

UNITED NATIONS

RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

(As revised at the eighth session of the Council)



Lake Success, New York
1949

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RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

(As revised at the eighth session of the Council)¹

[Document E/33/Rev. 5,
19 March 1949]

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1

The Economic and Social Council shall hold at least two regular sessions a year. One of these sessions shall be held shortly before the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly.

Rule 2

Each regular session shall be held at a date fixed by the Council at a previous session.

Rule 3

Any member of the Council or the Secretary-General may request an alteration of the date of a regular session. The President shall forthwith communicate, through the Secretary-General, the request to the other members of the Council, together with such observations as the Secretary-General may present. If within eight days of the enquiry a majority of the members of the Council explicitly concurs in the request, the President will convene the Council accordingly.

Rule 4

Special sessions shall be held by decision of the Council, or at the request of:

- (1) A majority of the members of the Council,
- (2) The General Assembly,
- (3) The Security Council.

¹ These rules came into force on 19 March 1949. See Council resolution 217 (VIII).

The Council shall also hold a special session at the request of the Trusteeship Council, any Member of the United Nations, or a specialized agency, if the President of the Council and the two Vice-Presidents agree to the request. If the officers have not notified their agreement to the Secretary General within four days of the receipt of the request, the President shall forthwith inform the other members of the Council, through the Secretary General, of the request and shall enquire whether or not they support the request for a session. If within eight days of the enquiry, a majority of the members of the Council explicitly concurs in the request, the President will convene the Council accordingly.

Special sessions will be convened within thirty days of receipt by the President of a request for such a session at a date fixed by the President.

Rule 5

The President of the Council, with the concurrence of the Vice-Presidents, may also call a special session of the Council and fix the date thereof.

Rule 6

Each session shall be held at the seat of the United Nations unless, in pursuance of a previous decision of the Council, or at the request of a majority of its members, another place is designated.

Rule 7

The President of the Council shall notify the Members of the United Nations, the President of the Security Council, the President of the Trusteeship Council, the specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations in category (a),² through the Secretary-General, of the date of the first meeting of each session. Such notification shall be sent (1) in the case of a regular session at least six weeks in advance, (2) in the case of a special session at least twelve days in advance. If a special session is called at the request of the Security Council, the period of notice may be reduced by the President to not less than eight days.

Rule 8

The Council may decide at any session to adjourn temporarily and resume its meetings at a later date.

¹ When the term "specialized agency" is used in these rules, it refers to specialized agencies brought into relationship with the United Nations.

² That is, a non-governmental organization recognized in accordance with paragraph (a) of part IV of the report of the Committee on Arrangements for Consultation with Non Governmental Organizations adopted by the Council on 21 June 1946.

II. AGENDA

Rule 9

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General in consultation with the President and shall be communicated by the Secretary-General to the Members of the United Nations, to the President of the Security Council, to the President of the Trusteeship Council, to the specialized agencies and to the non-governmental organizations in category (a), (1) in the case of regular sessions six weeks before the opening of the session, and (2) in the case of special sessions, at the same time as the notice convening the Council.

The basic documents relating to each item appearing on the provisional agenda of regular and special sessions shall, subject to rule 10, be transmitted not later than the date on which the provisional agenda is communicated.

Rule 10

The provisional agenda of each regular session of the Council shall include all items proposed by:

- (1) The Council at a previous session;
- (2) The General Assembly, the Security Council or the Trusteeship Council;
- (3) Members of the United Nations, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in category (a), if submitted with basic documents in sufficient time to reach the Secretary-General not less than seven weeks before the first meeting of each session. Any item submitted to the Secretary-General for inclusion upon the provisional agenda less than seven weeks before the date of the first meeting of the session shall be accompanied by a statement of the urgency of the item and of the reasons which precluded its submission within the period of time specified, as well as by the basic documents. Such items shall, together with the above-mentioned statement and any comments the Secretary-General sees fit to offer, be placed before the Agenda Committee;
- (4) The Secretary-General, subject to the pertinent provisions of paragraph (3) above.

Rule 11

The provisional agenda for a special session shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration in the request for the holding of the session, subject, when appropriate, to rule 19.

Rule 12

Before the Secretary-General places an item proposed by a specialized agency or a non-governmental organization in category (a) upon the provisional agenda, he shall carry out with the agency or organization concerned such preliminary consultation as may be necessary.

