



Eighteenth session

AFGHANISTAN, ALGERIA, BURMA, CAMBODIA, CAMEROON, CEYLON,  
 CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE), CONGO (LEOPOLDVILLE), CYPRUS, DAHOMEY,  
 ETHIOPIA, GABON, GHANA, GUINEA, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, IRAQ,  
 IVORY COAST, JAPAN, JORDAN, KUWAIT, LAOS, LEBANON, LIBERIA,  
 LIBYA, MALAYSIA, MALI, MOROCCO, NEPAL, NIGER, NIGERIA,  
 PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES, RWANDA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE,  
 SOMALIA, SUDAN, SYRIA, TANGANYIKA, THAILAND, TOGO, TUNISIA,  
 UGANDA, UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC, UPPER VOLTA AND YEMEN:  
 REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA  
 OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION

## QUESTION OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 16 September 1963 from the Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan, Algeria, Burma, Cambodia, Cameroon, Ceylon, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Leopoldville), Cyprus, Dahomey, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tanganyika, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Republic, Upper Volta and Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Under the instructions of our Governments, we have the honour to request, under rule 15 of the rules of procedure, the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Question of the composition of the General Committee of the General Assembly" in the provisional agenda of the eighteenth regular session of the United Nations General Assembly. In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, an explanatory memorandum is attached.

(Signed) Abdul Hakim TABIBI (Afghanistan)  
 Idris JAZAIRY (Algeria)  
 BA THAUNG (Burma)  
 CAIMEROM MEASKETH (Cambodia)  
 Benoît BINDZI (Cameroon)  
 R.S.S. GUNewardene (Ceylon)

(Signed) T.M. GUINDO-YAYOS (Congo-Brazzaville)  
Théodore IDZUMBUIR (Congo-Leopoldville)  
Zenon ROSSIDES (Cyprus)  
Huguette ACHARD (Dahomey)  
Girma ABEBE (Ethiopia)  
Aristide ISSEMBE (Gabon)  
Alex QUAISON-SACKEY (Ghana)  
DIALLO Telli (Guinea)  
K. NATWAR SINGH (India)  
L.N. PALAR (Indonesia)  
M. VAKIL (Iran)  
Adnan PACHACHI (Iraq)  
Julien KACOU (Ivory Coast)  
A. MATSUI (Japan)  
A.M. RIFA'I (Jordan)  
Rashed A. AL-RASHED (Kuwait)  
S. RATSAPHONG (Laos)  
Georges HAKIM (Lebanon)  
Nathan BARNES (Liberia)  
M.A. EL-MASRI (Libya)  
Dato'ONG Yoke Lin (Malaysia)  
Sori COULIBALY (Mali)  
Dey Ould SIDI-BABA (Morocco)  
Ram C. MALHOTRA (Nepal)  
Illa SALIFOU (Niger)  
S.O. ADEBO (Nigeria)  
V.A. HAMDANI (Pakistan)  
H.J. BRILLIANTES (Philippines)  
C. MUDENGE (Rwanda)  
Charles DELGADO (Senegal)  
Gershon B.O. COLLIER (Sierra Leone)  
Omer Q. ARTEH (Somalia)  
Sir-EL Khatim EL SANOUSI (Sudan)  
S. TARAZI (Syria)  
K.S. BAGHDELLEH (Tanganyika)  
Channian KIATTINAT (Thailand)  
John ABAIO (Togo)  
Taïeb SLIM (Tunisia)  
E. NDAWULA (Uganda)  
Mahmoud RIAD (United Arab Republic)  
Jean Baptiste TAPSOBA (Upper Volta)  
Yahya H. GEGHMAN (Yemen)

Explanatory memorandum

1. Rule 38 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly lays down that the General Committee shall be so constituted as to ensure its representative character. In view of the fact that a large increase in recent years has taken place in the membership of the United Nations, particularly from Asia and Africa, the General Committee has lost its representative character and no longer reflects the principle of equitable geographical distribution.
2. The General Assembly last changed the composition of the General Committee in 1957 by its resolution 1192 (XII). By this resolution, the Assembly increased the number of vice-presidencies from nine to thirteen and confirmed the practice which had evolved over the years with regard to the distribution of the chairmanships of the Main Committees among the various regions. It will be recalled that the increase in the number of vice-presidencies was effected at that time in order that the composition of the General Committee may reflect more closely the increase over the years in the membership of the United Nations, particularly from Asia and Africa. When the resolution was adopted, the membership of the Organization stood at eighty-two, of which twenty-nine Members came from Asia and Africa. In the intervening years, the membership of the Organization has further increased from eighty-two to 111, of which fifty-six Members now come from Asia and Africa.
3. It is a pressing need today that the various organs of the United Nations should reflect more closely the increased membership of the Asian and African States in the Organization. This is all the more necessary in the case of the General Committee which is a Committee of the General Assembly, which body reflects the principle of sovereign equality of all Member States.
4. In view of the fact that the present composition of the General Committee was arrived at when the membership of the Organization stood at eighty-two and the membership of the Asian and African States stood at half its present strength, it is proposed that the General Assembly should again consider at the forthcoming session the question of the composition of the General Committee.