



CONTENTS

Agenda item 16: Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council	Page 819
---	-------------

President: Mr. Lazar MOJSOV (Yugoslavia).

AGENDA ITEM 16

**Election of eighteen members of the Economic
and Social Council**

1. The PRESIDENT: The first item on our agenda is the election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 1977. The eighteen outgoing members are: Argentina, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Japan, Kenya, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yemen and Zaire. Those 18 countries are eligible for immediate re-election.

2. I should like to remind members of the Assembly that after 1 January 1978 the following States will still be members of the Economic and Social Council: Afghanistan, Algeria, Austria, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, United States of America, Upper Volta, Venezuela and Yugoslavia. Those 36 States should therefore not appear on the ballot papers.

3. In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, the 18 members to be elected should be made up as follows: four from the group of African States, four from the group of Asian States, three from the group of Latin American States, four from the group of Western European and other States and three from the group of socialist States of Eastern Europe. The ballot papers take that pattern into account.

4. In accordance with existing practice, the required number of candidates which receive the largest number of votes, and not less than the majority required, will be declared elected. In case of a tie vote for the last place, there will be a restricted ballot limited to those candidates which have obtained an equal number of votes.

5. May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

6. The PRESIDENT: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations.

7. I request members of the Assembly to use only the ballot papers that are being distributed and to write on them the names of the Member States for which they wish to vote in each group. Ballot papers containing more names than the number assigned to that group will be declared invalid.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Al-Hussamy (Syrian Arab Republic), Mr. da Motta (Portugal), Mr. Schade (German Democratic Republic), Mr. Acemah (Uganda) and Miss Szokoloci (Venezuela) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

8. The PRESIDENT: I propose to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 3.50 p.m. and resumed at 4.50 p.m.

9. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting for the election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council is as follows:

Group A

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	144
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	144
<i>Abstentions:</i>	0
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	144
<i>Required majority:</i>	96

Number of votes obtained:

United Republic of Cameroon	140
United Republic of Tanzania	140
Central African Empire	137
Lesotho	137
Angola	1
Benin	1
Cape Verde	1
Chad	1
Mali	1
Mozambique	1

Group B

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	144
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	144
<i>Abstentions:</i>	0
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	144
<i>Required majority:</i>	96

Number of votes obtained:

India	130
China	124
United Arab Emirates	116
Japan	114
Fiji	59
Jordan	1
Kuwait	1
Lao People's Democratic Republic	1
Nepal	1
Oman	1
Viet Nam	1

Group C

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	144
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	1
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	143
<i>Abstentions:</i>	0
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	143
<i>Required majority:</i>	96

Number of votes obtained:

Trinidad and Tobago	117
Argentina	113
Ecuador	86
Dominican Republic	84
Barbados	7
Uruguay	1

Group D

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	144
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	144
<i>Abstentions:</i>	0
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	144
<i>Required majority:</i>	96

Number of votes obtained:

Sweden	141
Finland	137
Malta	137
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	126
Denmark	1
Turkey	1

Group E

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	144
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	144
<i>Abstentions:</i>	4
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	140
<i>Required majority:</i>	94

Number of votes obtained:

Romania	138
Hungary	136
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	132
Albania	2
Bulgaria	1

Having obtained the required majority, Argentina, Central African Empire, China, Finland, Hungary, India, Japan, Lesotho, Malta, Romania, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, and United Republic of Tanzania were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1978 (decision 32/311¹).

10. The PRESIDENT: Since one seat in group C, that of the Latin American States, remains to be filled, we shall now proceed, in accordance with rule 94, to a second ballot restricted to two candidates, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic, the two countries which were not elected but which obtained the greatest number of votes in the vote which has just been taken.

11. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

12. I call on the representative of Albania, who wishes to speak on a point of order.

13. Mr. BALETA (Albania) (*interpretation from French*): I shall be brief. In announcing the results of the vote, Mr. President, you said that Albania had received two votes within the group of Eastern European States. I should like to explain that Albania is not a member of that group.

