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WORLD COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION

GENEVA, 15-16 MAY 1984

WCED/84/2/Rev.1

1984-05-15

FINAL

RULES OF PROCEDURE

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MEETINGS

RULE 1

The Commission shall hold regular sessions as required for the performance of its work. At each session the Commission shall determine the dates and place for its next regular session. The Commission shall seek to meet in regular sessions at least once on each continent.

RULE 2

The sessions of the Commission shall be held in private unless the Commission decides otherwise.

RULE 3

Members of the Commission should attend all regular sessions of the Commission and participate throughout such sessions. Members serve on the Commission in an individual capacity; they cannot designate an alternate to participate when they are to be absent for all or part of a session.

RULE 4

Attendance at sessions of the Commission shall be limited to the Members of the Commission, essential Secretariat staff, and special guests and speakers invited under rule 18.

AGENDA

RULE 5

The provisional agenda for each regular session shall be proposed by the Chairman, taking into account the suggestions and comments by other Members of the Commission.

RULE 6

The provisional agenda should be sent out to all Members at least four weeks before the opening meeting of the session.

RULE 7

At the beginning of each regular session the Commission shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda and any revisions proposed thereto by Members.

RULE 8

During a session the Commission may revise the agenda by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only items considered by the Commission to be urgent and important shall be added to its agenda during the session.

REPORTS FOR SESSIONS

RULE 9

The basic documents and reports relating to items on the provisional agenda normally should be sent out to all Members at least three weeks before the opening of the session.

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

RULE 10

A majority of Members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

RULE 11

The Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each session of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, summarize the discussion, and announce conclusions, recommendations and decisions.

RULE 12

The Chairman shall have control over the proceedings of the Commission and over the maintenance of order at its sessions. The Chairman shall have, in particular, the power to rule on points of order raised by a Member and to propose adjournment or closure of the debate or adjournment or suspension of a session. Only the Chairman or such Members of the Commission who have been authorized by the Commission or the Chairman may express views on behalf of the Commission as a body.

RULE 13

Debate shall be confined to the question before the Commission and the Chairman may call to order a speaker whose remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

RULE 14

If the Chairman is unable to be present at a session or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman shall preside during the absence of the Chairman.

DECISIONS AND RECORDS

RULE 15

1. Except as otherwise provided in these rules, decisions of substance relating to the principal functions of the Commission shall be made by consensus among all Members participating in the session. If, after efforts have been made, a complete consensus cannot be reached, the majority and minority positions could be expressed in statements or acknowledged in the report of the Commission.

2. Decisions of substance relating to the legal, administrative and financial arrangements governing the work of the Commission, including any interpretation of its Terms of Reference, shall require the concurrence of a two-thirds majority of the Members participating in the vote (i.e. casting either an affirmative or a negative vote).

3. Decisions on procedural matters shall require the concurrence of a simple majority of the Members participating in the session.

RULE 16

After each session of the Commission, the Secretariat shall prepare a concise record of the decisions taken for circulation by the Chairman to all Members of the Commission.

RULE 17

The working language of the Commission is English.

CONSULTATIONS WITH EXPERTS AND PERTINENT ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS

RULE 18

The Commission may invite any individuals or representatives of pertinent organizations and groups to address the Commission or attend its sessions.

THE SECRETARIAT

RULE 19

The Secretariat of the Commission will be located in Geneva and be headed by a Secretary-General who will report to the Chairman and the Commission in session.

RULE 20

The Secretary-General of the Commission ex officio shall participate fully in the deliberations of the Commission but not in its decisions.

RULE 21

The Secretary-General shall be responsible for all the necessary arrangements for session of the Commission.

RULE 22

The Secretary-General will appoint and direct the Secretariat staff and external experts and consultants required to carry out the decisions and work of the Commission.

ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

RULE 23

Adoption of these Rules of Procedure, and amendments or additions thereto, become effective if two-thirds of the Members of the Commission participating in the vote concur therein.



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Item 3.1 of the Provisional Agenda

ADDENDUM TO DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 12. Addendum

Only the Chairman or such members of the Commission who have been authorized by the Commission or the Chairman may express views on behalf of the Commission as a body.

Rule 15, para 1. Addendum

In the event that a complete consensus cannot be reached,
the majority and minority positions should be expressed in
statements or in the report of the commission.

Rule 20. Addendum

He shall not have the right to vote or to participate in the decision making process of the Commission.