



UNITED NATIONS



**Seventh United Nations Congress
on the Prevention of Crime
and the Treatment of Offenders**

Milan, Italy, 26 August to 6 September 1985

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.121/3
25 July 1985

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON
THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE
TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS
Milan, 26 August-6 September 1985
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Note by the Secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 1982/29 of 4 May 1982, the Economic and Social Council, having considered the relevant recommendations made by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its seventh session with regard to the preparations for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (E/CN.5/1983/2), approved the provisional agenda for the Seventh Congress as recommended by the Committee, and endorsed the recommendations of the Committee regarding the organization of work of the Congress. By its resolution 1984/45 of 25 May 1984, the Economic and Social Council took note of the reports of the regional preparatory meetings (A/CONF.121/RPM/1 and Corr.1; A/CONF.121/RPM/2 and Corr.1; A/CONF.121/RPM/3-5) with their respective recommendations on the substantive items of the provisional agenda for the Congress and took certain other decisions regarding the organization of work of the Congress and its documentation. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to appoint a Secretary-General for the Seventh Congress, in accordance with the standard practice for major United Nations conferences.

* A/CONF.121/1.

II. PRE-CONGRESS CONSULTATIONS

2. The Economic and Social Council also decided, in its resolution 1984/45, that the Seventh Congress should be held from 26 August to 6 September 1985, with two days of pre-Congress consultations. The pre-Congress consultations will be held on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 August 1985. The purpose of the consultations, which will be open to all participating States, is to reach agreement on recommendations to be made on all procedural and organizational matters to be dealt with by the Congress on the opening day, such as the election of officers and the composition of the General Committee, the distribution of posts in the General Committee among regional groups, the adoption of the rules of procedure, the adoption of the agenda and organization of work, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee and arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

3. Rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure for the Congress, as approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1985/134 of 29 May 1985, provides that:

"The Congress shall elect from among the representatives of participating States a President, 24 Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur-General, as well as a Chairman for each of the committees provided for in rule 43. These 28 officers shall constitute the General Committee and shall be elected on the basis of ensuring its representative character."

4. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control and the practice followed by the Sixth Congress, it is understood that, in accordance with this formulation, 27 of the 28 officers constituting the General Committee would be distributed according to the same geographical pattern followed by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control and the Economic and Social Council, namely, seven representatives from African States, six from Asian States, three from Eastern European States, five from Latin American States, and six from Western European and Other States, and that, while the presidency would go to the head of the delegation of the host country in accordance with standard practice, it would not be counted for the purposes of the regional distribution pattern.

5. It is hoped that regional groups will be in a position to make known their nominations for the posts in the General Committee at the pre-Congress consultations. In this context it is relevant to recall that, under rule 41, all elections are to be held by secret ballot, unless the Congress decides otherwise, in an election where the number of candidates does not exceed the number of elective places to be filled.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

6. The Congress will have before it the provisional rules of procedure as approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decisions 1979/25 of 9 May 1979 and 1980/105 of 6 February 1980, as amended by decision 1985/134. In this last decision, the Council also decided that, at the Seventh Congress, the provisional rules of procedure should be modified, as appropriate, to take into account the appointment of the Secretary-General of the Congress pursuant to Council resolution 1984/45.

7. It is proposed that, in order to give effect to this decision, the text of rules 13 and 15 of the provisional rules of procedure should be modified as follows:

(a) Rule 13

Old text:

"1. The Secretary-General of the Congress shall be the Secretary-General of the United Nations. He, or his representative, shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Congress and its subsidiary organs.

"2. The Secretary-General shall appoint an Executive Secretary of the Congress and shall provide and direct the staff required by the Congress and its subsidiary organs."

Proposed new text:

"1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint a Secretary-General and an Executive Secretary of the Congress and shall provide the staff required by the Congress and its subsidiary organs.

"2. The Secretary-General of the Congress or her representative shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Congress and its subsidiary organs. She shall direct the staff assigned to perform services in connection with the Congress."

(b) Rule 15

Old text:

"The Secretary-General or any member of the secretariat designated for that purpose may at any time make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration."

Proposed new text:

"The Secretary-General of the Congress or any member of the secretariat designated for that purpose may at any time make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration."

V. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Provisional agenda

8. The provisional agenda for the Seventh Congress, as approved by the Economic and Social Council is its resolution 1982/29, is contained in document A/CONF.121/1.

