



International Atomic Energy Agency

General Conference

GC(VIII)/GEN/OR.12

9 February 1965

RESTRICTED Distr.

ENGLISH

Eighth regular session

GENERAL COMMITTEE

OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE TWELFTH MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,
on Monday, 14 September 1964, at 4.50 p.m.

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* GC(VIII)/GEN/26.

Present*

Chairman:

Mr. ESCHAUZIER (Netherlands), President of the General Conference

Members:

Mr. QUIHILLALT (Argentina), Vice-President of the General Conference

Miss MEAGHER (Canada), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. CONTENAY, representing Mr. GOLDSCHMIDT (France), Additional Member

Mr. HAKSAR (India), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. SUDARSONO (Indonesia), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. UCHIDA (Japan), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. ABUBAKAR (Nigeria), Additional Member

Mr. de CASTRO (Philippines), Chairman of the Administrative and Legal Committee

Mr. HULUBEI (Romania), Chairman of the Programme, Technical and Budget Committee

Mr. DAGUERRE (Senegal), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. EMELYANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. MICHAELS (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. SMYTH (United States of America), Additional Member

Miss ILIĆ (Yugoslavia), Additional Member

Also Present:

Mr. SALVETTI (Italy), Chairman of the Board of Governors

Secretariat:

Mr. HALL, representing the Director General

Mr. BOLTON, Secretary of the Committee

* The structure of the General Committee is laid down in Rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure. The composition of the Committee at the eighth regular session is given in document GC(VIII)/INF/75/Rev.2.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING (GC(VIII)/GEN/26) :

1. The agenda for the meeting (GC(VIII)/GEN/26) was adopted.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS FOR INITIAL DISCUSSION
(GC(VIII)/268)

2. The Committee decided to recommend the General Conference to place on its agenda all the items listed in document GC(VIII)/268.
3. The CHAIRMAN said that in the past the General Committee had confined itself in its report to making recommendations on the allocation of items for initial discussion, leaving it to the President of the Conference to decide, in consultation with the Secretariat, the best order in which to take the items so as to meet the wishes of as many delegates as possible. With a view to concluding the session's work as quickly as possible, it seemed advisable for the Committee again to leave the President that latitude. He suggested, however, that item 3(b) - Report of the Credentials Committee - should be taken towards the end of the session.
4. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Conference the allocation of items for initial discussion suggested in document GC(VIII)/268.
5. The Committee authorized the Chairman to draw up, with the help of the Secretariat, its report to the General Conference containing its recommendations on the agenda and the allocation of items for initial discussion.

CLOSING DATE OF THE SESSION

6. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that under Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure the Committee was required to recommend a closing date for the session. An examination of the agenda which it had decided to recommend to the Conference suggested that the work of the committees would not take long, and that most of the time would be devoted to item 10 - General debate and report of the Board of Governors for 1963-64. If the General Conference started on that item in plenary meeting on the morning of Tuesday, 15 September, he would expect that the item could be disposed of by Thursday. The committees would be meeting at the same time and it might reasonably be expected that the General Conference

could begin to examine their reports on Friday, 18 September. If no unforeseen circumstances arose, therefore, the Conference would have completed its agenda on that day.

7. He thought the Committee could recommend the General Conference provisionally to fix Friday, 18 September, as the closing date of the session, on the understanding that the session would be prolonged if it had not completed its work by that date.

8. Mr. DAGUERRE (Senegal) observed that previous sessions of the General Conference had lasted fifteen and, later, twelve days, and that the programme of work had not provided for simultaneous meetings of the plenary Conference and the committees.

9. The programme proposed by the Secretariat, which provided that the eighth session should be shorter than previous ones and that there should be simultaneous meetings, made him wonder whether the aim was not to prevent the delegations of the developing countries from taking an effective part in the work of the Conference at a time when Africa was particularly interested in the problems presented by the utilization of atomic energy. He proposed that the committees should not meet until after the general debate.

10. The CHAIRMAN assured the previous speaker that there was no intention, certainly not on the part of the Secretariat, of limiting the time at the Conference's disposal. Already at previous sessions the main committees had met concurrently with plenary meetings and it was his impression that that arrangement met the wishes of Member States themselves.

11. Mr. EMEL'YANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought that the work would not proceed normally if it were decided forthwith to close the session on 18 September. He could not support the Chairman's suggestion.

12. Mr. MICHAELS (United Kingdom) said that, in June, the Board of Governors had taken a decision based on various considerations: it had decided to advance the opening date of the General Conference by one week in order not to waste the time of delegates attending the Third International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy^{1/} and to arrange for a short session so as to enable those delegates to resume their normal occupations as soon as possible.

^{1/} Held at Geneva from 31 August to 9 September 1964.

Moreover, after the discussions to which the economic aspects of the utilization of atomic energy had given rise at Geneva, there were no more questions in that field that could be discussed without risk of repetition. The main committees had been meeting at the same time as the plenary Conference for several years without the efficiency of the work being impaired. The Administrative and Legal Committee could be expected to hold only one meeting, and the Programme, Technical and Budget Committee, even if it were to examine the items on its agenda very thoroughly, would only meet five or six times. It had never been suggested that certain delegations had not enough members to be represented in plenary and in committee at the same time.

13. In the past, many Member States had expressed the wish that the cost of General Conference sessions should be reduced. It was obvious that by shortening the sessions substantial savings could be made. The Secretariat had made arrangements for a session of one week, and it would probably be difficult for it to recruit the necessary temporary staff for a longer period.

