



Economic and Social Council

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GENERAL

E/CONF.76/PC/4
18 January 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON POPULATION, 1984
23-27 January 1984
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

ANNOTATED DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND
PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR THE CONFERENCE

Annotated draft provisional agenda, proposed programme
of work and other organizational matters

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Economic and Social Council, in paragraph 1 of its resolution 1981/87 of 25 November 1981, decided to convene in 1984, under the auspices of the United Nations, an International Conference on Population; in paragraph 2 of the same resolution, the Council decided that the Conference should be devoted to the discussion of selected issues of the highest priority, giving full recognition to the relationships between population and social and economic development, with the aim of contributing to the process of review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action 1/ and to its further implementation.

2. Considering the relatively limited duration of the Conference and the fact that only one day will be devoted to pre-Conference consultations, it is suggested to the Preparatory Committee that as many organizational and procedural questions as possible should be settled in advance in order to allow maximum time at the Conference for the consideration of substantive items.

* E/CONF.76/PC/1.

1/ Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.

3. Accordingly, the Preparatory Committee may wish to make recommendations to the Economic and Social Council on the matters specified below. Where clear precedents have been established for handling such matters in recent United Nations conferences, the recommendations below reflect those established practices.

A. Draft provisional agenda for the Conference

Recommendation I

4. Taking into account Economic and Social Council resolutions 1981/87 of 25 November 1981, 1982/42 of 27 July 1982 and 1983/6 of 26 May 1983, and the practice followed in recent United Nations Conferences, the Preparatory Committee may wish to recommend the following annotated draft provisional agenda for the Conference:

1. Opening of the International Conference on Population, 1984

Documentation

Provisional rules of procedure for the International Conference on Population, 1984

2. Election of the President

Documentation

Provisional rules of procedure for the International Conference on Population, 1984

3. Organizational and procedural matters

(a) Adoption of the rules of procedure

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(c) Election of officers other than the President

(d) Credentials of representatives to the Conference

(i) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

(ii) Report of the Credentials Committee

Documentation

Provisional rules of procedure for the International Conference on Population, 1984

4. Review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action

The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1981/87 of 25 November 1981, decided that the Conference shall be devoted to the discussion of selected issues of the highest priority, giving full recognition to the relationships between population and social and economic development, with the aim of contributing to the process of review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action. The Preparatory Committee of the Conference, in accordance with Council resolution 1983/6 of 26 May 1983, will concentrate on the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action and the formulation of specific recommendations to the Conference on the further implementation of the Plan of Action.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action

5. Recommendations for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action

The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1981/87, decided that the Conference should aim at contributing to the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action, the principles and objectives of which continue to be fully valid. As mentioned above, the Preparatory Committee of the Conference, in accordance with Council resolution 1983/6, will concentrate on the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action and the formulation of specific recommendations to the Conference on the further implementation of the Plan of Action. Accordingly, the Preparatory Committee will submit to the Conference, on the basis of proposals prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CONF.76/PC/11), recommendations for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action.

The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1982/42 of 27 July 1982, invited the regional commissions to consider, at their annual sessions in 1984, the report of the Preparatory Committee, with a view to formulating suggestions and recommendations for further implementation of the Plan of Action at the regional level, and to transmit them to the Conference for its consideration. It is anticipated that the Secretary-General may prepare a report including these suggestions and recommendations.

Documentation

Recommendations of the Preparatory Committee for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action

Report of the Secretary-General concerning recommendations of the regional commissions for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action at the regional level

6. Adoption of the report of the Conference

B. Opening of the conference

5. The Conference will be convened at the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico (Tlatelolco), Mexico City, on Monday, 6 August 1984, at 10.00 a.m.

C. Election of the President

6. It may be noted that at special conferences held away from United Nations Headquarters or another place where a major United Nations office is located it has been the practice to elect the head of the delegation of the host country as President. Such an election is normally by acclamation and the requirement for a secret ballot is dispensed with.

D. Adoption of the rules of procedure

Recommendation II

7. The Committee may wish to recommend the adoption of the draft provisional rules of procedure for the International Conference on Population, 1984 (E/CONF.76/PC/3 and Corr.1).

E. Election of officers other than the President

8. Under rule 6 of the draft provisional rules of procedure, the Conference is to elect, in addition to the President, two Vice-Presidents for co-ordination, twenty-four other Vice-Presidents, a Rapporteur-General, and a Presiding Officer for the Main Committee established under rule 45. Elections are to be conducted in accordance with rules 43 and 44. Under rule 43 elections are to be held by secret ballot, unless the Conference decides otherwise.

