



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/32/465
14 December 1977

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-second session
Agenda item 128

QUESTION OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE RELEVANT
ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Miss Ruth DOBSON (Australia)

1. By a letter dated 28 September 1977 (A/32/243), the representatives of Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cyprus, Democratic Yemen, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen requested the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-second session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Question of the composition of the relevant organs of the United Nations". An explanatory memorandum accompanied the request.
2. At its 15th plenary meeting, on 30 September, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee.
3. The Committee considered the item at its 39th, 40th and 46th meetings, between 5 and 13 December.
4. At the 40th meeting, on 6 December, the representative of Papua New Guinea introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/32/L.21), sponsored by Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates, which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recognizing that the composition of the various organs of the United Nations should be so constituted as to ensure their representative character,

"Taking into account the considerable increase in the membership of the United Nations,

"Recalling its resolution 1990 (XVIII) of 17 December 1963,

"Taking also into account that the General Committee of the General Assembly should be enlarged with a view to providing for a more adequate geographical representation,

"Believing also that it is desirable to distribute the vice-presidencies of the General Assembly and chairmanships of the Main Committees separately between the African and Asian States,

"Noting that the General Committee is composed of the President of the General Assembly, the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly and the Chairmen of the Main Committees,

"1. Decides to amend rules 31 and 38 of its rules of procedure as follows:

'Rule 31

'The General Assembly shall elect a President and nineteen Vice-Presidents, who shall hold office until the close of the session at which they are elected. The Vice-Presidents shall be elected, after the election of the Chairmen of the seven Main Committees referred to in rule 98, in such a way as to ensure the representative character of the General Committee.'

'Rule 38

'The General Committee shall comprise the President of the General Assembly, who shall preside, the nineteen Vice-Presidents and the Chairmen of the seven Main Committees. No two members of the General Committee shall be members of the same delegation, and it shall be so constituted as to ensure its representative character. Chairmen of other committees upon which all Members have the right to be represented and which are established by the General Assembly to meet during the session shall be entitled to attend meetings of the General Committee and may participate without vote in the discussions.'

"2. Decides to replace the annex to resolution 1990 (XVIII) by the annex to the present resolution concerning the election of the President of the General Assembly, the nineteen Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly and the seven Chairmen of the Main Committees;

"3. Decides to include in the agenda of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly the item entitled 'Question of the composition of the relevant organs of the United Nations'.

"ANNEX

"1. In the election of the President of the General Assembly, regard shall be had for equitable geographical rotation of this office among the regions mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 4 below.

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"2. The nineteen Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly shall be elected according to the following pattern:

- (a) Five representatives from African States;
- (b) Four representatives from Asian States;
- (c) One representative from Eastern European States;
- (d) Three representatives from Latin American States;
- (e) Two representatives from Western European or other States;
- (f) Five representatives from the permanent members of the Security Council.

"3. The election of the President of the General Assembly will, however, have the effect of reducing by one the number of Vice-Presidencies allocated to the region from which the President is elected.

"4. The seven Chairmen of the Main Committees shall be elected according to the following pattern:

- (a) One representative from African States;
- (b) One representative from Asian States;
- (c) One representative from Eastern European States;
- (d) One representative from Latin American States;
- (e) One representative from Western European or other States;
- (f) The sixth Chairmanship shall rotate among representatives of States mentioned in subparagraphs (b), (d) and (e) every three years;
- (g) The seventh Chairmanship shall rotate between representatives of States mentioned in subparagraphs (a) twice every three years, and (b) once every three years."

5. At the 46th meeting, on 13 December, the Chairman announced that, as a result of consultations with the Chairmen of the regional groups, it seemed that agreement could be reached on the text of a statement, which he read out, which the Committee might recommend for adoption by the General Assembly. He stated that with the concurrence of the Committee he would consider the draft recommendation adopted by consensus.

6. The Committee adopted the draft recommendation by consensus (see para. 7 below).

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RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

7. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft consensus:

The consideration of the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/32/L.21 is deferred until the thirty-third session of the General Assembly and a contact group, consisting of two or three representatives from each of the regional groups, will meet between the thirty-second and thirty-third sessions of the Assembly, under the chairmanship of a representative of the Asian group, to study the question, on the understanding that its deliberations will serve as a basis for the consideration of this item by the Assembly at its thirty-third session.
