
Economic and Social Council

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**CND Res.9(I). Procedure for future appointments to the Permanent Central
Opium Board**

On 3 October 1946,^{*/} the Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution requesting the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to advise the Council as to the procedure to be followed in making future appointments to the Permanent Central Opium Board created under the Convention of 19 February 1925.

The Commission examined carefully this question at its meetings of 6 and 9 December 1946. In the light of past experience, and guided by the provisions of article 19 of the Geneva Convention of 19 February 1925, the Commission has formulated the following recommendations:

(1) The Commission recommends that the Economic and Social Council, at its first session following the entry into force of the amendments to the Convention of 19 February 1925 as set forth in the annex to the protocol amending the agreements, conventions and protocols on narcotic drugs signed on 11 December 1946, request the Secretary-General to invite the parties to this Convention each to submit to him the names of two persons satisfying the conditions of article 19 of this Convention.

This article as amended by the above-mentioned protocol reads as follows:

"The Central Board shall consist of eight persons who, by their technical competence, impartiality and disinterestedness will command general confidence.

"The members of the Central Board shall be appointed by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

"In making appointments, consideration shall be given to the importance of including on the Central Board, in equitable proportion, persons possessing a knowledge of the drug situation, both in the producing and manufacturing countries on the one hand, and in the consuming countries on the other hand, and connected with such countries.

"The members of the Central Board shall not hold any office which puts them in a position of direct dependence on their Governments.

"The members shall be appointed for a term of five years, and they will be eligible for re-appointment."

When extending the invitation to the parties to the above-mentioned Convention, the Secretary-General shall be guided by the resolution of the Economic and Social Council of 3 October 1946 and the resolution of the General Assembly of 19 November 1946.

(2) Experience shows that it is of great importance that persons appointed to the Board should be willing and able to attend its meetings. It should be mentioned that in the past at least two members of the Permanent Central Opium Board have for many years not attended meetings. In these circumstances the Commission on Narcotic Drugs suggests that the Economic and Social Council request Governments in nominating persons for its consideration to give a specific statement that the persons nominated will normally be able to attend all three meetings of the Central Board each year. It is further necessary that members should acquaint themselves with the work of the Board, the conventions, past history and current questions. When asking for nominations, the Secretary-General should be requested to inform Governments in full detail of the nature of the appointments: length of tenure, number and place of

meetings each year, probable length of meetings, expenses payable, etc.

(3) In making their nominations, the Governments should satisfy themselves that each candidate proposed fulfils the conditions of article 19 of the Convention. Governments should indicate the qualifications and past experience of the persons nominated, and they should receive from the candidates proposed assurances that they are willing to serve and to attend regularly the meetings of the Board. The candidates should also be informed by their respective Governments of the nature of the appointments as indicated above in paragraph (2).

(4) When inviting Governments to nominate candidates for the Permanent Central Opium Board, the Secretary-General should indicate the date on which nominations have to reach him.

The list of candidates established by the Secretary-General should be communicated to the members of the Economic and Social Council before the session during which the Council intends to proceed with the appointment of the members of the Board.

The Council may find it advisable to set up a sub-committee to select from the above-mentioned list the names of sixteen persons who satisfy the conditions of article 19 of the 1925 Convention. Out of this list of sixteen names drawn up by its sub-committee, the Council will proceed to appoint the eight members of the Permanent Central Opium Board, as provided for in article 19 of the 1925 Convention.

(5) The Commission desires to point out that when making nominations, a Government is not bound to nominate its own national; it may, if it thinks fit, propose a national of another country.

(6) The Commission desires to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that a certain number of parties to the 1925 Convention are not Members of the United Nations. When appointing members of the Board, the Council might desire to consider carefully the advantages of appointing one member of the Board who is a national of a State non-member of the United Nations but party to the 1925 Convention.

(7) The Commission is of the opinion that the membership of the Board should be distributed as widely as possible over parts of the world concerned particularly with the problem of narcotics. The Commission feels, however, that the primary consideration in appointing members of the Board should be the qualifications and the technical competence of the candidate.

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*/ See ECOSOC Res. 12(III)A
