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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE
CHANGE

First session
Washington, D.C., 4-14 February 1991

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

In its resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly decided to establish a single intergovernmental negotiating process under the auspices of the General Assembly, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, for the preparation by an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of an effective framework convention on climate change. The Assembly further decided that the first negotiating session should be held in Washington, D.C., in February 1991, and authorized the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the assistance of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, to convene the first session.

The first session will convene at the Westfields International Conference Center on Monday, 4 February 1991, at 10 a.m.

1. Opening of the session

Following an opening statement of the Secretary-General, a representative of the host country will address the participants. Statements by the Executive Heads of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) will be delivered.

2. Election of the Bureau

In paragraph 11 of its resolution 45/212, the General Assembly recommended that a Bureau consisting of a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur should be elected, each of the five regional groups being represented by one member.

(a) Chairman

The Secretary-General or his representative will invite nominations from the floor.

(b) Three Vice-Chairmen

The Chairman will invite nominations from the floor.

(c) Rapporteur

The Chairman will invite nominations from the floor.

3. Organizational matters

(a) Rules of procedure

In paragraph 23 of its resolution 45/212, the General Assembly requested the head of the ad hoc secretariat for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change to prepare draft rules of procedure for consideration by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its first session.

A note on the draft rules of procedure is available in document A/AC.237/2.

(b) Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda has been circulated in document A/AC.237/1.

(c) Organization of work

(i) Participation

In paragraph 2 of its resolution 45/212, the General Assembly decided that "the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee should be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly".

In paragraph 19 of its resolution 45/212, the General Assembly invited "relevant non-governmental organizations to make contributions to the negotiating process, as appropriate, on the understanding that these organizations shall not have any negotiating role during the process, and taking into account decision 1/1 concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its first session".¹

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No.46 (A/45/46), annex I.

(ii) Schedule of meetings

The Committee will have before it document A/AC.237/3 outlining the tentative schedule of meetings.

It is proposed that plenary meetings of the Committee start at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. promptly.

(iii) General debate

It is proposed that the general debate on item 4 of the provisional agenda begin on Tuesday, 5 February, in the morning, and end on Thursday, 7 February, in the morning. Inscription for the list of speakers in the general debate will be opened on Monday, 28 January 1991, at 10 a.m., at United Nations Headquarters and is expected to be closed on Tuesday, 5 February, at 6 p.m., at the Center.

Statements in the general debate should preferably not exceed eight minutes each. Delegations wishing to have their statements distributed should provide a sufficient number of copies (300).

(iv) Subsidiary organs

The Committee may wish to establish subsidiary organs, such as working groups, to assist it in its work. In that case, these organs may wish to elect their own officers.

The Committee's attention is drawn to recommendation 15 of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Government Representatives to prepare for negotiations on a framework convention on climate change, which met at Geneva from 24 to 26 September 1990, which states that "if there are subgroups to the negotiating body, not more than two meetings of the main body or subgroups should be in session simultaneously".²

4. Preparation of an effective framework convention on climate change, containing appropriate commitments, and any related instruments as might be agreed upon

In paragraph 1 of its resolution 45/212, the General Assembly decided "to establish a single intergovernmental negotiating process under the auspices of the General Assembly, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, for the preparation by an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of an effective framework convention on climate change, containing appropriate commitments, and any related

^{2/} A/45/696, annex I, para.15.

instruments as might be agreed upon, taking into account proposals that may be submitted by States participating in the negotiating process, the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the results achieved at international meetings on the subject, including the Second World Climate Conference".

General statements would be most appropriately given in the general debate under this item and might usefully focus on issues raised in the IPCC First Assessment Report.

Following the general debate, the Committee may consider establishing a basic negotiating text. The Committee would undertake, on the basis of such a text, the preparation of a framework convention. The Committee may wish to establish, at an appropriate time, a legal drafting group to assist in that process.

The Committee will have available the documentation listed in document A/AC.237/4.

5. Adoption of the report

Delegations may wish to include in the report the date and place of the next session as well as proposals for its agenda.

In that connection, the attention of the Committee is drawn to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 45/212, in which the Assembly decided that, "subject to review of the timetable at the end of each negotiating session and taking into account the schedule of other intergovernmental meetings on environment and development matters, in particular the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, further meetings should be held at Geneva and at Nairobi, in May/June, September and November/December 1991 and, as appropriate, between January and June 1992". The Assembly also decided, in paragraph 6 of the resolution, that "the maximum duration of each of the negotiating sessions should be two weeks".

In paragraph 20 of its resolution 45/212, the General Assembly further decided that "the negotiating process shall be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities and through voluntary contributions to a trust fund established specifically for that purpose for the duration of the negotiations and administered by the head of the ad hoc secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General of the United Nations".

The report may also take into account paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 45/212, by which the Assembly considered that "the negotiations for the preparation of an effective framework convention on climate change, containing appropriate commitments, and any related legal instruments as might be agreed upon, should be completed prior to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992 and opened for signature during the Conference".

In paragraph 16 of its resolution 45/212, the General Assembly requested "the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, through the ad hoc secretariat and taking into account the relevance of the negotiations to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to keep the Preparatory Committee for the Conference and the Secretary-General of the Conference, as well as the Secretary-General of the United Nations, regularly informed in a timely manner, through regular progress reports, of the progress of the negotiations".