B. Allocation of items

9. By its resolution 1984/45, the Economic and Social Council, inter alia, decided that items 1, 2, 3 and 8 of the provisional agenda should be considered in plenary meetings, that items 4 and 7 should be allocated to Committee I and items 5 and 6 to Committee II of the Congress. The attached annex contains the draft timetable for the work of the Congress, with the understanding that each Committee will decide on its own organization of work.

C. Organization of meetings

10. The resources available to the Congress permit the holding of a maximum of three simultaneous meetings in the morning and an equal number in the afternoon, including working groups, informal consultations and regional group meetings requiring interpretation services.

11. In accordance with the provisions of rule 43 of the provisional rules of procedure, each committee (and by extension, the plenary) may set up sub-committees and working groups, to the extent permitted by available resources.

12. Meetings shall normally be scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. In order to ensure the most efficient utilization of available resources, it is recommended that all meetings should start promptly at the scheduled times.

VI. CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CONFERENCE: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

13. Rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that there shall be a Credentials Committee of nine members appointed by the Congress on the proposal of the President and that its membership shall, as far as possible, be the same as that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its preceding session.

14. The Credentials Committee of the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly was composed of the following States: Bhutan, China, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Italy, Ivory Coast, Paraguay, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America. In accordance with established practice, it is understood that if one of those States is not present, it would be replaced by another State from the same regional group.

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VII. REPORT OF THE CONGRESS

15. In accordance with the practice followed by previous congresses, it is recommended that the report of the Congress should consist of the decisions of the Congress, a brief account of the events leading to the convening of the Congress and the proceedings, including a summary of the substantive work conducted by the plenary and by the committees of the whole, as well as a repertorial account of the action taken in plenary meeting.

16. As has also been the practice, it is recommended that each regional group should be requested to designate, before the opening of the Congress, two persons to serve as friends of the Rapporteur-General, as well as a similar number to serve in the same capacity in respect of each of the rapporteurs of the committees of the whole, to assist those officials in preparing the draft reports of the Congress.

VIII. OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE

17. Rule 44 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that, in addition to a Chairman elected by the Congress pursuant to rule 6, each committee shall itself elect a Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of participating States. The same rule further provides that sub-committees and working groups shall each elect a Chairman and no more than two Vice-Chairmen from among the representatives of participating States.

18. It is recommended that agreement on the slate of candidates for those posts should be reached before the opening of the Congress, thus allowing elections by acclamation and dispensing with the requirements of a secret ballot.

Annex

PROPOSED TIMETABLE OF THE WORK OF THE CONGRESS

Plenary

First week (26-30 August)

Monday, 26 August
(10 a.m.)

Item 1 Opening of the Congress

Item 2 Organizational matters

(p.m.)

Item 3 New dimensions of criminality and
crime prevention in the context of
development: challenges for the
future

27-30 August
(a.m. and p.m.)

Item 3 (continued)

Second week (2-6 September)

2-4 September
(a.m. and p.m.)

Item 3 (continued)

5 and 6 September
(a.m. and p.m.)

Consideration of reports of
Committee I and Committee II, as
available

Action on proposals submitted under
item 3

Item 8 Adoption of the report of the
Seventh Congress

Committee I

First week (26-30 August)

Monday, 26 August
(3 p.m.)

Election of officers and
organization of work; introduction
of item 4

27-29 August
(a.m. and p.m.)

Item 4 Criminal justice processes and
perspectives in a changing world

/...

30 August
(a.m.) Item 7 Formulation and application of
United Nations standards and norms
in criminal justice

(p.m.) Action on draft proposals under
item 4

Second week (2-6 September)

2-4 September
(a.m. and p.m.) Item 7 (continued)

5 September
(a.m.) Action on draft proposals under
item 7

Completion of the work of the
Committee

Committee II.

First week (26-30 August)

Monday, 26 August
(3 p.m.) Election of officers and
organization of work; introduction
of item 6

27-29 August Item 6 Youth, crime and justice

30 August
(a.m.) Item 5 Victims of crime.

(p.m.) Action on draft proposals under
item 6

Second week (2-6 September)

2-4 September
(a.m. and p.m.) Item 5 (continued)

5 September
(a.m.) Action of draft proposals under
item 5

Completion of the work of the
Committee

This archiving project is a collaborative effort between United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and American Society of Criminology, Division of International Criminology. Any comments or questions should be directed to Cindy J. Smith at CJSmithphd@comcast.net or Emil Wandzilak at emil.wandzilak@unodc.org.