Seventeenth session
Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 23-29 November 2007
Agenda item 18

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General transmits to the General Assembly in the following document the report of the Credentials Committee
REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

1. Pursuant to rule 13(1) of its Rules of Procedure, the General Assembly, at its first technical meeting, invited the Regional Commissions to nominate the members of the Credentials Committee. The following Full Members were elected: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Iraq, Israel, Poland, and Sri Lanka.

2. At its meeting on 27 November, the Credentials Committee elected Australia, represented by Mr. Philip Noonan, to perform the functions of Chairman and the Democratic Republic of Congo, represented by Mr. Elias Kakule Mbahingana, to perform the functions of Vice Chairman (rule 13(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly).

3. During the meeting, the Committee decided to accept as valid credentials of delegations the full powers and official communications, including signed faxes, emanating from their governments and indicating the composition of their delegation to the seventeenth session of the General Assembly.

4. The Committee thus accepted the credentials of the 113 delegations of Full Members indicated below and, consequently, considered that these delegations should be regarded as validly sitting on the Assembly:

1. Albania
2. Angola
3. Algeria
4. Argentina
5. Armenia
6. Australia
7. Austria
8. Azerbaijan
9. Bahamas
10. Belarus
11. Benin
12. Botswana
13. Brazil
14. Brunei Darussalam
15. Bulgaria
16. Burkina Faso
17. Cambodia
18. Cameroon
19. Canada
20. Chad
21. Nigeria
22. Oman
23. Chile
24. China
25. Colombia
26. Costa Rica
27. Côte d'Ivoire
28. Croatia
29. Cuba
30. Cyprus
31. Czech Republic
32. Democratic Republic of the Congo
33. Dominican Republic
34. Ecuador
35. Egypt
36. El Salvador
37. Eritrea
38. Ethiopia
39. France
40. Gabon
41. Gambia
42. Georgia
43. Germany
44. Ghana
45. Greece
46. Guatemala
47. Haiti
48. Honduras
49. Hungary
5. The Committee examined, and recognized as valid, the credentials of the Flemish Community of Belgium, Hong Kong, China, and Madeira, as Associate Members of the Organization and the credentials of the Holy See, in its capacity as Permanent Observer of the Organization.

6. The Committee recognized as valid the identification papers of the Affiliate Members and invited representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental international organizations present at the seventeenth session of the General Assembly (Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 23-29 November 2007). Consequently, the Committee considered that they may be regarded as observers to this session.

7. The Committee noted that, with the new structure of the Assembly, its meeting was held too late to serve its purpose and that in future Assemblies the Committee’s report should be considered much earlier in the proceedings.