Rule 13

The first item on the provisional agenda of a session of the Council shall be the adoption of the agenda, except for the election of the officers when required under rule 19.

Rule 14

The Council shall set up an Agenda Committee composed of the President, the two Vice-Presidents, and two other members who shall be elected at the first regular session of the Council of each year to hold office until the first regular session of the following year, subject to their remaining members of the Council. Having elected the two members referred to above, the Council shall then proceed to elect one alternate member State for each member of the Agenda Committee whose continued service on the Committee would be dependent on re-election to the Council before the term of office of the Committee expires.

When applicable, the principles of rule 22 shall apply to the Agenda Committee, otherwise the Committee shall elect its own acting chairman.

Any officer of the Council who, although still eligible to serve on the Committee, is prevented from attending a meeting shall designate an alternate from his own State to represent him. Such alternates shall have full rights of participation including the right to vote.

Rule 15

The Agenda Committee shall, prior to each session, consider the items submitted under rule 10 for inclusion in the agenda and make recommendations thereon to the Council, including recommendations as to the inclusion, deletion or deferment of items and as to the order in which they will be considered.

The Agenda Committee shall recommend the inclusion of any item transmitted to it by the Secretary-General under rule 10 in cases where the request for its inclusion reached the Secretary-General less than seven weeks before the first meeting of the session, only if the item is, in its opinion, urgent and important.

The Agenda Committee shall make recommendations to the Council concerning the procedure to be followed in the consideration of the items on the agenda, including the reference of certain items to the Council committees set up under rule 25, without preliminary debate in the Council.

The Agenda Committee may also recommend that, without preliminary debate in the Council, any item be referred to:

(a) A specialized agency, with the proviso that the specialized agency shall report on its work to the Council;

(b) One or more of its commissions, for examination and report at a subsequent session of the Council;

(c) The Secretary-General for study and report at a subsequent session of the Council; or

(d) The authority proposing the item, for further information or documentation.

A Member of the United Nations, a specialized agency, or a non-governmental organization in category (a), which has requested the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda, shall be entitled to be heard on the inclusion of the item by the Agenda Committee.

Rule 16

During a session, the Council may revise the agenda by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only urgent and important items shall be added to the agenda of the Council during the session. The Council may refer any request for inclusion of an item on the agenda of the Council's session to the Agenda Committee for report.

III. REPRESENTATION. CREDENTIALS

Rule 17

Each member of the Council shall be represented by an accredited representative, who may be accompanied by such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Rule 18

The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General not less than twenty-four hours before the first meeting at which the representatives are to attend. The President and the Vice-Presidents shall examine the creden-

tials and submit their report to the Council. This rule shall not, however, prevent a member from changing its representatives, alternate representatives, or advisers subsequently, subject to proper submission and examination of credentials, where needed.

IV. PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

Rule 19

Each year at the commencement of its first meeting the Council shall elect a President, a first Vice-President and a second Vice-President, from among the representatives of its members.

Rule 20

The President and Vice-Presidents shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election. None of them may, however, hold office after the expiration of the term of office of the member of which he is a representative.

Rule 21

If the President is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, the first Vice-President, or in the latter's absence, the second Vice-President shall preside.

Rule 22

If the President ceases to be a representative of a member of the Council or is incapacitated, or if the member of the United Nations of which he is a representative ceases to be a member of the Council, the first Vice-President shall take his place. In similar circumstances, the second Vice-President shall take the place of the first Vice-President.

Rule 23

A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Rule 24

In the case of a member of the Council which is for the time being represented by the President, an alternate representative shall, at the dis-

cretion of the President, be permitted to participate in the proceedings and to vote in the Council. In such a case the President shall not exercise his right to vote.

V. COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Rule 25

At each session, the Council may set up such committees as it deems necessary in addition to the committees specifically provided for in these rules, and refer to them any questions on the agenda for study and report. Such committees may be authorized to sit while the Council is not in session.

Each committee shall elect its own officers, except where decided otherwise by the Council.

The provisions of rules 40 and 41, and 46 to 69 inclusive, shall be applied in the proceedings of the committees and any subsidiary bodies set up by them.

Rule 26

Committees of the Council shall be nominated by the President subject to approval of the Council, unless the Council decides otherwise.

