.

The Soviet proposal was put to the vote and was rejected by 27 votes to 14, with 5 abstentions. Consequently, the amendment of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic lapsed.

The representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic proposed to add the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to the list of members as proposed by the representative of Peru. This proposal was rejected by 17 votes to 6, with 23 abstentions. The Peruvian proposal was adopted by the Committee by 43 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

Sub-paragraph 1 of the first paragraph of the operative part

This sub-paragraph was adopted unanimously.

Sub-paragraph 2 of the first paragraph of the operative part

The representative of Poland introduced an amendment to delete this sub-paragraph. This proposal was rejected by 25 votes to 9, with 14 abstentions.

The representative of Syria proposed to insert the words "if possible" after the word "submit" in this sub-paragraph. This amendment was adopted by 41 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.

This sub-paragraph, as amended, was adopted by 42 votes to 6, with 2 abstentions.

Sub-paragraph 3 of the first paragraph of the operative part

With the deletion of the word "second", this sub-paragraph was adopted by 44 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

/Second paragraph

Second paragraph of the operative part

This paragraph was adopted unanimously.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 43 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

4. During the discussion, the representative of Iran had proposed the addition to the joint draft resolution of a new paragraph reading as follows:

"Transmits the suggestions contained in document A/825 to the special committee for its considerations."

This amendment was withdrawn, in view of the fact that the suggestions contained in document A/825 would be submitted to the proposed special committee by the sponsors of the joint draft resolution and that Member States not included in the committee were entitled to submit, in writing, any proposal on the subject to the proposed Committee for consideration.

5. The ad hoc Political Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON METHODS AND PROCEDURES
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly,

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

1. Decides to create a Special Committee consisting of Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, India, Iran, Mexico, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom, United States of America and Uruguay in order to:

(a) Consider methods and procedures which would enable the General Assembly and its Committees to discharge their functions more effectively and expeditiously;

(b) Submit, if possible, a preliminary report to the General Assembly during the second part of its third session;

(c) Transmit a 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;

2. Invites the Secretary-General to collaborate closely with the Special Committee in its work.