Tenth special session

ANOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE TENTH SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In pursuance of a decision of the General Assembly (resolution 2837 (XXVI), annex II, para. 17 (b)), an annotated agenda is issued on 15 June for each regular session of the General Assembly.

2. Although no such arrangement was provided for special sessions, this document has been prepared in the hope that it may facilitate the work of delegations.

3. The tenth special session of the General Assembly was convened in pursuance of resolution 31/189 B, by which the Assembly decided to hold a special session in May/June 1978, and of resolution 32/88 B, by which the Assembly, inter alia, endorsed the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament 1/ and the recommendation contained therein that the special session should be held between 23 May and 28 June 1978. On 21 April 1978, the Preparatory Committee concluded its work and submitted its final report. 2/

4. The provisional agenda, provided for in rule 16 of the rules of procedure, was issued on 25 April (A/5-10/10).

5. The tenth special session will open at United Nations Headquarters on Tuesday, 23 May 1978, at 3 p.m.

II. ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Yugoslavia

Rule 30 of the rules of procedure provides that, at the opening of each session of the General Assembly, the Chairman of that delegation from which the President of the previous session was elected shall preside until the Assembly has elected a President for the session. 3/

2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation

Rule 62 of the rules of procedure provides that, immediately after the opening of the first plenary meeting and immediately preceding the closing of the final plenary meeting of each session of the General Assembly, the President shall invite the representatives to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation. This provision was incorporated in the rules of procedure at the fourth session. 4/

2/ Ibid., Tenth Special Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/5-10/1).
3/ For the election of the President, see item 4.
4/ Resolution 362 (IV), annex I.
3. **Credentials of representatives to the tenth special session of the General Assembly:**

(a) **Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee**

(b) **Report of the Credentials Committee**

In accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure, the credentials of representatives and the names of members of a delegation are to be submitted to the Secretary-General, if possible not less than one week before the opening of the session. The credentials must be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Under rule 29 of the rules of procedure, a Credentials Committee consisting of nine members is appointed by the General Assembly at the beginning of each session on the proposal of the President. The members of the Committee are traditionally appointed at the first plenary meeting, on the proposal of the temporary President and before the election of the President for the session. The Committee elects a Chairman, but no Vice-Chairman or Rapporteur.

On completion of its work, the Committee submits a report to the General Assembly.

It should be noted that at the third to ninth special sessions the General Assembly decided that the membership of the Credentials Committee would be the same as at the preceding regular session. The Preparatory Committee recommended to the Assembly that a similar procedure should be followed in the case of the tenth special session (A/S-10/1, vol. I, para. 24). This recommendation has already been endorsed by the Assembly (resolution 32/88 B).

At the thirty-second session, the Credentials Committee consisted of the following Member States:

Canada, China, Ecuador, Fiji, Madagascar, Nepal, Nigeria, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America.

4. **Election of the President of the General Assembly**

Under rule 31 of the rules of procedure, the President of the General Assembly is elected by the Assembly and holds office until the close of the session at which he was elected. In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election is held by secret ballot and there are no nominations. The President is elected by a simple majority.

It should be noted that at the third to ninth special sessions the General Assembly decided that the President would be the same as at the preceding regular session. The Preparatory Committee recommended to the Assembly that a similar procedure should be followed in the case of the tenth special session (A/S-10/1, vol. I, para. 21). This recommendation has already been endorsed by the Assembly (resolution 32/88 B).
5. Organization of the session

Under rule 38 of the rules of procedure, the General Committee comprises the President of the General Assembly (see item 4), the 17 Vice-Presidents and the Chairmen of the seven Main Committees. The Preparatory Committee recommended to the Assembly that the General Committee for the tenth special session should also include the Chairman of the committee of the whole (see below, 'Ad Hoc Committee of the Tenth Special Session') and the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee (A/S-10/1, vol. I, para. 25). This recommendation has already been endorsed by the Assembly (resolution 32/88 B).

Vice-Presidents

The President of the General Assembly is assisted by 17 Vice-Presidents. The duties involved are performed by heads of delegations of Member States, and not by individuals elected in their personal capacity.

