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Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to bring to the attention of the members of the General Assembly the attached letter dated 23 March 1990 addressed to the President of the General Assembly by the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences (see annex).
2. In order to enable the General Assembly to consider the request, referred to in the annex below, it will be necessary to re-open agenda item 128, entitled "Pattern of conferences".

ANNEX

Letter dated 23 March 1990 from the Chairman of the Committee
on Conferences to the President of the General Assembly

In accordance with paragraph 4 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/222 B of 21 December 1988, by which the Assembly decided that the Committee on Conferences should act on behalf of the Assembly with respect to proposed departures from the approved calendar of conferences and meetings that have administrative and financial implications, in conformity with the budgetary process in force and with full respect for the mandates of other bodies, the Committee on Conferences met on 23 March 1990 to consider a request from the United Nations Council for Namibia for special plenary meetings to be held at Windhoek, Namibia, from 9 to 11 April 1990.

The proposal was brought to the attention of the Committee on Conferences in view of the fact that the holding of these meetings at Windhoek would constitute a departure from paragraphs 4 and 5 of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985. Furthermore, the provision of verbatim records, as requested by the United Nations Council for Namibia would constitute a departure from paragraph 1 of Assembly resolution 44/196 B of 21 December 1989, which states that the Council is entitled to receive summary records, and paragraph 9 of Assembly resolution 37/14 C of 16 November 1982, by which the Assembly decided:

"that those subsidiary organs that are entitled to receive written meeting records for all or some of their meetings shall receive them when meeting away from recognized United Nations conference centres only if there is a specific decision by the General Assembly for each case".

The Committee on Conferences reached the following decision by consensus:

"The Committee on Conferences, having considered the request from the United Nations Council for Namibia, contained in document A/AC.172/135, and the explanations provided by the representative of the Council, and cognizant of the views expressed by members of the Committee:

(a) Grants the request to convene a special plenary meeting at Windhoek from 9 to 11 April 1990;

(b) Encourages the Council and the Secretariat to explore the possibilities for defraying part of the expenses in kind;

(c) Recommends to the General Assembly that it authorize the provision of records to the Council, in accordance with its entitlements and relevant past practice, in order to enable the Council to submit its final report to the Assembly."

/...

Accordingly, I should be grateful if this matter could be brought to the attention of the General Assembly for appropriate action.

(Signed) Jaime BAZAN
Chairman of the
Committee on Conferences
