

General Conference

GC(47)/GEN/OR.1

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Forty-Seventh (2003) Regular Session

General Committee

Record of the First Meeting

Held at the Austria Center Vienna on Monday, 15 September 2003, at 6.20 p.m.

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[*] GC(47)/1 and Add.1.

03-05269 (LXII)

Attendance

Chairman

Mr. TAKASU (Japan), President of the General Conference

Members

Ms. FEROUKHI, representing Mr. BENDJABALLAH (Algeria), Vice-President of the General Conference

Ms. HALL (Canada), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. GONZÁLEZ ANINAT (Chile), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. VILLEMUR, representing Mr. BUGAT (France), Vice-President of the General Conference

Ms. AL-MULLA (Kuwait), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. ALANG MD. RASHID, representing Mr. HASHIM (Malaysia), Vice-President of the General Conference

Ms. KUZNETSOVA, representing Mr. RUMYANTSEV (Russian Federation), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. GARCIA (Philippines), Chairman of the Committee of the Whole

Ms. QUINTERO, representing Mr. SERRANO CADENA (Colombia), Additional Member

Mr. VACEK, representing Ms. DRÁBOVÁ (Czech Republic), Additional Member

Mr. HONSOWITZ, representing Mr. ADAMOWITSCH (Germany), Additional Member

Mr. NAQVI, representing Mr. BUTT (Pakistan), Additional Member

Mr. PERSSON, representing Ms. MELIN (Sweden), Additional Member

Mr. NOBLE, representing Mr. BRILL (United States of America), Additional Member

Mr. KANGAI (Zimbabwe), Additional Member

Secretariat

Mr. EIDET, Director, Division of Budget and Finance

Mr. ANING, Secretary of the Committee

Mr. RAUTENBACH, Director, Office of Legal Affairs

- Adoption of the agenda for the meeting
(GC(47)/GEN/1)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that in conducting the Committee's business, he intended to follow the established practice whereby its meetings were private, but representatives of Member States which had requested the inclusion of an item in the agenda were entitled, pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure, to attend relevant meetings and to participate, without vote, in the discussion of their request. Representatives of other Member States could also attend the Committee's meetings and participate in discussions as decided by the Committee.

2. In addition to the two traditional sub-items under the item "Arrangements for the Conference", namely "Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items for initial discussion" and "Closing date of the session and opening date of the next session", the proposed agenda for the meeting contained a third item dealing with requests for the restoration of voting rights. So far, the Secretariat had received two such requests, from Armenia (GC(47)/INF/9) and Kazakhstan (GC(47)/INF/10).

3. The agenda was adopted.

5. Arrangements for the Conference

(a) Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items for initial discussion
(GC(47)/1 and Add.1)

4. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the provisional agenda for the Conference (GC(47)/1 and Add.1).

5. Item 2 (Applications for membership of the Agency) should be deleted, since no such applications had been received.

6. A supplementary item, entitled "Amendment of Article VI of the Statute", had been requested by the Republic of Korea; an explanatory memorandum appeared in document GC(47)/1/Add.1.

7. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend to the Conference that the agenda for the current session should consist of all the items listed in document GC(47)/1 and Add.1, except item 2.

8. It was so agreed.

9. Ms. AL-MULLA (Kuwait) said that, although she had joined the consensus to approve the inclusion of the supplementary agenda item, she questioned the wisdom of discussing the item at the current session.

10. In reply to a question from Mr. VILLEMUR (France), Mr. ANING (Secretary of the Committee) noted that it was proposed in document GC(47)/1/Add.1 that the supplementary agenda item should be considered first by the Committee of the Whole, following item 23 of the provisional agenda (Personnel).

11. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he saw no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend to the Conference the allocation of agenda items and order of discussion suggested in documents GC(47)/1 and Add.1.

12. It was so agreed.

(b) Closing date of the session and opening date of the next session

13. The CHAIRMAN said that 92 speakers had already registered to speak in the general debate. Both they and the members of the Committee of the Whole would need to show co-operation and goodwill if the Conference was to finish its work on schedule. The Committee of the Whole needed to finish its work by Thursday, 18 September.

14. Mr. GONZÁLEZ ANINAT (Chile) pointed out that a number of sensitive issues, particularly the transport of radioactive material, were likely to provoke considerable debate during the session. It would be necessary to plan discussion of those items carefully, perhaps by entrusting them to a working group and ensuring that interpretation for all languages was provided when needed.

15. He asked the Secretariat when the list of speakers in the general debate would close.

16. Mr. ANING (Secretary) said that the list of speakers would close on Wednesday, 17 September, at 12 noon.

17. The CHAIRMAN said that the item on transport of radioactive material had been allocated to the Committee of the Whole, which would decide how to deal with it.

18. If he saw no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend to the Conference a closing date for the current session of Friday, 19 September 2003.

19. It was so agreed.

20. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that, for the next regular session, conference facilities at the Austria Center had been provisionally booked for the week beginning Monday, 20 September 2004.

21. Mr. ANING (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Agency made provisional bookings of the Austria Center covering a period of about 10 years. Conference facilities were very scarce, and it would be difficult to change the provisional dates. A new conference centre was being planned which might be available by 2007.

22. Ms. HALL (Canada) recalled that, the previous year, a number of delegations had suggested that the Conference should open later than had been the custom in the past. She appreciated that arrangements had to be made a long time in advance, but hoped that it might in future be possible for the Conference to begin later, while ensuring that it did not clash with the opening meetings of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.

23. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend to the Conference that the opening date of the next regular session should be Monday, 20 September 2004.

24. It was so agreed.

- **Restoration of voting rights**
(GC(47)/INF/9 and 10)

25. The CHAIRMAN said that requests for restoration of voting rights had been received from Armenia (GC(47)/INF/9) and Kazakhstan (GC(47)/INF/10). Further requests might be forthcoming during the week.,

26. Ms. HALL (Canada) said that the delegation of Armenia hoped to be present during the discussion of its request.

27. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the requests for restoration of voting rights should be considered at the Committee's meeting on the morning of Thursday, 18 September when it would be meeting as a credentials committee, and that the delegation of Armenia should attend that meeting.

28. It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.