14. A decision to prolong the session would cause Member States some anxiety. They would wonder which item of the agenda had made it necessary to continue to discuss in a constructive manner the questions of substance which might have been expected to arise; moreover, the debates would have to be carried on in the absence of many heads of delegations.

15. For all those reasons he supported the Chairman's suggestion.

16. Mr. DAGUERRE (Senegal) recognized the force of some of the arguments put forward by the United Kingdom delegate, but observed that even if all the questions of interest had been dealt with at the Geneva Conference, the representatives of African countries which had not considered it necessary to be represented there for the whole period were not acquainted with the results of the work and it was the duty of the General Conference to inform them.

17. The CHAIRMAN assured the delegate of Senegal that his suggestion was based on a reasonable estimate of the time needed to conclude the Conference's work and that he would be the last to try to prevent the developing countries from participating in discussions that were particularly important for them.

18. Mr. SMYTH (United States of America) pointed out that under its Rules of Procedure, the General Conference fixed the closing date on the recommendation of the General Committee, but he thought the Chairman wished to have the date fixed provisionally on the understanding that the session could be prolonged, and he supported that suggestion.

19. Mr. EMEL'YANOV (Union of Socialist Republics) did not accept the arguments advanced by the United Kingdom delegate and pointed out, in particular, that arrangements made by the Secretariat should not influence the General Conference's decisions.

20. He asked that a date later than 18 September should be fixed for the closing of the session.

21. Mr. DAGUERRE (Senegal) urged that the main committees should not meet the following day in order that the African delegations, and particularly the delegations of the new Member States, might be able to take an effective part in the proceedings.

22. Mr. MICHAELS (United Kingdom) said that nobody wished to restrict the participation of the African delegations in the work of the General Conference and that the Secretariat, far from influencing the decisions of Member States, had confined itself, as it should, to making the necessary practical arrangements in pursuance of the Board's decisions.

23. He could understand a desire not to hold committee meetings until after the general debate, but he could not see what was to be gained by not holding simultaneous meetings on one day only.

24. Mr. SMYTH (United States of America) asked the delegate of Senegal whether he proposed that committee meetings should be cancelled only on the following day and if he thought that the general debate would last only one day.

25. Mr. DAGUERRE (Senegal) confirmed that in his opinion most of the general debate would be completed in one day and proposed, as a compromise, that on that day only no committee meetings should be held.

26. The CHAIRMAN asked the delegate of Senegal whether he would agree to Tuesday morning being devoted exclusively to the general debate and the afternoon of that day to the Programme, Technical and Budget Committee meeting.

27. Mr. DAGUERRE (Senegal) said he could not agree to that suggestion, but if it were put to the vote he would abstain so as not to prolong the discussion.
28. Mr. EMELIANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he was opposed to fixing Friday, 18 September, as the closing date of the session.
29. Mr. HULUBEI (Romania) asked that the date be left open and that delegates be invited to complete the work as soon as possible.
30. Mr. QUIHILLALT (Argentina) thought that the sessions should last more than a week, but that it was too late to go back on the forecasts that had been made, since most delegates had already made arrangements for their departure and could not prolong their stay.
31. Replying to a question by Mr. SUDARSONO (Indonesia), the CHAIRMAN confirmed that under Rule 8 of its Rules of Procedure the General Conference had to fix the closing date at the beginning of the session. He suggested that the Committee make no written recommendations to the General Conference, but authorize him to consult delegations and report orally at a plenary meeting.
32. It was so decided.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NINTH REGULAR SESSION (GC(VIII)/269)

33. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that under Rule 1 of its Rules of Procedure the General Conference was required each year to fix the opening date of its next session. He drew the Committee's attention to the fact that the Conference had received an invitation from the Government of Japan to hold the ninth regular session at Tokyo (GC(VIII)/269). He believed that the Committee would wish to recommend to the General Conference that it accept the Japanese Government's invitation with gratitude.
34. It was so decided.
35. The CHAIRMAN said that, for reasons of climate, the Japanese Government had suggested 5 October 1965 as the most favourable date for the opening of the session.

36. Mr. SMYTH (United States of America) thanked the Japanese Government for its generous offer. With regard to the suggested date, he pointed out that an important conference on water desalination, which many delegates to the General Conference would wish to attend, was to be held in Washington at that time.

37. Mr. MICHAELS (United Kingdom) observed that by 5 October the academic terms would have begun, so that it would be difficult for people holding university appointments to visit Tokyo.

38. Mr. UCHIDA (Japan) emphasized that his Government had only suggested 5 October for the reason mentioned by the Chairman and that it would be quite willing to consider any other date.

39. The CHAIRMAN suggested, in the light of the discussion, that the Committee authorize him to make an oral recommendation in its name to the Conference concerning the opening date of the ninth session after he had had an opportunity to consult delegations.

40. It was so decided.

ELECTIONS OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (GC(VIII)/274; GC(VIII)/GEN/25)

41. The CHAIRMAN called attention to the Director General's memorandum (GC(VIII)/GEN/25). The Annex to that document contained a draft report which the Committee could submit to the General Conference.

42. Mr. DAGUERRE (Senegal) supported the Director General's memorandum, but made every possible reservation regarding the Annex, since he considered that, in view of its policy of racial discrimination, South Africa was in no way qualified to represent the African continent on the Board of Governors.

43. Mr. ABUBAKAR (Nigeria) associated himself with the reservations made by the delegate of Senegal.

44. The draft report was approved subject to those reservations.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.