
Chapter IV

Voting

Part I

Procedural and non-procedural matters

Note

Part I is divided into two sections. Section A comprises instances in which the vote indicated the procedural character of the matter under consideration. Section B lists instances in which the vote indicated the non-procedural character of the matter. There was no discussion on the procedural or non-procedural nature of the questions under consideration.

The record of voting may be conclusive where a proposal obtained nine or more votes, with one or more permanent members casting a negative vote.964 TD0.0.964 TDas enton51.7()]TJT

| <i>Agenda item</i> | <i>Person invited</i> | <i>Meeting and date</i> | <i>Vote (in each case the proposal was adopted)</i> | <i>Permanent members casting a negative vote</i> |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|--|
| | As above | 2883, 30 August 1989 | 11-1-3 | 1 |
| | As above | 2887, 6 November 1989 | 11-1-3 | 1 |
| | As above | 2910, 15 March 1990 | 11-1-3 | 1 |
| | As above | 2923, 29 May 1990 | 11-1-3 | 1 |
| | As above | 2945, 5 October 1990 | 11-1-3 | 1 |
| | As above | 2973, 4 January 1991 | 11-1-3 | 1 |
| | As above | 2980, 27 March 1991 | 11-1-3 | 1 |
| | As above | 2989, 24 May 1991 | 11-1-3 | 1 |
| | As above | 3026, 6 January 1992 | 10-1-4 | 1 |
| | As above | 3065, 4 April 1992 | 10-1-4 | 1 |
| | As above | 3151, 18 December 1992 | 10-1-4 | 1 |
| Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia: the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina | As above | 3134, 13 November 1992 | 10-1-4 | 1 |

^a On the legal basis of participation of the Permanent Observer of Palestine, see chapter III, part I, sect. C.

B. Cases in which the vote indicated the non-procedural character of the matter

In connection with matters considered by the Security Council under its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security

| <i>Agenda item</i> | <i>Meeting and date</i> | <i>Proposals (draft resolutions, etc.)</i> | <i>Submitted by</i> | <i>Vote (in each case, the proposal was defeated)</i> | <i>Permanent members casting a negative vote^b</i> |
|--|-------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Letter dated 4 January 1989 from the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya addressed to the President of the Security Council | 2841, 11 January 1989 | S/20378 | Algeria, Colombia, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Nepal, Senegal and Yugoslavia | 9-4-2 | 3 |
| Letter dated 4 January 1989 from the representative of Bahrain addressed to the President of the Security Council | | | | | |

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| <i>Agenda item</i> | <i>Meeting and date</i> | <i>Proposals (draft resolutions, etc.)</i> | <i>Submitted by</i> | <i>Vote (in each case, the proposal was defeated)</i> | <i>Permanent members casting a negative vote^b</i> |
|---|-------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| The situation in the occupied Arab territories | 2850, 17 February 1989 | S/20463 | As above | 14-1-0 | 1 |
| | 2867, 9 June 1989 | S/20677 | As above | 14-1-0 | 1 |
| | 2889, 7 November 1989 | S/20945/ Rev.1 | As above | 14-1-0 | 1 |
| | 2926, 31 May 1990 | S/21326 | Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Yemen and Zaire | 14-1-0 | 1 |
| The situation in Panama | 2902, 23 December 1989 | S/21048 | Algeria, Colombia, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Nepal, Senegal and Yugoslavia | 10-4-1 | 3 |
| Letter dated 3 January 1990 from the representative of Nicaragua addressed to the President of the Security Council | 2905, 17 January 1990 | S/21084 | Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, Malaysia and Zaire | 13-1-1 | 1 |

^b For the context and explanations of vote, see the relevant case studies in chapter VIII.

Part II

Proceedings of the Security Council regarding voting upon the question whether the matter was procedural within the meaning of Article 27, paragraph 2, of the Charter

Note

On certain occasions the Security Council has found it necessary to decide, by vote, the question whether or not the matter under consideration was procedural within the meaning of Article 27 (2). This question has come to be termed, after the language used in the San Francisco Statement on Voting Procedure, “the preliminary question”.

There were no instances of voting on the preliminary question during the period under review.

Part III

Abstention, non-participation or absence in relation to Article 27, paragraph 3, of the Charter

Note

According to Article 27 (3) of the Charter, the affirmative vote of nine members for decisions on non-procedural (substantive) matters must include “the concurring votes of the permanent members”. Part III concerns the application of this requirement: (a) in the light of the proviso to Article 27 (3) (requiring abstention); and (b) in circumstances when a permanent member voluntarily abstains, does not participate in the vote, or is absent at the time of the vote.

