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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD
CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY,
DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE
Second session
27 August-7 September 1979
Agenda item 6. Adoption of the report
of the Preparatory Committee

DRAFT REPORT

Rapporteur: Nirmala BUCH (India)

II. RULES OF PROCEDURE AND OTHER OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS ON
THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The Committee considered agenda item 3 at its 20th to 23rd, 26th and
_____ meetings from 27 to 30 August and _____ September 1979.

Rules of procedure

2. The Committee had before it provisional rules of procedure for the
Conference (A/CONF.94/PC/7) prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with
the request of the Preparatory Committee at its first session and endorsed by
the General Assembly in resolution 33/189. In the same resolution, the General
Assembly endorsed a request made by the Preparatory Committee at its first session
that a list of non-governmental organizations that might address the Conference
be prepared and submitted to the Preparatory Committee for approval at its
second session on the understanding that the number would be limited and the
duration of the speeches would be in accordance with the rules of procedure of
the Conference. Accordingly, the Committee had before it a list of such
organizations drawn up by the Secretary-General (A/CONF.94/PC/9 and Add.1-2).
3. The Committee approved rules 1-5, 8-10, 12-41, 42, 1/ 43, 44, 48-52, 54-57,
59 and 60, as contained in document A/CONF.94/PC/7.

1/ The discussion in relation to the foot-note to rule 42 appears in the
section entitled "Other outstanding questions on the organization of work".

4. In the consideration of rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure, there was some discussion on the question of the most appropriate form of address for persons presiding over main committees and working groups of the Conference. The Committee considered expressions such as "Chairperson", "Chairman", "Chair" and "President". It was agreed that the terms "Presiding Officer" and "Deputy Presiding Officer" would be appropriate. 2/

5. With regard to the number of Vice-Presidents of the Conference, it was suggested that the Preparatory Committee should decide on that question, so that as much work as possible could be accomplished prior to the Conference. Some representatives stressed that the principle of equitable geographical distribution should be the basis of the decision, as it was important to conform to regular United Nations procedures.

6. With respect to the number of Vice-Presidents, there was a general consensus that the number should be reduced from the proposed 46. 3/

7. In the course of the discussion, rules 7, 11, 12 (a) and 45 to 47 and 53 were amended (for the texts, see para. 12 below).

8. With respect to rule 58 on the participation of non-governmental organizations in the Conference, there was general agreement that their participation was important. One view was expressed that the rules of procedure be flexible to allow that participation to be unrestricted. Other representatives expressed the view that, in view of the limited time available, non-governmental organizations should be subject to some limits in their participation. Rule 54 of the rules of procedure adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year 4/ was discussed as a possible model. Several representatives considered that that rule could be modified by introducing explicit limitations on participation by non-governmental organizations.

9. At the 22nd meeting, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the Latin America Group, proposed that those non-governmental organizations which had indicated interest in participating in the Conference, within the time-limits allotted by the Secretary-General in conformity with General Assembly resolution 33/189, might designate representatives to attend as observers at the meetings of the Plenary and Main Committees of the Conference.

10. In the discussion of that proposal, it was suggested that written statements by non-governmental organizations, as well as oral statements, be subject to limitations. It was also suggested that it was necessary to distinguish between participation in the form of attendance and participation in the substantive discussions. Several representatives expressed a preference for the rule on

2/ As a consequence, the same terms would also be used in rules 9, 19 and 44.

3/ Further consideration by the Committee of rule 6 will appear in an addendum to the present document.

4/ E/CONF.66/2.

participation of non-governmental organizations adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year.

11. The Committee agreed to amend rule 58 of the provisional rules of procedure, based on rule 54 of the rules of procedure adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year. (For the text, see para. 12 below.)

Recommendation of the Preparatory Committee to the World Conference
of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and
Peace

Provisional rules of procedure for the World Conference of the
United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and
Peace

12. The Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace decides:

(a) That rules 6, 7, 11, 12 (a), 45, 46, 47, 53 and 58 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference 5/ should read as follows:

Election

Rule 6*

Acting President

Rule 7

"1. If the President is to be absent from a meeting or any part thereof, he/she shall designate a Vice-President to take his/her place.

"2. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the powers and duties of the President."

Duties of the Secretary-General

Rule 11

"1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of

* The text of rule 6, as approved by the Preparatory Committee, will be inserted here in the final report.

5/ A/CONF.94/PC/7.

the Conference, shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference and its subsidiary organs. Either may designate a member of the secretariat to act in his/her place at these meetings.

"2. The Secretary-General of the Conference shall direct the staff required by the Conference."

Duties of the secretariat

Rule 12

"The secretariat of the Conference shall, in accordance with these rules:

(a) Provide interpretation of speeches made at meetings;"

Languages of the Conference

Rule 45

"Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the working languages of the Conference."

Interpretation

Rule 46

"1. Speeches made in a working language of the Conference shall be interpreted into the other such languages.

"2. A representative may speak in a language other than a working language of the Conference if he/she provides for interpretation into one such language. Interpretation into the other working languages of the Conference by interpreters of the Secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first such language."

Languages of official documents

Rule 47

"Official documents shall be made available in the working languages of the Conference."

Representatives of national liberation movements

Rule 53

"Representatives designated by national liberation movements invited to the Conference in accordance with paragraph 8 (c) of General Assembly resolution 33/189 of 29 January 1979 may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, its Main Committees and, as appropriate, any working group thereof on any matter of particular concern to those movements."

Representatives of non-governmental organizations

Rule 58

"1. Non-governmental organizations invited to the Conference may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Conference and its main committees.

"2. Upon the invitation of the presiding officer of the body concerned and subject to the approval of that body, such observers may make oral statements on questions in which they have a special competence.

"3. Written statements submitted by such non-governmental organizations on subjects in which they have a special competence and which are related to the work of the Conference, shall be distributed by the secretariat to all delegations in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements are made available to the secretariat for distribution."

(b) To recommend to the Conference the adoption of the provisional rules of procedure, as amended by the Preparatory Committee at its second session. 6/