14. The PRESIDENT: This clarification by the Albanian delegation will be duly recorded in the verbatim record of this meeting. We shall proceed to the voting as the ballot papers have already been distributed.

15. May I ask representatives to write on the ballot paper the name of one country for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers containing the names of States other than Ecuador and the Dominican Republic, as well as any containing more than one name, will be declared invalid.

16. I invite the representatives of the German Democratic Republic and the Syrian Arab Republic to serve as tellers and to stand by the ballot box.

17. I call on the representative of Bolivia, who would like to speak on a point of order.

18. Mr. GUTIERREZ (Bolivia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Before we begin voting, a process which cannot be interrupted by any delegation, I should merely like to make a few timely comments, to safeguard the spirit of regional unity and also the prestige and elegance befitting the General Assembly of the United Nations.

19. In the list submitted by the Latin American group, the Dominican Republic is the country which received the

¹ See also 83rd meeting, paragraph 36.

absolute consensus of the States of that region. That fact cannot be glossed over by the members of this important Assembly. I feel that when a regional group has unanimously submitted a candidate by consensus, unanimously, the General Assembly should not upset that decision. In my view, to do so would be to set a negative precedent and endanger the future procedure for deciding on candidatures because it would be prejudicial to the respectability, integrity and decorum of a region.

20. In the present case, of course, I am referring to the Latin American group, because the list submitted to you, Mr. President, received the consensus of all its members. In such circumstances the will of a regional group should not be altered by the Assembly. It seems to me that a regrettable error has been committed here, a misinterpretation of the rules of procedure.

21. The other candidatures might have been subject to a general and separate analysis by us all, since they were not sponsored unanimously. I deplore the setting of this precedent, because in the future the regions in this universal forum will not be certain that their candidates submitted and endorsed by a group will be accepted by the Assembly. On the contrary. They will be subject to review and candidates not truly elected by their region might be designated.

22. I feel that we must learn to be elected by ourselves and not by others. I feel this is a fundamental part of the rules of the game which should prevail here. As it is not possible to make a formal protest during the voting process, I should like to state for the record that this sets a dangerous precedent for future elections of representatives from our respective regions.

23. The PRESIDENT: The representative of Bolivia has given an explanation and made an appeal directed to the situation within his geographical group. I should like to remind representatives that they should adhere to rule 88 of the rules of procedure, according to which, after the voting has been announced—and we are now in the process of voting for members of the Economic and Social Council—points of order should be made only in connexion with the voting and not on the substance of the matter. I call on the representative of Ecuador on a point of order.

24. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Had the representative of Bolivia not spoken, we ourselves would not have spoken either.

25. I should just like to mention that precisely in order to maintain the unity of the Latin American group, and in full exercise of our rights as a member country, we pressed the candidature of Ecuador among those submitted by the Latin American group, for one of the seats to be awarded as a result of this election. Four candidates were submitted for three posts.

26. It has also been stated that the candidature of the Dominican Republic was endorsed, but the other three members are also fully entitled to submit their names in this vote.

27. I feel that any other consideration would have to be put forward after the election, and not now, when we are

about to proceed to the vote, because, since Ecuador has an absolute majority of the votes of the Latin American group—as we can prove—it was agreed that the four names would be submitted for the three posts. As we have said, we support the candidature of the Dominican Republic.