A. Obligatory abstention

The proviso to Article 27 (3) states:

provided that, in decisions under Chapter VI, and under paragraph 3 of Article 52, a party to a dispute shall abstain from voting.

In the period under review, there were no cases in which members abstained in accordance with the proviso to Article 27 (3). In three instances, however, the issue of obligatory abstention was considered (see cases 1-3 below).

Consideration of abstention in accordance with the proviso to Article 27, paragraph 3

Case 1

At the 2949th meeting, held on 24 October 1990 to consider the situation in the occupied Arab territories, the representative of Cuba commented on the definition of a “party to the dispute” within the meaning of Article 27 (3). Speaking before the vote on a draft resolution, which he urged be adopted unanimously, he stated that the permanent members of the Security Council had only one special prerogative under the Charter of the United Nations, and that came at the time of a vote. Even so, the Charter was careful to specify that that special authority did not prevail in all circumstances. It did not prevail on procedural issues, or when a permanent member was a party to a dispute. If a permanent member considered that a question the Council was about to take up was

particularly important and close to it, its prerogative could not be interpreted as meaning that it could block the effective action required of the Council under Article 24. If a member of the Council had such an intimate connection with a particular issue, that would come closest to the definition of “a party to a dispute” and, in that case, it would have neither the special power of the veto nor, strictly speaking, the right to take part in the vote. As Article 27 (3) stated, it should abstain from voting.² In the event, the resolution in question was adopted unanimously.³

Case 2

At the 3033rd meeting, held on 21 January 1992 to consider items relating to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya stated that the legality of the Security Council’s work was subject to its observance and proper implementation of the provisions of the Charter. He maintained that that could not be achieved if the parties to the dispute in question were to participate in the voting on the draft resolution before the Council, submitted by France, the United Kingdom and the United States. He remarked: “[t]o disregard the legal nature of the dispute and to treat it as a political matter would constitute a flagrant violation of the explicit provisions of Article 27, paragraph 3, of the Charter.”⁴ In the event, all Council members did participate in the vote on the draft resolution in question, which was adopted unanimously as resolution 731 (1992). At the 3063rd meeting, on 31 March 1992, the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya claimed that the procedure the Council had followed in the event, the r5l2 1 To1ted unLib

By contrast, speaking after the vote at the 3033rd meeting, at which resolution 731 (1992) was adopted, the representative of the United States stated that the issue at hand was “not some difference of opinion or approach that could be mediated or negotiated”. It was, as the Security Council had just recognized, conduct threatening to all, and a direct threat to international peace and security. The mandate of the Council

Part IV

Adoption of resolutions and decisions without a vote

Note

Most procedural motions during this period were approved without a vote.⁹

Certain decisions of substance were also taken without a vote, as shown in the case of resolutions, in the table in section A below. In these particular cases, which all concerned the admission of new Members, the President, in accordance with the understanding reached in prior consultations, proposed “that the Council adopt without a vote” the draft resolution

⁹ Exceptions were the votes on the suspension of a meeting and on certain invitations to participate; see the instances cited in part I above.

contained in the relevant report of the Committee on the Admission of New Members.

No votes were taken on decisions that took the form of statements by the President on behalf of the Council or on behalf of the members of the Council. These “presidential statements” were issued after having been agreed upon by members of the Council during consultations. In some cases, they were announced at a formal meeting of the Council (section B.1); in others, they were simply issued in written form (section B.2).

In yet other instances, Security Council decisions were recorded in letters or notes from the President of the Council (section C), with no reference to a vote having been taken.

A. Cases in which the Security Council adopted resolutions without a vote

| <i>Resolution number</i> | <i>Meeting and date</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| | | Admission of new Members to the United Nations |
| 702 (1991) | 3001, 8 August 1991 | Applications of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea |
| 703 (1991) | 3002, 9 August 1991 | Application of the Federated States of Micronesia |
| 704 (1991) | 3003, 9 August 1991 | Application of the Republic of the Marshall Islands |
| 709 (1991) | 3007, 12 September 1991 | Application of the Republic of Estonia |
| 710 (1991) | 3007, 12 September 1991 | Application of the Republic of Latvia |

| <i>Resolution number</i> | <i>Meeting and date</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 742 (1992) | 3052, 14 February 1992 | Application of the Azerbaijani Republic |
| 744 (1992) | 3056, 25 February 1992 | Application of the Republic of San Marino |
| 753 (1992) | 3076, 18 May 1992 | Application of the Republic of Croatia |
| 754 (1992) | 3077, 18 May 1992 | Application of the Republic of Slovenia |
| 755 (1992) | 3079, 20 May 1992 | Application of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| 763 (1992) | 3091, 6 July 1992 | Application of the Republic of Georgia |

