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Agenda item 8

ORGANIZATION OF WORK: RATIONALIZATION OF THE PROCEDURES  
AND ORGANIZATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Sixth report of the General Committee

1. At its 7th meeting, on 28 November 1979, the General Committee considered a note by the Secretary-General dated 13 November 1979 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly (A/BUR/34/3).
2. After an exchange of views, the General Committee decided to submit to the General Assembly the following recommendations:

Documentation

- (a) The General Committee recommends that:
  - (i) The General Assembly, including its Main Committees, should merely take note of those reports of the Secretary-General or subsidiary organs which do not require a decision by the Assembly and should neither debate nor adopt resolutions on them, unless specifically requested by the Secretary-General or the organ concerned;
  - (ii) The publication of reports of the principal organs and subsidiary organs of the General Assembly and any draft resolutions and amendments should be given priority over that of any individual communications received from Member States;
  - (iii) Member States should refrain, to the extent possible, from requesting the circulation of any individual communications as documents of the General Assembly and in lieu thereof, where circulation of such documents is desired, should, as far as possible, request such circulation under the cover of a note verbale in the official languages provided by them.

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\* Reissued for technical reasons.

Organization of work

- (b) The General Committee recommends that:
  - (i) Before the conclusion of a session of the General Assembly, regional groups should agree on the distribution of chairmanships among them for the following session;
  - (ii) Candidates for the chairmanships of the Main Committees should be nominated as soon as possible.

Furthermore, the General Committee strongly recommends that nominees for the chairmanships of the Main Committees should have experience in the work of the General Assembly.

Resolutions

- (c) The General Committee recommends that:
  - (i) Subsidiary organs reporting to the General Assembly should make every effort to submit draft resolutions in order to facilitate the consideration of the items;
  - (ii) Whenever possible, resolutions requesting the discussion of a question at a subsequent session should not call for the inclusion of a separate new item and such discussion should be held under the item under which the resolution was adopted.

3. The General Committee decided to defer consideration of paragraph 13 of the note by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/34/3), concerning subsidiary organs of the General Assembly, in order to allow consultations on this subject to be held.

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