

# UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

E/CONF.82/5  
23 November 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE FOR THE ADOPTION  
OF A CONVENTION AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN  
NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES  
Vienna, Austria, 25 November-20 December 1988

## REPORT OF THE PRE-CONFERENCE CONSULTATIONS

1. In conformity with Economic and Social Council decision 1988/159, endorsing recommendation VI of the Review Group for the Conference, consultations were held on 23 November 1988 at the Vienna International Centre, before the commencement of the Conference. The consultations were open to the representatives of all States invited to participate in the Conference.
2. Mr. E. A. Babayan (USSR) presided over the pre-conference consultations.
3. The pre-conference consultations considered the organizational and procedural matters referred to in document E/CONF.82/4 and Add.1 and agreed on a number of recommendations.
4. The pre-conference consultations decided, inter alia, to recommend that instead of one Committee of the Whole and a Sub-committee as originally envisaged in the provisional agenda and the provisional rules of procedure, two parallel Committees of the Whole reporting directly to the Plenary on specific articles should be established. The consequential changes necessitated by this are reflected below.
5. The provisional rules of procedure had foreseen that the Conference would elect four officers with specific functions and 25 Vice-Presidents. The four officers were the President and Rapporteur-General of the Conference, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. 1/ Since there would now be two chairmen of the two Committees of the Whole, the provisional rules of procedure would have to be accordingly amended to indicate not four officers and 25 Vice-Presidents but five officers and 24 Vice-Presidents so as not to effect the geographical distribution of the 29 posts which constitute the General Committee.

### A. Adoption of the agenda

6. The pre-conference consultations recommend that, in adopting its agenda, the Conference amend agenda item 3(f) of the provisional agenda proposed by the Review Group (E/CONF.82/1) to read: "Establishment of the Committees of the Whole".

B. Adoption of the rules of procedure

7. The pre-conference consultations recommend that the Conference should adopt as its rules of procedure the provisional rules of procedure contained in document E/CONF.82/2, amended to reflect the decision in paragraph 4 above. These amendments are as follows:

Rule 6

Line 2, for twenty-five read twenty-four.

Line 3, for Chairman read Chairmen

Line 4, for Committee of the Whole read Committees of the Whole

Rule 11

Line 3, for Chairman of the Committee of the Whole read Chairmen of the Committees of the Whole

Rule 12

Lines 4 and 7, for the Committee of the Whole read a Committee of the Whole

Rule 48

The title should read Committees of the Whole

Line 1, for a Committee of the Whole read two Committees of the Whole

Line 2, for The Committee of the Whole read Each Committee of the Whole

Rule 49

Paragraph 1, line 5 for Rapporteur of the Committee of the Whole participates read Rapporteurs of the Committees of the Whole participate

Paragraph 2, last line, for the Committee of the Whole read a Committee of the Whole

Rule 51

Paragraph 1, line 1, for the Committee of the Whole read a Committee of the Whole

Rule 57, the title and text of rule 59, rules 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67 and 68,

for Committee of the Whole read Committees of the Whole

### C. Election of Officers

8. The pre-conference consultations recommend to the Conference that it elect the 29 officers of the General Committee on the basis of the geographical distribution on the General Committee of the General Assembly. 2/

9. The pre-conference consultations recommend that the Conference elect by acclamation H.E. Mr. Guillermo Bedregal-Gutierrez, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Bolivia as President of the Conference. It is further recommended to elect Mr. Gioacchino Polimeni (Italy) as Chairman of Committee I, Mr. Istvan Bayer (Hungary) as Chairman of Committee II, and Mr. M.V.N. Rao (India) as Chairman of the Drafting Committee. The Chairman of the African Group announced that the Group would present a candidate for the post of Rapporteur-General of the Conference at the opening of the Conference.

10. Taking into account the recommendations made in the preceding paragraph, the 24 posts of Vice-President of the Conference would be distributed as follows: 7 African States, 6 Asian States, 2 Eastern European States, 4 Latin American States and 5 Western European and other States. With respect to the two posts of Vice-President from Eastern Europe, the pre-conference consultations recommend that they be filled by USSR and Yugoslavia. The other regional groups undertook to present their candidates for the remaining posts of Vice-President at the opening of the Conference.

### D. Appointment of the Members of the Credentials Committee

11. The pre-conference consultations recommend that the Conference should appoint the same Credentials Committee as at the 43rd session of the General Assembly, namely Bolivia, China, Luxembourg, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and Zimbabwe as members of the Credentials Committee of the Conference, on the understanding that, if one of those States is not present, the Conference should replace it by another State from the same regional group, on the proposal of the President of the Conference.

### E. Establishment of the Committees of the Whole

12. Each of the two Committees of the Whole (Committee I and Committee II) would have a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur. The two Vice-Chairmen and two Rapporteurs are not officers of the General Committee and are not elected by the Plenary but by the respective Committees as provided for in rule 48 of the provisional rules of procedure. In response to a proposal that the Drafting Committee should elect a Vice-Chairman, reference was made to rule 50 which provides that "each committee, sub-committee and working group shall elect its own officers". In order to facilitate the election procedure in the Committees it is recommended that the regional groups consult among themselves concerning the filling of those posts before the Committees convene to commence their work.

F. Organization of the work of the Conference

13. The pre-conference consultations considered the provisional timetable contained in document E/CONF.82/4/Add.1 and decided to recommend to the Conference the adoption, in principle, of that timetable with the understanding that articles appearing therein as allocated to the Committee of the Whole would in fact be allocated to Committee I and that Committee II would consider the articles and preamble allocated therein to the Sub-committee. It was emphasized that the timetable was intended to serve only as a general guideline and that each Committee, under the authority of its Chairman, was free to adjust its own timetable to the requirements of its work, within the time constraints of the Conference.

14. The draft provisional timetable foresees the possibility of general statements being made Friday afternoon, 25 November, and continuing on Saturday, 26 November. The pre-conference consultations were informed that, following the Plenary meeting on Friday afternoon, there were now interpretation facilities for a maximum of two additional Plenary meetings on Friday and/or Saturday, either one meeting on Friday evening and one on Saturday morning, or two meetings on Saturday morning and afternoon. It was suggested that a meeting on Friday evening 3/ might be considered advisable if this would facilitate the conclusion of general statements by 1 p.m. on Saturday. The pre-conference consultations did not consider that they were in a position to make a firm recommendation at this stage.

15. The pre-conference consultations recommend to the Conference that the list of speakers for general statements should be closed on Friday, 25 November, at 4 p.m. The pre-conference consultations further recommend that, in order to expedite the substantive consideration of articles, a time limit of ten minutes or less should be applied to general statements by the President of the Conference.

Notes

1/ The appointment of the remaining 14 members of the Drafting Committee will be made on the basis of a recommendation of the General Committee in accordance with rule 49 of the provisional rules of procedure.

2/ 8 African States, 7 Asian States, 3 Eastern European States, 5 Latin American States and 6 Western European and other States.

3/ Note by the Secretariat: Should the Plenary wish to hold a meeting on Friday evening, 25 November, it would be necessary, for technical reasons, to so inform the Secretariat by 1 p.m. that day.