Sub-committees of committees shall be nominated by the Chairman of the committee subject to approval of the committee, unless the committee decides otherwise.

VI. SECRETARIAT

Rule 27

The Secretary-General shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Council and of its committees. He may designate one of the Assistant Secretaries-General or another officer of the Secretariat to act as his representative.

Rule 28

The Secretary-General shall provide and direct the staff required by the Council, its committees and such subsidiary bodies as may be established by them.

Rule 29

The Secretary-General shall be responsible for keeping the members of the Council informed of any questions which may be brought before it for consideration.

Rule 30

The Secretary-General, or his representative, may, subject to rule 47, make oral as well as written statements to the Council, its committees or subsidiary bodies concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 31

The Secretary-General shall be responsible for all the necessary arrangements for meetings of the Council, of its committees and of any subsidiary bodies.

Rule 32

The Secretariat shall interpret speeches made at meetings; shall receive, translate and circulate the documents of the Council, its committees and subsidiary bodies; shall print, publish and circulate the records of the sessions, the resolutions of the Council and the relevant documentation required. It shall have the custody of the documents in the archives of the Council and generally perform all other work which the Council may require.

Rule 33

1. A summary estimate of the financial implications of all proposals coming before the Council shall be prepared by the Secretary-General and circulated to members as soon as possible after the issue of the provisional agenda. This summary estimate shall be revised as necessary during the session in the light of the Council's discussions and a final summary shall be considered by the Council in plenary meeting before the close of each session.

2. Before a proposal which involves expenditure from United Nations funds is approved by the Council or by any of its committees, the Secretary-General shall prepare and circulate to members, as early as possible, a separate estimate of the cost involved in each such proposal. It shall be the duty of the President of the Council and Chairmen of committees to draw the attention of members to this estimate and invite discussions on it when the proposal is considered by the Council or by a committee.

VII. LANGUAGES

Rule 34

Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official languages, and English and French the working languages of the Council.

Rule 35

Speeches made in either of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working language.

Rule 36

Speeches made in any other of the three official languages shall be interpreted into both working languages.

Rule 37

Any representative may make a speech in a language other than the official languages. In this case he shall himself provide for interpretation into one of the working languages. Interpretation into the other working language by an interpreter of the Secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first working language.

Rule 38

Written records shall be drawn up in the working languages. A translation of the whole or part of any record into any of the other official languages shall be furnished if requested by any delegation.

Rule 39

All resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions of the Council shall be made available in the official languages.

VIII. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

Rule 40

The meetings of the Council shall be held in public unless the Council decides otherwise.

Rule 41

At the close of each private meeting, the Council may issue a *communiqué* through the Secretary-General.

IX. RECORDS

Rule 42

Summary records of the public meetings of the Council, its committees and subsidiary bodies shall be prepared by the Secretariat. They shall be distributed as soon as possible to all members of the Council and any other participating in the meeting, who may, within forty-eight hours of their receipt, submit corrections to the Secretariat. Any disagreement concerning such corrections shall be decided by the President of the Council, or the Chairman of the committee or subsidiary body to which the record relates, after consulting, upon request of the representative concerned, the verbatim records to be kept by the Secretariat in accordance with rule 43, or, if necessary, the sound recordings of the proceedings of the Council.

The summary records, with any such corrections incorporated, shall be distributed promptly to the members of the Council, to the other Members of the United Nations and to the specialized agencies. They may be consulted by the public on publication.

Rule 43¹

Verbatim records of the meetings of the Council shall be kept by the Secretariat. The verbatim records of public meetings shall be available to the public. The verbatim records of private meetings shall be made available upon decision of the Council, to representatives of the Members of the United Nations only.

Rule 44

The records of private meetings of the Council shall be made available to the other Members of the United Nations upon decision of the Council and may be made public at such time and under such conditions as the Council may decide.

Rule 45

As soon as possible, the text of the resolutions, recommendations and

¹ There are no verbatim records of the Council at present (see resolutions 138 (VI) and 176 (VII) of the Council).

Other formal decisions adopted by the Council, its committees and subsidiary bodies shall be distributed by the Secretariat to all members of the Council and any others participating in the session. The printed text of such resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions shall be distributed as soon as possible after the close of the session to all the Members of the United Nations and to the specialized agencies.

X. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 46

A majority of the members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 47

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Council, shall direct the discussion, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President, subject to these rules, shall have control of the proceedings of the Council and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. He shall rule on points of order and shall have in particular the power to propose adjournment or closure of the debate or adjournment or suspension of a meeting.

Debate shall be confined to the question before the Council and the President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 48

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with the rules of procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the ruling of the President shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

A representative raising a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 49

During the discussion of any matter a representative may move the

adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative may speak in favour of and one against the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

Rule 50

The Council may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each member may speak on any question, except on procedural questions when the President shall limit each intervention to a maximum of five minutes. When debate is limited and a member has spoken his allotted time, the President shall call him to order without delay.

Rule 51

During the course of a debate the President may announce the list of speakers, and, with the consent of the Council, declare the list closed. The President may, however, accord the right of reply to any member if, in his opinion, a speech delivered after he has declared the list closed makes this desirable. When the debate of an item is concluded because there are no other speakers, the President shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by the consent of the Council.

Rule 52

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of the debate shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to vote.

Rule 53

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted and they shall be immediately put to the vote.

Rule 54

Subject to rule 48, the following motions shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the meeting:

- (1) To suspend the meeting;
- (2) To adjourn the meeting;

- (3) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
- (4) For the closure of the debate on the item under discussion.

Rule 55

Draft resolutions, and substantive amendments or motions, shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Secretary-General, who shall circulate copies to the representatives twenty-four hours before they are discussed and voted upon, unless the Council decides otherwise.

Rule 56

Subject to rule 54, any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Council to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote immediately before a vote is taken on the proposal in question.

Rule 57

A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion which has thus been withdrawn may be reintroduced by any member.

XI. VOTING

Rule 58

Each member of the Council shall have one vote.

Rule 59

Decisions of the Council shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "members present and voting" means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

Rule 60

Subject to rule 66, the Council shall normally vote by show of hands except that any representative may request a roll-call which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the member whose name is drawn by lot by the President.

Rule 61

The vote of each member participating in a roll-call shall be inserted in the record.

Rule 62

After the voting has commenced, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connexion with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely in explanations of their votes may be permitted by the President, if he deems it necessary, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.

Rule 63

Parts of a proposal shall be voted on separately if a representative requests that the proposal be divided. Those parts of the proposal which have been approved shall then be put to the vote as a whole; if all the operative part of a proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Rule 64

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Council shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon. If no amendments are adopted the proposal shall be put to the vote in its original form.

A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it adds to, deletes from or revises that proposal.

Rule 65

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Council shall, unless it decides otherwise, vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Council may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

Any motions requiring that no decision be taken on the substance of such proposals shall, however, be considered as previous questions and shall be put to the vote before them.

Rule 66

All elections of individuals shall be decided by secret ballot.

Rule 67

If, when one person or member only is to be elected, no candidate obtains in the first ballot the majority required, a second ballot shall be taken, confined to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

In the case of a tie in the first ballot, among the candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held for the purpose of reducing the number of candidates to two. In the case of a tie among three or more candidates, obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held; if a tie results among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot.

Rule 68

When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates obtaining a majority on the first ballot shall be elected.

If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of places to be filled, there shall be held additional ballots to fill the remaining places. The voting will be restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, who shall number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled. However, in the case of a tie between a greater number of unsuccessful candidates, a special ballot shall be held for the purpose of reducing the number of candidates to the required number.

If three restricted ballots are inconclusive, unrestricted ballots shall follow in which votes may be cast for any eligible person or member. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots (subject to exception in the case similar to that of the tie mentioned at the end of the previous paragraph of this rule) shall be restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots. The number of such candidates shall not be more than twice the places remaining to be filled.

The following three ballots thereafter shall be unrestricted and so on, until all the places are filled.

Rule 69

If a vote is equally divided on matters other than elections the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

XII. COMMISSIONS

Rule 70

The Council shall set up such commissions as may be required for the performance of its functions, and shall define the powers and composition of each of them.

Rule 71

Elections to commissions shall be decided by secret ballot, unless the Council decides otherwise.

Rule 72

Each commission shall elect its own officers.

Rule 73

The rules of procedure of the commissions and their subsidiary bodies shall be drawn up by the Council, unless the Council decides otherwise.

