



ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



E/CONF.17/L.26  
23 September 1954

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE OF  
PLENIPOTENTIARIES OF THE STATUS  
OF STATELESS PERSONS

Agenda item 5

REVISIONS OF THE DRAFT PROTOCOL RELATING TO  
THE STATUS OF STATELESS PERSONS

DRAFT FINAL ACT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE  
ON THE STATUS OF STATELESS PERSONS

Held at the Headquarters of the United Nations, New York,  
from 13 to September 1954

1.\* The Economic and Social Council, on 26 April 1954 at its seventeenth session, by resolution 526 A (XVII) decided that a second conference of plenipotentiaries should be convened to revise in the light of the provisions of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951 and of the observations made by governments the draft Protocol relating to the Status of Stateless Persons prepared by an Ad Hoc Committee of the Economic and Social Council in 1950 and to open the instrument for signature.

2. The Conference met at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York from 13 to September 1954.

3. The Governments of the following twenty-seven States were represented by delegates all of whom submitted satisfactory credentials or other communications of appointment authorizing them to participate in the Conference:

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Australia                   | Israel  |
| Belgium                     | Liechtenstein   |
| Brazil                      | Monaca  |
| Cambodia                    | Netherlands   |
| Colombia                    | Norway  |
| Costa Rica                  | Philippines   |
| Denmark                     | Sweden  |
| Ecuador                     | Switzerland   |
| El Salvador                 | Turkey  |
| France                      | United Kingdom of Great Britain<br>and Northern Ireland |
| Federal Republic of Germany | Vatican City  |
| Guatemala                   | Yemen   |
| Honduras                    | Yugoslavia  |
| Iran                        |   |

\* The numbers of the paragraphs will be deleted in the final text.

4. The Government of the following five States were represented by observers:

Argentina	Indonesia
Egypt	Japan
Greece	

5. A representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees participated, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference.

6. The Conference decided to invite interested specialized agencies to participate in the proceedings without the right to vote. The International Labour Organisation was accordingly represented.

7. The Conference also decided to permit representatives of non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council as well as of those entered by the Secretary-General on the Register the right to submit written or oral statements to the Conference.

Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations were present as observers:

Category A

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions  
International Federation of Christian Trade Unions

Category B

Agudas Israel  
Commission of the Churches on International Affairs  
Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations  
Friends' World Committee for Consultation  
International League for the Rights of Man  
World Jewish Congress

Organizations on the Register

Luscheran World Federation

8. The Conference elected Mr. Knud Larsen of Denmark as President and Mr. A. Herment of Belgium, and Mr. Jayme de Barros Gomes of Brazil as Vice-Presidents.

9. The Conference adopted as its agenda the Provisional Agenda drawn up by the Secretary-General (E/CONF.17/2). It also adopted the Provisional Rules of Procedure drawn up by the Secretary-General (E/CONF.17/2) excepting rule 5, which it decided to delete (E/CONF.17/2/Add.1). At its 12th meeting the Conference decided to amend rule 7 (E/CONF.17/2/Add.2).

10. The Conference appointed (i) a Drafting Committee on the Definition of the Term "Stateless Person", which was composed of the President of the Conference and the representatives of Australia, Belgium, Brazil, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Israel and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; (ii) an Ad Hoc Committee on the Question of the Travel Document for Stateless Persons composed of the President of the Conference and the representatives of Belgium, Brazil, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia; and (iii) a Style Committee composed of the President of the Conference and the representatives of Belgium, France, Guatemala and the United Kingdom.

11. The Conference used as the basis of its discussions the Draft Protocol Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons prepared by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Economic and Social Council on Refugees and Stateless Persons at its second session held in Geneva in 1949 and the provisions of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees adopted by the United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons held at Geneva from 2 to 25 July 1951. The main working document for the Conference was the memorandum by the Secretary-General, document E/CONF.17/3.

12. The Conference decided to prepare an independent convention dealing with the status of stateless persons rather than a protocol to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.

13. The Convention was adopted on \_\_ September 1954 by \_\_ votes to \_\_ with \_\_ abstentions, and opened for signature at the Headquarters of the United Nations.

14. The English, French and Spanish texts of the Convention, which are equally authentic, are appended to this Final Act.

(to be continued)