

would confine their remarks to specific points for inclusion in the revised text.

38. The suspension of the session in the middle of the debate in the Committees would not be logical. It would be preferable to have the suspension immediately after the formalization of the informal composite negotiating text and to postpone the entire process of taking decisions until the second part of the session. The President had said that the Conference would have 8 to 10 days during the first part of the session for debate in the Committees, which meant that six weeks would be needed to complete the whole process of taking decisions in the Committees and in plenary meetings of the Conference. If a suspension were to be held in the middle of the debate in the Committees, the second part of the session would duplicate the work that had already been done.

39. The 8 or 10 days proposed by the President for the Committees to examine the draft convention at the end of the third stage would not be enough. The process of taking decisions in the Committees and the plenary Conference would require six weeks, and that period could not easily be divided into two parts as proposed in the time-table under discussion. The length of the process would clearly depend on the amendments submitted and some amendments might destroy the whole package. In order to avoid that situation, delegations might agree not to amend the basic aspects of the agreement.

40. The CHAIRMAN explained that he had suggested a period of 8 or 10 days as the time necessary to consider amendments at the end of the third stage. With regard to the length of the session, although work would be suspended immediately after the informal composite negotiating text had been formalized, the first part would take up no less than five weeks. He was convinced, however, that the decision-making process would require an additional five weeks. The session would thus consist of two parts of five weeks each.

41. Mr. ABOUL KHEIR (Egypt) supported the proposal made by the representative of Peru that formal amendments

should be submitted at the beginning of the resumed session. It might be preferable for the Committee to take a decision at the end of the first part of the session as to the submission of formal amendments in the second part.

42. The CHAIRMAN explained that the reason for submitting amendments before the suspension of the session was to allow time for Governments to study them. He therefore requested delegations to agree to that procedure.

43. Mr. ABOUL KHEIR (Egypt) said that in any case Governments should be able to submit additional formal amendments once they studied the amendments submitted during the first part of the session. A time-limit of three or four days after the beginning of the second part of the session could be fixed for that purpose.

44. Mr. SEALY (Trinidad and Tobago) said that, although he did not oppose the suspension of the session once the informal composite negotiating text had been formalized, he was strongly in favour of beginning the decision-making process towards the end of the first part of the session. Nevertheless, if the majority insisted on postponing the beginning of that stage, he would go along with it.

45. Mr. MOMTAZ (Iran) said that he believed that the amended time-table would facilitate the work. Although he did not endorse the idea of a split session, he was prepared to support the proposal as long as it was clear that the two final stages would in fact precede the signing of the convention.

46. Mr. GOERNER (German Democratic Republic) said that the changes in the President's note had fully met his delegation's concerns. At the preceding meeting he had stated his delegation's position with regard to the final stages of the Conference. He supported the Soviet Union's proposal that specific mention should be made of the gentlemen's agreement, which should guide the work of the ninth and final session.

*The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.*

## 50th meeting

Thursday, 23 August 1979, at 3.50 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. H. S. AMERASINGHE

### Organization of work for the ninth session (concluded)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to document A/CONF.62/BUR/12/Add.1, containing changes to his note in document A/CONF.62/BUR/12, concerning the programme of work for the rest of the eighth session and proposals in regard to the work of the ninth session.

2. Mr. ABOUL KHEIR (Egypt) deplored the fact that document A/CONF.62/BUR/12/Add.1 was not yet available in Arabic.

3. Mr. ZULETA (Special Representative of the Secretary-General) expressed the apologies of the secretariat for the fact that the Arabic version was not yet available, despite every effort. The secretariat continued to adhere strictly to the principle that no document would be circulated that was not available in all working languages unless the Conference decided otherwise.

4. Mr. MARSIT (Tunisia), supported by Mr. de LACHARRIÈRE (France), requested that all steps should be taken to ensure that documents were circulated simultaneously in all working languages.

5. The CHAIRMAN also expressed his regret at the delay in issuing the Arabic version of the document, which was due to technical reasons beyond the control of the Conference secretariat. Since, however, the Arabic version was now being circulated, he wished to proceed with the consideration of the document.

6. He observed that the question of the programme of work for the rest of the eighth session had been overtaken by events and that the addendum applied only to the organization of work of the ninth session.

7. With regard to amendment 8, concerning the second stage, he felt that, as suggested by the representative of Brazil at the 49th meeting, delegations should, in the formal discussion in plenary meetings address themselves to the substance of the revised informal composite negotiating text, and should avoid commenting on questions of a general nature. However, that was not an injunction, merely an exhortation.

8. Referring to amendment 17, he pointed out that the side heading should be amended to read "Final stage" and that the period of 10 calendar days referred to in the text included

the period of eight days mentioned, plus two days' grace to facilitate the attainment of general agreement.

9. Mr. ARIAS SCHREIBER (Peru) suggested that the words "rules of procedure and the" should be inserted before the words "gentlemen's agreement" in amendment 17.

10. The CHAIRMAN agreed that a reference to the rules of procedure should be inserted.

11. Mr. KOZYREV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) formally proposed adoption of the Committee's recommendations to the Conference in documents A/CONF.62/BUR/12 and Add.1.

*The recommendations in documents A/CONF.62/BUR/12 and Add.1 as orally amended, were adopted.*

*The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.*

---