28. The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has heard another explanation, this time from the representative of Ecuador. I think the Assembly must now proceed to the vote and not hear explanations made for the record which concern the way in which candidatures on behalf of the Latin American States were arrived at.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Schade (German Democratic Republic) and Mr. Al-Hussamy (Syrian Arab Republic) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

29. The PRESIDENT: I shall suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 5.20 p.m. and resumed at 5.25 p.m.

30. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting in the first restricted ballot is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	141
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	1
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	140
<i>Abstentions:</i>	10
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	130
<i>Required majority:</i>	87
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Ecuador	67
Dominican Republic	63

31. The PRESIDENT: As neither of the two countries has obtained the required majority, the General Assembly will now proceed to the second restricted ballot. As before, only Ecuador and the Dominican Republic are eligible and papers containing the names of other States will be declared invalid. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Schade (German Democratic Republic) and Mr. Al-Hussamy (Syrian Arab Republic) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

32. The PRESIDENT: I propose to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 5.40 p.m. and resumed at 5.45 p.m.

33. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting in the second restricted ballot is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	140
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	1
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	139
<i>Abstentions:</i>	11
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	128
<i>Required majority:</i>	86

Number of votes obtained:

Ecuador	66
Dominican Republic	62

34. The PRESIDENT: We still do not have a conclusive vote. As neither of the two countries has obtained the required majority, the General Assembly will now proceed to the third and last restricted ballot. As in the previous ballot, only Ecuador and the Dominican Republic are eligible, and ballots containing the names of other States will be declared invalid.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Schade (German Democratic Republic) and Mr. Al-Hussamy (Syrian Arab Republic) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

35. The PRESIDENT: I propose to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 5.55 and resumed at 6 p.m.

36. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting in the third restricted ballot, is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	139
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	139
<i>Abstentions:</i>	10
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	129
<i>Required majority:</i>	86

Number of votes obtained:

Ecuador	72
Dominican Republic	57

37. The PRESIDENT: As the result of the third restricted ballot has also been inconclusive we must, therefore, in accordance with the rules of procedure, proceed now to an unrestricted ballot.

38. First I call on the representative of the Dominican Republic.

39. Mr. MORENO MARTINEZ (Dominican Republic) (*interpretation from Spanish*): In order to help to finish this procedure, I should like to remind Members that the Dominican Republic was the only one of the four Latin American countries which came to this vote in the General Assembly with a broad consensus within the Latin American group itself.

40. The PRESIDENT: The representative of the Dominican Republic has made an explanation, and I now call on the representative of Ecuador.

41. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I merely want to supplement the information provided by my friend and colleague, the representative of the Dominican Republic, by stating that the candidacy of Ecuador was also officially submitted to the Assembly by the Latin American group as one of the three candidates

recommended for the two remaining posts, so that we have an equal right.

42. The PRESIDENT: Before I call again on the representative of the Dominican Republic, I should like to remind him that, under rule 88, points of order are allowed at this juncture only in the context of the voting procedure and not for further explanation, debate or even lobbying for votes.

43. Mr. MORENO MARTINEZ (Dominican Republic) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Actually I think that these explanations do make for a better understanding of the situation. My friend, the Ambassador of Ecuador, has pointed out the truth, but I should also like to repeat that it is true also that the only country which came here with the support of the consensus of the group was the Dominican Republic.

44. The PRESIDENT: For one final time I call upon the representative of Ecuador, but not in order to proceed to further polemics about who has the bigger consensus. A consensus is always the same.

45. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I just want to state that Ecuador is one of the four candidates submitted for three posts by the Latin American group with an absolute majority of 22 votes out of 27 within that group.

46. The PRESIDENT: That is the end of the explanations and also, I think, of the election campaign.

47. We shall now proceed to the first unrestricted ballot. May I remind the Assembly that members now have the right to vote for any country in the group of Latin American States except, of course, for those in that group which are already members of the Economic and Social Council and those elected a few minutes ago for a term beginning 1 January 1978. In order to make this clear, I shall mention the names of those members which cannot be voted for in the present ballot because they are already members of the Economic and Social Council from the Group of Latin American States. They are the following: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico and Venezuela, plus the two newly elected, Argentina and Trinidad and Tobago.

48. Ballot papers will again be distributed and I would request members to write the name of one country only. Ballot papers bearing more than one name will be declared invalid.

At the invitation of the President Mr. Schade (German Democratic Republic) and Mr. Al-Hussamy (Syrian Arab Republic) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

49. The PRESIDENT: The meeting will now be suspended while the votes are counted.

The meeting was suspended at 6.15 p.m. and resumed at 6.20 p.m.

50. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting in the first unrestricted ballot is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	140
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	1
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	139
<i>Abstentions:</i>	8
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	131
<i>Required majority:</i>	88

<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Ecuador	68
Dominican Republic	60
Barbados	2
Haiti	1

51. The PRESIDENT: Since the required majority has not been obtained, according to the rules of procedure we have to go to two more unrestricted ballots, unless there is a proposal or suggestion from members of the Assembly to postpone the elections until some later date to allow time for further consultations.

52. First I should like to ask the representatives of the Dominican Republic and of Ecuador whether they insist on countinuing the ballot now?

53. Mr. MORENO MARTINEZ (Dominican Republic) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I do not feel that there is any difficulty in accepting a postponement of the ballot.

54. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): We would prefer the two ballots stipulated in the rules of procedure to be held.

55. The PRESIDENT: We shall therefore proceed with two more unrestricted ballots.

56. We shall now take the second unrestricted ballot. May I ask representatives to write on the ballot paper the name of one country for which they wish to vote, other than the names of the present members of the Economic and Social Council from the group of Latin American States and those of the two States from that group that have already been elected. I have already mentioned the names of those countries.

57. The ballot papers will now be distributed. Those bearing more than one name will be declared invalid.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Schade (German Democratic Republic) and Mr. Al-Hussamy (Syrian Arab Republic) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

58. The PRESIDENT: I propose to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 6.25 and resumed at 6.30 p.m.

59. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting in the second unrestricted ballot is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	136
<i>Number of invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	136
<i>Abstentions:</i>	6
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	130
<i>Required majority:</i>	87

<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Dominican Republic	63
Ecuador	63
Barbados	3
Guyana	1

60. The PRESIDENT: The result of the second unrestricted ballot also is inconclusive.

61. I shall call on the representatives of Ecuador and of the Dominican Republic in turn.

62. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. President, I do not feel that it is appropriate to continue to take up the time of the Assembly, and I am quite pleased to follow the course you have outlined and what my colleague from the Dominican Republic had said, namely, that we should postpone further balloting.

63. Mr. MORENO MARTINEZ (Dominican Republic) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I should simply like to reiterate that the Dominican Republic delegation is prepared to have the voting postponed, and also to say that we do indeed hope that it will be possible to reach an agreement within the Latin American group and bring before the Assembly a decision already approved by that group.

64. I should like to say something in addition, namely, that this fraternal competition has not in any way jeopardized relations between Ecuador and the Dominican Republic, but rather has demonstrated that we can compete fraternally and yet continue to be good friends.

65. The PRESIDENT: We have heard the representatives of Ecuador and the Dominican Republic. I propose that we should postpone to a later date the election for the one seat that remains to be filled, and thus give more time for further consultations. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Assembly agrees to this proposal.

It was so decided.

66. The PRESIDENT: Before we proceed to the next item on our agenda, I should like to advise the Assembly that I propose to continue this meeting until 7.15 p.m.—that is for half an hour more.

67. On a point of order, I call on the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania.

68. Mr. SALIM (United Republic of Tanzania): Mr. President, I know you have a very busy schedule, but I really believe that all of us here have had quite sufficient for one day, and though we are quite anxious to proceed to the next item, by virtue of the importance of the item itself,

and since you have only about 20 or 25 minutes to continue with this item, I should humbly like to propose that we defer further consideration of it until our next meeting so that we can adjourn now. I do so in the knowledge that, frankly, considering all that we have been going through today, it would not be the most appropriate thing to continue the discussion of Namibia at this point.

69. The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has heard the proposal of the representative of the United Republic of

Tanzania. I am quite prepared to go along with that proposal. If there is no objection to adjourning this meeting and postponing further consideration of the item on Namibia until tomorrow morning, I shall take it that the Assembly agrees to that procedure.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.45 p.m.