

General Conference

GC(50)/GEN/OR.1

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Fiftieth (2006) Regular Session

General Committee

Record of the First Meeting

Held at the Austria Center, Vienna, on Monday, 18 September 2006, at 2.20 p.m.

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¹ GC(50)/21.

Attendance

Chairman

Mr. MINTY (South Africa), President of the General Conference

Members

Mr. NIEUWENHUYS (Belgium), Vice-President of the General Conference

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

Mr. KHALIL, representing Mr. RAMZY (Egypt), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. SOLTANIEH, representing Mr. AGHAZADEH (Islamic Republic of Iran), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. KIM Sung-Hwan, representing Mr. KIM Woo-Sik (Republic of Korea), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. SERGEEV, representing Mr. KIRIENKO (Russian Federation), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. SHANNON (Australia), Chairman of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. KORNELIOU (Cyprus), Additional Member

Mr. DENIAU, representing Mr. BUGAT (France), Additional Member

Mr. NIEWODNICZAŃSKI, representing Mr. WASZCZYKOWSKI (Poland), Additional Member

Mr. OTHMAN (Syrian Arab Republic), Additional Member

Mr. GLASS, representing Mr. BODMAN (United States of America), Additional Member

Ms. GARCIA DE PÉREZ, representing Mr. MÁRQUEZ MARÍN (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), Additional Member

Secretariat

Mr. ANING, Secretary of the Committee

– **Adoption of the agenda for the meeting**
(GC(50)/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. The proposed agenda for the meeting contained 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".

3. The agenda was adopted.

6. Arrangements for the Conference

(a) Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items for initial discussion (GC(50)/1)

4. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the provisional agenda for the Conference (GC(50)/1). 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(50)/1.

5. It was so agreed.

6. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the allocation of items for initial discussion and the order of discussion suggested in document GC(50)/1. If there were no objections, and disregarding the slight reordering of items during the opening Plenary meeting to accommodate the arrival of the Federal President of Austria, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference the allocation of agenda items for initial discussion and the order of discussion suggested in document GC(50)/1.

7. It was so decided.

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

8. The CHAIRMAN said that the number of speakers registering to speak in the general debate was one of the main factors influencing the length of the session. Over 100 delegations had registered to speak so far. The cooperation and goodwill of all delegations would be required if the Conference was to finish its work on schedule. The Committee of the Whole needed to finish its work by Thursday evening at the latest. If there were no objections he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend to the Conference a closing date for the current session of Friday, 22 September 2006.

9. It was so decided.

10. 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, 17 September 2007.

11. Mr. OTHMAN (Syrian Arab Republic) asked whether it might be feasible to take into consideration the beginning and end of Ramadan when scheduling future sessions.

12. The CHAIRMAN said that the current arrangements for booking conference facilities left little room for manoeuvre. However, should the situation change, he was certain that the Secretariat would endeavour to accommodate that concern to the extent possible.

13. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend to the Conference an opening date for the next regular session of Monday, 17 September 2007.

14. It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 2.30 p.m.