

General Conference

GC(53)/INF/1

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Fifty-third regular session

Inscription in the List of Speakers in the General Debate

1. In 1989, the General Conference adopted a procedure for determining the order of speakers in the general debate as follows¹:

- 1.1. At a previously announced date and time, the Secretary of the Policy-making Organs shall be available for a period of one hour to receive applications from Member States wishing to speak early during the general debate. All those who apply during this period shall be eligible for inclusion in a ballot, which shall be held shortly after the closure of the application period. The ballot shall be organized by representatives of the Secretariat and held in the presence of any representatives of Member States who indicate a wish to attend. The ballot shall determine an order of priority among all the participating Member States.
- 1.2. The names of any Member States applying for inclusion in the speakers' list after the end of the period designated for application for inclusion in the ballot shall be added to the list in the order in which they apply.
- 1.3. By mutual agreement, Member States shall be permitted to exchange places on the speakers' list.
- 1.4. The practice of giving special priority to **Ministers** shall continue, the Secretariat being guided entirely by information provided by Member States.

2. In 1998, the General Conference decided² to confer upon Palestine additional rights and privileges of participation in the work of the Agency, including the right to participate in the general debate. Palestine is therefore entitled to be included in the speakers' list of the general debate in accordance with this decision and the practice of the United Nations.

3. Accordingly, the Secretariat of the Policy-making Organs will be available in Room A-2812 at the Vienna International Centre from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Monday, 22 June 2009, to receive applications for inclusion in the list of speakers in the general debate at the forthcoming 53rd regular session of the General Conference. A ballot to determine the order among those who have applied will be held at 11:00 a.m. on that day.

¹ See GC(XXXIII)/GEN/77 and GC(XXXIII)/OR.320, paras 12-15.

² GC(42)/RES/20.

4. The general debate at the Conference usually extends over about four days. As part of efforts to streamline the work of the Conference to make the best use of time available, the General Conference decided in 1998 to limit the length of speeches to a maximum of 15 minutes in the plenary and 5 minutes in committee sessions. Speakers may wish to bear this in mind when preparing their statements and interventions.