Under rule 31 of the rules of procedure, the Vice-Presidents are elected by the General Assembly and hold office until the close of the session at which they were elected. In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election is held by secret ballot and there are no nominations. Vice-Presidents are elected by a simple majority.

It should be noted that at the third to ninth special sessions the General Assembly decided that the Vice-Presidents would be the same as at the preceding regular session. The Preparatory Committee recommended to the Assembly that a similar procedure should be followed in the case of the tenth special session, on the understanding that regional groups might make substitutions of Vice-Presidents allocated to each group (A/S-10/1, vol. I, para. 22). This recommendation has already been endorsed by the Assembly (resolution 32/88 B).

At the thirty-second session, the following Member States served as Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly:

China, Cyprus, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Gabon, Guatemala, Indonesia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Netherlands, Peru, Sierra Leone, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

Chairmen of the Main Committees

As provided in rule 98 of the rules of procedure, the General Assembly has seven Main Committees.

Rule 103 stipulates that each Main Committee shall elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. It also states that the elections shall be held by secret ballot unless the Committee decides otherwise in an election where only one candidate is standing. Since in the great majority of cases only one candidate is nominated, most officers of Main Committees are elected by acclamation.

In addition, rule 103 provides that the nomination of each candidate shall be limited to one speaker, after which the Committee shall immediately proceed to the election.
It should be noted that at the third to ninth special sessions the General Assembly decided that the Chairmen of the Main Committees would be the same as at the preceding regular session. It should also be noted that the Chairmen of Main Committees of the preceding session who were not available were replaced:

(a) At the third to fifth special sessions and at the seventh to ninth special sessions, by a member of the same delegation;

(b) At the sixth special session:

(i) In one instance, by a member of the same delegation;

(ii) In two instances, by a member of a delegation from the same region.

The Preparatory Committee recommended to the Assembly that the Chairmen of the Main Committees should be the same as at the thirty-second session, on the understanding that they might be replaced by members of their delegations or members of delegations of States belonging to the same regional group (A/S-10/1, vol. I, para. 25). This recommendation has already been endorsed by the Assembly (resolution 32/88 B).

The Chairmen of the Main Committees at the thirty-second session were:

First Committee: Mr. Frank Edmund Boaten (Ghana)
Special Political Committee: Mr. Bernhard Neugebauer (German Democratic Republic)
Second Committee: Mr. Peter Jankowitsch (Austria)
Third Committee: Mrs. Lucille Mair (Jamaica)
Fourth Committee: Mr. Mowaffak Alalaf (Syrian Arab Republic)
Fifth Committee: Mr. Morteza Talieh (Iran)
Sixth Committee: Mr. Enrique Gaviria (Colombia)

Ad Hoc Committee of the Tenth Special Session

At its sixth special session, the General Assembly established a committee of the whole, named "Ad Hoc Committee of the Sixth Special Session". Similarly, at its seventh and ninth special sessions respectively, the Assembly established an Ad Hoc Committee of the Seventh Special Session and an Ad Hoc Committee of the Ninth Special Session.

The Preparatory Committee recommended to the General Assembly the establishment of a committee of the whole, with as many open-ended groups or subsidiary organs as might be necessary. The Preparatory Committee also recommended that the Chairman of the committee of the whole should be elected by the Assembly at its special session (A/S-10/1, vol. I, para. 23). This recommendation has already been approved by the Assembly (resolution 32/88 B).
In its final report, the Preparatory Committee recommended to the General Assembly that the committee of the whole should have a 10-member bureau consisting of a Chairman, eight Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur (A/8-10/1, vol. 1, para. 47), and that the committee of the whole should begin its work on 1 June 1978 (ibid., para. 50). The Preparatory Committee also approved a number of recommendations to the Assembly regarding the hearing by the committee of the whole of statements of non-governmental organizations and research institutes dealing with disarmament (ibid., paras. 51 and 52).

6. Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament

At its thirty-first session, the General Assembly, in deciding to convene a special session on disarmament, also decided to establish a Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament, composed of 54 Member States appointed by the President of the Assembly, with the mandate of examining all relevant questions relating to the special session, including its agenda, and of submitting to the Assembly at its thirty-second session appropriate recommendations thereon (resolution 31/189 B).

The President of the General Assembly, after consultations with the Chairmen of the regional groups, appointed the following States as members of the Preparatory Committee:

Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guyana, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

The Preparatory Committee held an organizational session from 28 to 30 March and substantive sessions from 9 to 20 May and from 31 August to 9 September 1977.

At its thirty-second session, the General Assembly endorsed the report of the Preparatory Committee (A/32/41 and Corr.1) and the recommendations contained therein with regard to the organization of the work of the special session and requested the Committee to continue its work in order to prepare a draft final document or documents for consideration and adoption by the Assembly at its special session and to submit to the Assembly its final report (resolution 32/88 B).

In 1978, the Preparatory Committee held two substantive sessions, from 24 January to 24 February and from 4 to 21 April.

At the tenth special session, the General Assembly will have before it the final report of the Preparatory Committee (A/8-10/1). 5/

5/ For the other documents of the tenth special session, see items 9 to 12.
7. Adoption of the agenda

Rules 16 to 19 of the rules of procedure deal with the agenda of special sessions.

The General Assembly adopts the agenda by a simple majority.

In this connexion, it should be noted that at the third to ninth special sessions the agenda was adopted without a vote and without first being referred to the General Committee.

The provisional agenda of the tenth special session, as recommended by the Preparatory Committee, was issued on 25 April 1978 (A/S-10/10).

8. General debate

The Preparatory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should hold a general debate in plenary from the afternoon meeting of 24 May to the afternoon meeting of 9 June 1978 (A/S-10/1, vol. I, para. 45). It further recommended that on 29 May, an official United Nations holiday, the Assembly should hold a morning meeting to continue the general debate (ibid., para. 46).

During the period of the general debate, heads of delegations may state the views of their Governments on any item before the special session.

In accordance with paragraph 46 of annex V to the rules of procedure, the list of speakers wishing to take part in the general debate is closed at the end of the third day after the opening of the debate.

9. Review and appraisal of the present international situation in the light of the pressing need to achieve substantial progress in the field of disarmament, the continuation of the arms race and the close interrelationship between disarmament, international peace and security and economic development

10. Adoption of a declaration on disarmament

11. Adoption of a programme of action on disarmament

12. Review of the role of the United Nations in disarmament and of the international machinery for negotiations on disarmament, including in particular the question of convening a world disarmament conference

These four closely-related substantive items formed part of the provisional agenda as recommended by the Preparatory Committee in its 1977 report, which was endorsed by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session (resolution 32/88 B).

The final report of the Preparatory Committee (A/S-10/1) contains a draft Final Document, recommended for adoption by the General Assembly at its special session, which contains, in addition to an introduction, three other parts entitled "Declaration", "Programme of Action" and "Machinery". The opening section of the declaration is entitled "Review and appraisal".
At the tenth special session, the General Assembly will have before it the following documents for the consideration of items 9 to 12:

(a) Report of the Preparatory Committee called for under resolution 32/88 B: Supplement No. 1 (A/S-10/1);

(b) Special report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament called for under resolutions 32/77, 32/78 and 32/80: Supplement No. 2 (A/S-10/2);

(c) Special report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference called for under resolution 32/89: Supplement No. 3 (A/S-10/3);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, called for under resolution 32/83 (A/S-10/5);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the reduction of military budgets, called for under resolution 32/85 (A/S-10/6);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the interrelationship between disarmament and international security, called for under resolution 32/87 C (A/S-10/7);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the regional aspects of disarmament, called for under resolution 32/87 C (A/S-10/8 and addenda);

(h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ad Hoc Group on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, called for under resolution 32/75 (A/S-10/12).

In addition, the following documents have been circulated:

(a) Letter from the USSR: A/S-10/11 (under items 9 and 11);

(b) Letter from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the USSR: A/S-10/13 (under items 9, 10 and 11).