

UN LIBRARY



UNITED NATIONS

NOV 16 1979

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

UN/SA COLLECTION



Distr.
GENERAL

A/BUR/34/3
13 November 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-fourth session

RATIONALIZATION OF THE PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Note by the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 13 June 1979, the Secretary-General issued a report on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly (A/34/320) which contained a number of proposals.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1979, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee (A/34/250), adopted several of the Secretary-General's proposals relating to the organization of the session, the agenda and the allocation of items. At its 46th plenary meeting, on 25 October, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee (A/34/250/Add.2, sect. II), adopted a number of the proposals of the Secretary-General relating to documentation, the organization of work and the planning of meetings.
3. The purpose of the present document is to draw the attention of the members of the General Committee to the remaining proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General. The paragraph numbers correspond to those of document A/BUR/34/2.

II. DOCUMENTATION

4. The increase in documentation has become one of the most critical issues with which both Member States and the Secretariat are confronted. The number of reports of subsidiary organs has doubled in the past 10 years while the number of reports requested of the Secretary-General has more than tripled during the same period.
5. In order to contribute to the solution of this problem, the Secretary-General recommends that:

...

79-30291

3p.

/...

(d) The General Assembly, including its Main Committees, should merely note and neither debate nor adopt resolutions on those reports of the Secretary-General or subsidiary organs which do not require specific action by the Assembly;

...

(f) Communications from Member States should be circulated as documents of the General Assembly only if they call for action to be taken by the Assembly.

III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

6. The role of the Chairman of a Main Committee is of paramount importance for the effective performance of its work. Accordingly, the Secretary-General recommends that:

(a) Before the conclusion of a session of the General Assembly, regional groups should agree on the distribution of chairmanships for the following session and nominate their candidates for these posts, on the understanding that, should a candidate no longer be available to serve at the succeeding session, the group which nominated him would choose a replacement; this would afford all committee chairmen a substantial period to prepare thoroughly for their tasks;

(b) Nominees for committee chairmanship should be required to have two years' prior experience in the United Nations system;

...

IV. RESOLUTIONS

8. As a time-saving measure and in order to make the debates more meaningful, the Secretary-General recommends that subsidiary organs reporting to the General Assembly should submit draft resolutions in order to facilitate the consideration of the items while eliminating the need for co-sponsorship by individual delegations;

9. Whenever possible, resolutions requesting the discussion of a question at a subsequent session should not call for the inclusion of a separate new item; such discussion should be held under the item under which the resolution was adopted.

...

VI. SUBSIDIARY ORGANS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

12. Subsidiary organs constitute an essential means of ensuring the continuity of the work of the General Assembly between sessions. Nevertheless, the sharp increase in the number of subsidiary organs of the Assembly has created problems, not only in connexion with documentation, as described above, but also in the provision of conference services.

/...

13. The Secretary-General therefore recommends that:

(a) The General Assembly should, beginning at the thirty-fourth session, review the usefulness of those subsidiary organs which have been unable to submit concrete recommendations;

(b) A moratorium on the establishment of additional subsidiary organs should be declared for a period of one year.
