

XV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

361 (IV). Approval of a supplementary agreement with the Universal Postal Union concerning the use of the United Nations *laissez-passer*

The General Assembly

Approves the supplementary agreement¹ between the United Nations and the Universal Postal Union signed on 13 and 27 July 1949 concerning the use of the United Nations *laissez-passer*.

*235th plenary meeting,
22 October 1949.*

362 (IV). Methods and procedures of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Having regard to its resolution 271 (III)² of 29 April 1949 relating to the appointment of a Special Committee on Methods and Procedures of the General Assembly,

Having considered the report³ of the Special Committee and the conclusions reached therein,

Mindful of the importance of adapting its organization and procedures to its increasing responsibilities,

1. *Expresses* its satisfaction with the work performed by the Special Committee on Methods and Procedures of the General Assembly;

2. *Approves* the amendments and additions to its rules of procedure, as set forth in annex I to the present resolution;

3. *Decides* that these amendments and additions shall enter into force on 1 January 1950;

4. *Approves* the recommendations and suggestions of the Special Committee, as set forth in annex II to the present resolution;

5. *Considers* these recommendations and suggestions to be useful and worthy of consideration by the General Assembly and its committees, and requests the Secretary-General to prepare a document embodying the above-mentioned recommendations and suggestions in convenient form for use by the General Committee and the delegations of Member States in the General Assembly;

Considering that the study of factors affecting the duration of General Assembly sessions should be pursued by making use of the experience gained during future sessions of the General Assembly,

¹ See *Official Records of the fourth session of the General Assembly, Annex to the Sixth Committee, document A/944.*

² See *Official Records of the third session of the General Assembly, Part II, Resolutions, page 17.*

Without prejudice to any initiative which Member States may take in this respect,

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to carry out appropriate studies and to submit, at such times as he may consider appropriate, suitable proposals for the improvement of the methods and procedures of the General Assembly and its committees, including proposals to extend the use of mechanical and technical devices;

7. *Requests*, in particular, the Secretary-General to make the "thorough legal analysis", suggested by the Special Committee, of the questions raised in paragraph 34 of the report of the Special Committee, taking into account the proposal submitted to the Sixth Committee by the Belgian delegation⁴ and the discussions in the Sixth Committee and in the plenary meeting, and to submit a report to the fifth regular session of the General Assembly.

*236th plenary meeting,
22 October 1949.*

Annex I

Amendments and additions to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

NEW RULE 1 (a)

Duration of session

On the recommendation of the General Committee, the General Assembly shall, at the beginning of each session, fix a target date for the closing of the session.

REVISED RULE 14

Additional items

Additional items of an important and urgent character, proposed for inclusion in the agenda less than thirty days before the opening of a regular session or during a regular session, may be placed on the agenda, if the General Assembly so decides by a majority of the Members present and voting. No additional item may be considered until seven days have elapsed since it was placed on the agenda, unless the General Assembly, by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting, decides otherwise, and until a committee has reported upon the question concerned.

REGULAR AND SPECIAL SESSIONS⁵

NEW RULE 19

Explanatory memoranda

All items proposed for inclusion in the agenda shall be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and, if possible, by basic documents or by a draft resolution.

³ See *Official Records of the fourth session of the General Assembly, Supplement No. 12.*

⁴ See *Official Records of the fourth session of the General Assembly, Sixth Committee, 156th meeting, paragraph 65.*

⁵ Existing rule 19 will become 19 (a).