Examination of Delegates' Credentials

Report of the General Committee

1. At its second meeting, on 20 September 2007, 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 98 Members:

   Albania
   Angola
   Argentina
   Armenia
   Australia
   Austria
   Azerbaijan
   Bangladesh
   Belarus
   Belgium
   Bolivia
   Botswana
   Brazil
   Bulgaria
   Burkina Faso
   Cameroon
   Canada
   Chad
   Chile

   China
   Colombia
   Costa Rica
   Cote d'Ivoire
   Croatia
   Cuba
   Cyprus
   Czech Republic
   Denmark
   Dominican Republic
   Ecuador
   Egypt
   El Salvador
   Estonia
   Ethiopia
   Finland
   France
   Georgia
   Germany

   Ghana
   Greece
   Holy See
   Hungary
   Iceland
   India
   Indonesia
   Iraq
   Ireland
   Israel
   Italy
   Japan
   Jordan
   Korea, Republic of
   Kuwait
   Latvia
   Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
   Liechtenstein
   Lithuania
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 15 Members: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Haiti, Kenya, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mali, Namibia, Pakistan, Peru, Senegal and Venezuela. 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 20 Members: Benin, Gabon, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Malawi, Mauritania, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania and Uzbekistan.

5. The Chairman of the Committee pointed out that the Committee had received a document (GC(51)/29) containing reservations submitted by the Head of the Mission of the League of Arab States on behalf of certain Arab delegations participating in the 51st 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(51)/30) submitted by the delegation of Israel which sets out its position with regard to the reservations expressed by the Head of the Mission of the League of Arab States on behalf of certain Arab delegations participating in the 51st 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 fifty-first regular session, which is set forth in document GC(51)/31.”