SUMMARY RECORD (PARTIAL)* OF THE 3rd MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 10 September 1991, at 3 p.m.

President: W. GARCIA MORITAN (Argentina)

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Election of the Vice-Presidents of the Conference and Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Committee of the Whole, the Drafting Committee and the Credentials Committee (continued)

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(a) Appointment of the Credentials Committee (continued)

Programme of work

* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Official Records Editing Section, room E.4108, Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Any corrections to the records of the meetings of this Conference will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the Conference.
The discussion covered in the summary record began at 4.30 p.m.


1. The PRESIDENT said that, following consultations in the various regional groups concerning the officers to be elected pursuant to rule 5 of the rules of procedure, the following candidates had been proposed for the 20 posts of Vice-President: for Africa, Ethiopia, Senegal and Tunisia; for Asia, China, India, Japan and Pakistan; for Eastern Europe, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Poland, Romania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; for Latin America and the Caribbean, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela; for Western Europe and other States, Australia, France, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

2. The States Parties named were elected Vice-Presidents by acclamation.

3. The PRESIDENT said that, during the consultations, agreement had likewise been reached that the Committee of the Whole would be chaired by Mr. Wagenmakers (Netherlands), the Drafting Committee by Mr. Toth (Hungary) and the Credentials Committee by Mr. Lang (Austria).

4. Messrs. Wagenmakers, Toth and Lang were elected Chairmen of the Committee of the Whole, the Drafting Committee and the Credentials Committee respectively, by acclamation.

5. The PRESIDENT, after congratulating Messrs. Wagenmakers, Toth and Lang, said it had been agreed that a representative of the delegation of the Ukrainian SSR and a representative of the delegation of Zimbabwe would be the Vice-Chairmen of the Committee of the Whole, that Mr. Azikiwe (Nigeria) would be the Vice-Chairman of the Drafting Committee and that a representative of an Asian delegation, to be named later, would be the Vice-Chairman of the Credentials Committee.

6. It was so decided.

7. The PRESIDENT, having congratulated the delegations concerned, said that, following consultations with the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, he suggested that Mr. Calderón (Peru) be nominated friend of the said Chairman.

8. It was so agreed.

9. The PRESIDENT said that the composition of the General Committee, according to rule 8 of the rules of procedure, was complete. During the consultations, however, a certain imbalance in the regional distribution of posts had been noted, a matter which he agreed with the regional coordinators should be reviewed at a later stage. He much appreciated the spirit of cooperation shown by the coordinators, which had made it possible for a better balance of representation to be achieved even though the basic problem in that regard had not been resolved. That spirit augured well for the progress of the work of the Conference.
10. Mr. SENE (Senegal), speaking on behalf of the African Group, congratulated all the members of the General Committee on their election. The African Group appreciated and endorsed the President’s reference to the imbalance in the distribution of posts; the matter was one of substance, since his own Group, which consisted of 22 members of the Conference, was represented by only 3 Vice-Presidents. The African Group had shown a high degree of compromise; nevertheless, it felt that something must be done to rectify the current inequitable distribution.

11. The PRESIDENT, having thanked the African Group for the spirit of compromise it had shown, said that its observations would be duly noted.

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CONFERENCE (agenda item 7) (continued)

(a) APPOINTMENT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (continued)

12. The PRESIDENT said that, under rule 3 of the rules of procedure, the Conference had also to appoint five further members of the Credentials Committee on the proposal of the President. On the basis of consultations, he proposed the appointment of representatives of the following five States: the Byelorussian SSR, Chile, Kenya, New Zealand and Switzerland.

13. As he heard no objection, he would take it that the Conference wished to appoint the five States he had nominated to the Credentials Committee.

14. It was so decided.

15. The PRESIDENT announced that UNESCO had applied for Observer Agency status in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 4 of the rules of procedure. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Conference wished to accede to that request.

16. It was so decided.

17. The PRESIDENT announced that the General Committee would hold its first meeting at 3 p.m. the following day in order to begin its task pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.