Examination of Delegates' Credentials

Report of the General Committee

1. At its second meeting, on 29 September 2005, the General Committee examined the credentials of delegates to the session, as provided for in Rule 28 of the Conference's Rules of Procedure.

2. At the outset, the Chairman of the Committee mentioned Rules 27, 28 and 29 of the Rules of Procedure, and read out the following points of Rule 27 regarding credentials for the General Conference:

   (a) Credentials designate the delegate of a Member State to a given session of the General Conference;

   (b) They are submitted to the Director General; and

   (c) They are issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

3. Credentials satisfying the requirements of Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure have been submitted to the Director General for the delegates of the following 96 Members:

   Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Korea, Republic of, Latvia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico.
4. Various official communications, which do not constitute formal credentials under Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure have been received by the Secretariat. Copies of original credentials have been received for the delegates of the following 13 Members: Botswana, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, South Africa and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Communications in the form of notes, or letters or telefax copies emanating from Permanent Missions or other authorities have been received for the delegates of the following 17 Members: Afghanistan (Islamic Republic of), Albania, Bangladesh, Benin, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Panama, Paraguay, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sudan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Venezuela.

5. The Chairman of the Committee pointed out that the Committee had received a document (GC(49)/24) containing reservations submitted by the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman (the Dean of the Arab Diplomatic Corps in Vienna) on behalf of certain Arab delegations participating in the 49th General Conference, concerning their reservations about the credentials of the Israeli delegation to the Conference. The Chairman also pointed out that the Committee had also received a document (GC(49)/26) submitted by the delegation of Israel which sets out its position with regard to the reservations expressed by the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman on behalf of certain Arab delegations participating in the 49th General Conference.

6. Further, the Chairman of the Committee proposed that, in accordance with past practice, those delegates for whom proper credentials had not been received should, nevertheless, be allowed to participate in the work of the Conference on the understanding that they would submit credentials in due form as soon as possible, preferably before the end of the current session of the Conference.

7. The Committee, with the reservations and positions expressed above, agreed to recommend that the Conference adopt the following draft resolution:

“Examination of delegates’ credentials

The General Conference

Accepts the report by the General Committee on its examination of the credentials of delegates to the Conference’s forty-ninth regular session, which is set forth in document GC(49)/27.”