



General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 April 2019

Original: English

Intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

Second session

New York, 25 March–5 April 2019

Agenda item 4

Credentials of representatives

Second report of the Credentials Committee

Chair: Carl **Grainger** (Ireland)

1. At the organizational meeting of the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction held from 16 to 18 April 2018, the conference decided that the rules of procedure and the established practice of the General Assembly, as modified by Assembly resolution [72/249](#), would apply mutatis mutandis to the conference.
2. Rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides as follows:

A Credentials Committee shall be appointed at the beginning of each session. It shall consist of nine members, who shall be appointed by the General Assembly on the proposal of the President. The Committee shall elect its own officers. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report without delay.
3. At the first plenary meeting of the organizational meeting, held on 16 April 2018, the conference decided that the composition of the Credentials Committee of the conference would follow the composition of the Credentials Committee of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly and appointed Cabo Verde, China, Dominica, Indonesia, Ireland, the Russian Federation, Uganda, the United States of America and Uruguay as members of the Credentials Committee for the entire duration of the conference.
4. The Credentials Committee held its second meeting on 3 April 2019.
5. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General dated 2 April 2019 concerning the credentials of representatives to the second session of



the conference. The Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs made a statement related to the memorandum.

6. As indicated in paragraph 1 of the memorandum of the Secretary-General, as updated by the statement of the Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, formal credentials of representatives to the second session of the conference, in the form required under rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, had been submitted to the Secretary-General, as at the time of the meeting of the committee, by the European Union and the following 80 States: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Holy See, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Madagascar, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.

7. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the memorandum, as updated by the statement of the Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, information concerning the appointment of representatives to the conference had been communicated to the Secretary-General, as at the time of the meeting of the committee, by means of a facsimile communication from the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or by means of a letter or note verbale from the mission concerned, by the following 43 States: Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Lithuania, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

8. The Chair of the Credentials Committee recommended that the Committee accept the credentials of the representatives of the European Union and the States listed in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the above-mentioned memorandum, as updated, on the understanding that formal credentials of representatives of States referred to in paragraph 2 of the memorandum, as updated, as well as other States that had not yet submitted formal credentials, where applicable, would be communicated to the Secretary-General as soon as possible.

9. The Chair proposed the following draft resolution for adoption by the Committee:

The Credentials Committee,

Having examined the credentials of the representatives to the second session of the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction,

Accepts the credentials of the representatives referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the memorandum of the Secretary-General, as updated.

10. The draft resolution proposed by the Chair was adopted without a vote.

11. The representative of the United States of America dissociated from the adoption of the Committee's resolution, solely with respect to the acceptance of the credentials submitted by the Maduro regime on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
12. The representative of Ireland joined the consensus, but stated that Ireland shared the position adopted by the European Union and its member States that the presidential elections of last May in Venezuela were neither free, fair, nor credible and that Ireland fully supported the National Assembly, which was the democratic legitimate body of Venezuela, and stressed that the multidimensional crises on Venezuela can only be solved by political, democratic and peaceful means, and renewed the call for the restoration of democracy through free, transparent and credible presidential elections.
13. The representative of the Russian Federation stated that the Committee should refrain from politicizing its work and the work of the conference and stressed the importance of focusing on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.
14. The representative of China noted that the representatives of Venezuela had been recognized by the United Nations by the acceptance of its credentials by the General Assembly at its seventy-third session and also noted that the conference was not an appropriate forum for political matters and should focus on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.
15. The Chair then proposed that the Committee recommend to the conference the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Credentials of representatives to the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction" (see para. 17 below). The proposal was adopted without a vote.
16. In the light of the foregoing, the present report is submitted to the conference.

Recommendation of the Credentials Committee

17. The Credentials Committee recommends to the conference the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Credentials of representatives to the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

The intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction,

Having considered the second report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the second report of the Credentials Committee.