



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
THE SUPPRESSION OF UNLAWFUL
ACTS AGAINST THE SAFETY OF
MARITIME NAVIGATION
Agenda item 5

IMO

ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE, INCLUDING THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF OTHER COMMITTEES, AS NECESSARY

Note by the Secretary-General

I INTRODUCTION

1 Having regard to the practice followed by diplomatic conferences convened by IMO, and the decisions of the Council and the Assembly regarding the resources to be made available for the conference, the Secretary-General submits herewith, for consideration by the conference, proposals on the structure of the conference and the organization of its work, including a proposed timetable of the meetings.

II ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

A Committee Structure

2 It is suggested that the work of the conference be undertaken in a Plenary and a Committee of the Whole. The conference would also establish a Credentials Committee and a Drafting Committee. The provisional Rules of Procedure of the conference, which have been submitted to the conference in document SUA/CONF/2, include appropriate provisions along these lines. The provisional Rules of Procedure provide also for the establishment of other committees or subsidiary bodies, as may be deemed appropriate or necessary.

3 In the past, some of the diplomatic conferences convened to adopt conclusions on legal matters have found it necessary to establish separate committees entrusted with the preparation of the final clauses for the treaty

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instruments adopted. However, since the two draft instruments prepared by the Ad Hoc Preparatory Committee already contain sets of final clauses, the conference may not consider it necessary to establish a separate committee on final clauses. If this were to be the view of the conference, the final clauses for the convention and protocol would be considered in the Committee of the Whole, along with the substantive articles.

4 In the light of the foregoing, the conference is invited to consider the following structure:

- (a) a Plenary, presided over by the President or, in his absence, by one of the Vice-Presidents;
- (b) a Committee of the Whole, presided over by a Chairman elected by the Plenary, to consider the draft convention and the draft protocol, including appropriate final clauses for both instruments;
- (c) a Drafting Committee appointed by the Plenary to prepare drafts and give advice on drafting as requested by the Plenary, the Committee of the Whole or other subsidiary bodies of the conference. The Drafting Committee will also prepare the Final Act of the conference. The Drafting Committee will not be empowered to alter the substance of the texts submitted to it, but will be able to review and co-ordinate the drafting of all such texts. In view of the limited time available to the conference as a whole, it would be useful for the conference to empower the Drafting Committee to submit texts which it has prepared on the basis of the work of the Committee of the Whole directly to the Plenary for consideration and final adoption. This procedure was followed at the 1984 International Conference on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Certain Substances by Sea, and it facilitated the work of the conference without creating any significant problems;
- (d) a Credentials Committee to examine the credentials of delegations and report thereon to the Plenary.

B Interpretation and documentation

5 In accordance with the decisions of the Council and the Assembly, the official languages of the conference will be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Simultaneous interpretation at meetings of the Plenary, the Committee of the Whole and the Drafting Committee will be provided in all six official languages. The working languages of the conference will be English, French and Spanish. The documents of the conference will be issued in the working languages. The Final Act of the conference will be issued in the official languages.

6 Only one team of interpreters will be available at any particular time and it will, accordingly, not be possible to hold two simultaneous meetings requiring interpretation. It is, however, assumed that the Credentials Committee will not require interpretation.

C Timetable of meetings

7 On the basis of the structure set out above, the following schedule of meetings of the conference is suggested:

(a) Tuesday, 1 March 1988:

a.m: Meeting of heads of delegations, opening session and Plenary session for the election of officers, the adoption of the agenda and Rules of Procedure, and the organization of the work of the conference and the establishment of committees.

p.m: Meeting of the Committee of the Whole to adopt its agenda and agree on the organization of its work. The Committee of the Whole may commence its substantive work, depending on the time available.

(b) Meeting of the committees

- (i) The Committee of the Whole will hold meetings from the afternoon of Tuesday, 1 March through the end of the morning of Tuesday, 8 March, except for periods required for meetings of the Drafting Committee or the Plenary, as necessary.
- (ii) Meetings of the Drafting Committee to be held in the afternoon of 4 March and the afternoon of 8 March, and at such other times as may be necessary.
- (iii) Meetings of the Credentials Committee to be held at the times scheduled for meetings of the Drafting Committee, i.e. in the afternoon of Friday, 4 March and in the afternoon of Tuesday, 8 March.

(c) Plenary sessions

Plenary sessions to be held in the morning of Wednesday, 9 March (and afternoon if necessary) to adopt the instruments prepared by the Committee of the Whole, as drafted by the Drafting Committee. There will be no meetings in the morning of Thursday, 10 March, during which period work will be undertaken in preparing the final texts of the instruments adopted, and the Final Act for signature.

(d) Final session

The final session of the conference would be held on the afternoon of Thursday, 10 March for the signature of the Final Act by representatives of States and members of their delegations authorized to do so.

(e) Signature of treaty instruments

The treaty instruments adopted by the conference will be open for signature at IMO Headquarters during a period to be determined by the conference.

8 A provisional timetable, reflecting the above suggestions, is annexed to this document.

D Meeting of heads of delegations

9 At many previous diplomatic conferences, it has proved useful to arrange for the preliminary discussion of organizational and procedural questions by the heads of delegations at an informal meeting convened prior to the formal opening of the conference. The conclusions reached at such an informal meeting are then reported to the Plenary for formal adoption. Experience has shown that this procedure helps to reduce the time of the conference which would otherwise be taken up by procedural matters.

10 It is proposed that this procedure be followed on this occasion, and an informal meeting of heads of delegations has been suggested to be held on Tuesday, 1 March, at 10 a.m. The formal opening of the conference would then be held at 11 a.m. on that day.

III ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CONFERENCE

11 The conference is invited to consider the proposals and suggestions in this document in determining its committee structure, work programme, and timetable, and in taking such other decisions as it may deem necessary.

Work programme and schedule of meetings

Day	Tues. 1 March		Wed. 2		Thurs. 3		Fri. 4		Mon. 7		Tues. 8		Wed. 9		Thurs. 10	
	a.m	p.m	a.m	p.m	a.m	p.m	a.m	p.m	a.m	p.m	a.m	p.m	a.m	p.m	a.m	p.m
Plenary	xx												xx			xx
	xx												xx			xx
	xx												xx			xx
	xx												xx			xx
	xx												xx			xx
Committee of the Whole	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx		xx	xx	xx					
	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx			xx	xx	xx					
	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx			xx	xx	xx					
	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx			xx	xx	xx					
Drafting Committee							xx					xx				
							xx					xx				
							xx					xx				
							xx					xx				
							xx					xx				
Credentials Committee							xx					xx				
							xx					xx				
							xx					xx				
							xx					xx				

ANNEX

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