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# GENERAL CONFERENCE

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Thirty-fifth regular session  
Item 18 of the provisional agenda  
(GC(XXXV)/952)

## AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE VI.A.2 OF THE STATUTE

The summary record of the discussion in the Board of Governors on 13 September 1991 under the item "Amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute" is reproduced in the Attachment.

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EXCERPT FROM THE RECORD OF THE BOARD'S 765th MEETING

AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE VI.A.2 OF THE STATUTE (GC(XXXIV)/RES/542)

The CHAIRMAN recalled that, in resolution GC(XXXIV)/RES/542, the General Conference had requested the Board to continue to conduct consultations with Member States and to submit its observations and recommendations on proposed amendments for approval by the General Conference at its thirty-fifth regular session. At the Board's first meeting following the Conference's thirty-fourth session, it had been agreed that he should hold consultations and report at an appropriate time, taking into account the relevant, although separate, discussions in the informal working group on the revision of Article VI as a whole.

He had now circulated a draft report reflecting the current situation and the results of his consultations with members. That text could be submitted to the General Conference as the Board's report pursuant to resolution GC(XXXIV)/RES/542, together, perhaps, with the summary record of the Board's discussion.

Mr. CHIKELU (Nigeria) said it was now more than a decade since the question of amending Article VI.A.2 had first been brought up for discussion. Owing to lack of progress on the issue, the General Conference had adopted a resolution requesting the Board to continue its consultations and to submit recommendations to the Conference at its thirty-fifth session. That session was to start in three days' time, but members were clearly still unwilling to tackle and resolve the issue.

The fact was that the regions of Africa and of the Middle East and South Asia were clearly under-represented on the Board. Africa should receive three more seats, and the Middle East and South Asia two. Such action would give the two regions a stronger sense of affiliation with the Agency and lend greater credibility to the Board's decisions. His delegation strongly appealed to all members of the Board to accept that position. The major political changes taking place throughout the world did not affect the urgency of the matter.

Mr. HASHIMI (Pakistan)[\*] said that paragraph 3 of the draft report circulated by the Chairman should be revised to make it absolutely clear that, while perhaps some members thought the representation of particular groups could be considered not only in connection with the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute but also within the framework of discussions on Article VI as a whole, that was not the view of the Board as a whole.

Eighteen years ago, by a large majority, the General Conference had passed a resolution on the need to rectify what was perceived by many as gross under-representation on the Board of the regions of Africa and the Middle East and South Asia. Every year since, the General Conference had reiterated that call, but unfortunately little progress had been made. Many more African States had joined the Agency in the meantime, and in the course of the coming week Yemen would be admitted to membership. The question of under-representation must therefore be tackled without delay.

Taken together, the regions of the Middle East and South Asia and Africa represented 37% of the Agency's membership, but they accounted for less than 23% of the Board's membership. His delegation had no objection to the informal working group on Article VI as a whole discussing the broader implications of the question, but he could not go along with any suggestion that might reduce the importance of the more specific issue, which had originally been to meet the legitimate needs of the regions of Africa and the Middle East and South Asia. Their under-representation had to be rectified on a priority basis, irrespective of political developments elsewhere in the world.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the draft text he had circulated as its report to the General Conference pursuant to resolution GC(XXXIV)/RES/542, to be submitted together with the summary record of the Board's discussion of the issue at its present session.

It was so agreed.

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[\*] Member States not members of the Board of Governors are indicated by an asterisk.