XIII. PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS OF THE
UNITED NATIONS NOT MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Rule 74

The Council shall invite any Member of the United Nations which is not a member of the Council to participate in its deliberations on any matter which the Council considers is of particular concern to that Member. Any Member thus invited shall not have the right to vote but may submit proposals which may be put to the vote by request of any member of the Council.

Rule 75

A committee may invite any Member of the United Nations which is not one of its own members to participate in its deliberations on any matter which the committee considers is of particular concern to that Member.

Any Member thus invited shall not have the right to vote but may submit proposals which may be put to the vote by request of any member of the committee.

XIV. PARTICIPATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Rule 76

The President of the Trusteeship Council, or his representative, may participate without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council on any matter of particular concern to the Trusteeship Council including questions which have been proposed by the Trusteeship Council for inclusion on the provisional agenda of the Economic and Social Council.

XV. PARTICIPATION OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

Rule 77

In accordance with the agreements concluded between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the specialized agencies shall be entitled:

- (1) To be represented at meetings of the Council and its committees;
- (2) To participate, through their representatives, in the deliberations with respect to items of concern to them, and to submit proposals regarding such items, which may be put to the vote on request of any member of the Council or of the committee concerned.

XVI. CONSULTATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 78

The Council shall establish a Standing Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations composed of the President and five members of the Council to be elected each year at the first regular session of the Council, (1) to recommend to the Council what action should be taken on applications for consultative status submitted by non-governmental organizations, and

(2) to consult with non-governmental organizations in categories (a), (b) and (c).¹

Rule 79

Non-governmental organizations in categories (a), (b) and (c) may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at all public meetings of the Council and of its committees.

The Council may consult, through the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, with non-governmental organizations in categories (a), (b) or (c) upon matters in which such organizations have special competence or knowledge, if the Council so decides or if the non-governmental organization specifically requests such consultation. The representatives of the organizations shall be entitled to participate fully in any discussion of substance during such consultation.

The Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations shall report on its consultations to the Council in sufficient detail to permit the members of the Council to form their own judgment regarding the importance of the subject under consideration and any action to be taken thereon.

Rule 80

Non-governmental organizations in category (a) may circulate to the Council through the Secretary-General written statements and suggestions on matters within their competence.

Whenever the Council discusses the substance of an item proposed by a non-governmental organization in category (a), as provided for in rule 10, and placed on the agenda of the Council, such an organization shall be entitled to present orally to the Council, or, if the item is referred in the first instance to a committee of the whole of the Council, to the committee, an introductory statement of an expository nature. In the course of the discussion, the organization, if invited by the President of the Council or the Chairman of the committee, with the consent of the relevant body, may make one further statement either before the Council or before the committee.

A non-governmental organization in category (a) desiring to speak either before the Council or a committee of the whole on an item which it has not proposed, shall make such a request in writing to the Chairman of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations not later than

¹ That is, non-governmental organizations recognized in accordance with paragraph 1 (a), (b) and (c) of part IV of the report of the Committee on Arrangements for Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations adopted by the Council on 21 June 1946.

forty-eight hours after the adoption of the agenda by the Council. The Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations shall as soon as possible thereafter hear the views of the non-governmental organization on its request, and upon the recommendation of this Committee, the Council as a whole, or the appropriate committee, may arrange to hear one statement by a representative of the organization.

Rule 81

Organizations in categories (b) and (c) may submit to the Secretariat written statements and suggestions on matters within their competence. The Secretariat will prepare and distribute a list of all such communications, briefly indicating the substance of each. Upon the request of any member of the Council, a communication will be reproduced in full and distributed. Any lengthy communication will be distributed by the Secretariat only if sufficient copies are furnished by the organization concerned.

Organizations in categories (b) and (c) shall not be heard by the Council or a committee of the whole, but upon their request in writing to the Chairman of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations within forty-eight hours of the adoption by the Council of the final agenda, they shall be given opportunity to express their views on any item on the agenda within their competence before the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations which will report to the Council on such hearings in accordance with rule 79.

XVII. AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS

Rule 82

Any of these rules may be amended or suspended by the Council.

Rule 83

These rules may not be amended until the Council has received a report on the proposed amendment from a committee of the Council.

Rule 84

A rule of procedure may be suspended by the Council provided that twenty-four hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given. The notice may be waived if no member objects.

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