9. Pursuant to rule 9 of the draft provisional rules of procedure, the officers elected by the Conference under this draft rule are to constitute the General Committee of the Conference. In the "Draft standard rules of procedure for United Nations conferences" (A/38/298), it is recommended that the total number of officers which are to constitute a General Committee of a United Nations conference should be twenty-nine, this being the number of members on the General Committee of the General Assembly under rule 38 of its rules of procedure (A/520/Rev.14). If this recommendation were followed for the Population Conference, it would be possible for the Conference to follow the geographical distribution in the General Committee at the most recent regular session of the General Assembly, that is, the thirty-eighth session, which is as follows: eight representatives from African States; seven representatives from Asian States; two representatives from Eastern European States; four representatives from Latin American States; three representatives from Western European and other States; and five representatives

from the permanent members of the Security Council. This approach would obviate the need for consultations in order to arrive at an acceptable geographical distribution for the General Committee of the Conference, an exercise which has always proved difficult and time-consuming at similar conferences.

Recommendation III

10. Accordingly, the Preparatory Committee may wish to recommend the following distribution of seats on the General Committee of the Conference:

Eight representatives from African States;

Seven representatives from Asian States;

Two representatives from Eastern European States;

Four representatives from Latin American States;

Three representatives from Western European and other States;

Five representatives from the permanent members of the Security Council.

F. Appointments of the members of the Credentials Committee

11. Under rule 4 of the draft provisional rules of procedure, a Credentials Committee of nine members is to be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its composition is to be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, which consisted of China, Colombia, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mali, Portugal, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America.

Recommendation IV

12. Accordingly, the Preparatory Committee may wish to recommend that, in conformity with rule 4 of the draft provisional rules of procedure, the Conference should appoint China, Colombia, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mali, Portugal, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America as members of the Credentials Committee, on the understanding that if a State is not present, the Conference should replace that State by another State from the same regional group as designated by that group.

G. Organization of meetings

Recommendation V

13. The Economic and Social Council in resolution 1983/6 decided that the Conference should be composed of a plenary and one main committee. The Preparatory Committee may wish to recommend the allocation of items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the

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proposed draft provisional agenda for the Conference to the plenary and the allocation of item 5 to the Main Committee.

Recommendation VI

14. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1983/6, decided to convene the Conference from 6 to 13 August 1984. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to convene, on 5 August 1984, pre-conference consultations on organizational matters regarding the Conference, and to provide the necessary conference facilities for the possible extension of the Conference for one day, if required. In order to enable the Conference to expedite its work and conclude on time, the Preparatory Committee may wish to recommend that:

(a) Meetings should normally be scheduled from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m., and they should start punctually;

(b) The general debate on item 4 of the proposed draft provisional agenda for the Conference, "Review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action", should be held in plenary meetings, starting on 6 August 1984, and should be concluded by Friday, 10 August 1984;

(c) There should be no general debate in the Main Committee. The Main Committee should formulate its recommendations for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action (item 5 of the proposed draft provisional agenda) based on the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee and taking into consideration the report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action (item 4 of the proposed draft provisional agenda). The Main Committee should start its work at 3.00 p.m. on Monday, 6 August 1984, and conclude by Friday, 10 August 1984.

(d) The list of speakers in the general debate on item 4 should be closed at noon on Tuesday, 7 August 1984, in Mexico City;

(e) In view of the constraints of time, statements in the general debate on item 4 should be limited to seven minutes for the representatives of each State and three minutes for other participants;

(f) Statements in exercise of the right of reply should be made at the end of the day whenever two meetings have been scheduled for that day and whenever such meetings are devoted to the consideration of the same item; the number of interventions in exercise of the right of reply for any delegation at a given meeting should be limited to two per item; the first intervention should be limited to three minutes and the second intervention should be limited to two minutes.

H. Date for opening the list of speakers for the general debate on agenda item 4

Recommendation VII

15. The Preparatory Committee may wish to recommend that the list of speakers for

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the general debate on agenda item 4 should be opened at United Nations Headquarters at 10.00 a.m. on 4 June 1984.

I. Adoption of the report of the Conference

Recommendation VIII

16. The Preparatory Committee may wish to recommend that, in accordance with practice at previous United Nations conferences:

(a) The report of the Conference should consist of the decisions of the Conference; a brief account of the events leading to the convening of the Conference; and the proceedings, including a summary of the general debate in plenary meetings and a repertorial account of the work of the Main Committee and of the action taken on its recommendations in plenary meetings;

(b) Each regional group should be requested to designate, before the opening of the Conference, two persons to serve as friends of the Rapporteur-General, who will assist the latter in preparing the draft report of the Conference.

J. Officers to be elected by the Main Committee

17. Rule 45 of the draft provisional rules of procedure provides for the election by the Main Committee, unless it decides otherwise, of three Deputy Presiding Officers and a Rapporteur.

Recommendation IX

18. The Preparatory Committee may wish to recommend that agreement on a slate of candidates for the three Deputy Presiding Officers and the Rapporteur of the Main Committee should be reached before the opening of the Conference, thus allowing elections by acclamation and dispensing with the requirements of a secret ballot.