B. Cases in which Security Council decisions were announced in presidential statements issued after being agreed upon by the members of the Council at consultations

1. Statements placed on record at meetings of the Security Council

| <i>Statement by the President</i> | <i>Meeting and date</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| S/20554 | 2851, 31 March 1989 | The situation in the Middle East |
| S/20602 | 2858, 24 April 1989 | The situation in the Middle East |
| S/20659 | 2862, 30 May 1989 | The situation in the Middle East |
| S/20682 | 2868, 9 June 1989 | The situation in Cyprus |
| <i>Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-fourth Year, 2872nd meeting, para. 3</i> | 2872, 31 July 1989 | The question of hostage-taking and abduction |
| S/20758 | 2873, 31 July 1989 | The situation in the Middle East |
| S/20790 | 2875, 15 August 1989 | The situation in the Middle East |
| S/20855 | 2884, 20 September 1989 | The situation in the Middle East |

| <i>Statement by the President</i> | <i>Meeting and date</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| S/23500 | 3046, 31 January 1992 | The responsibility of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security |
| S/23610 | 3053, 19 February 1992 | The situation in the Middle East |
| S/23663 | 3058, 28 February 1992 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/23699 | 3059, 11 March 1992 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/23709 | 3059 (resumed), 12 March 1992 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/23732 | 3061, 19 March 1992 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/23772 | 3064, 2 April 1992 | Items relating to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya |
| S/23783 | 3065, 4 April 1992 | The situation in the occupied Arab territories |

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| <i>Statement by the President</i> | <i>Meeting and date</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| S/24456 | 3107, 17 August 1992 | The question of South Africa |
| S/24510 | 3111, 2 September 1992 | Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia |
| S/24511 | 3112, 2 September 1992 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/24539 | 3113, 9 September 1992 | Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia |
| S/24573 | 3115, 18 September 1992 | Items relating to the situation in Angola |
| S/24623 | 3120, 6 October 1992 | Items relating to the situation in Angola |
| S/24637 | 3121, 8 October 1992 | The situation in Georgia |
| S/24719 | 3125, 27 October 1992 | The situation in Mozambique |
| S/24720 | 3126, 27 October 1992 | Items relating to the situation in Angola |
| S/24721 | 3127, 27 October 1992 | The situation relating to Nagorny-Karabakh |
| S/24728 | 3128, 29 October 1992 | An agenda for peace: preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping |
| S/24742 | 3131, 30 October 1992 | The situation in Tajikistan |
| S/24744 | 3132, 30 October 1992 | Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia |
| S/24836 | 3139, 23 November 1992 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/24839 | 3139 (resumed), 24 November 1992 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/24846 | 3141, 25 November 1992 | The situation in the Middle East |
| S/24932 | 3146, 9 December 1992 | Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia |
| S/25002 | 3152, 22 December 1992 | Items relating to the situation in Angola |
| S/25003 | 3153, 22 December 1992 | The situation in Cambodia |
| S/25036 | 3145, 30 December 1992 | An agenda for peace: preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping |

2. Statements issued only as Security Council documents

| <i>Statement by the President</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| S/20946 | 3 November 1989 | The situation in Namibia |
| S/21160 | 22 February 1990 | The situation in Cyprus |
| S/21309 | 22 May 1990 | The situation in the occupied Arab territories |
| S/21310 | 22 May 1990 | The situation in the occupied Arab territories |
| S/21363 | 19 June 1990 | The situation in the occupied Arab territories |
| S/21934 | 9 November 1990 | The situation in Cyprus |
| S/22415 | 28 March 1991 | The situation in Cyprus |
| S/22744 | 28 June 1991 | The situation in Cyprus |
| S/22904 | 6 August 1991 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/23107 | 2 October 1991 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/23284 | 12 December 1991 | The situation in Cyprus |
| S/23305 | 20 December 1991 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/23360 | 3 January 1992 | Central America: efforts towards peace |
| S/23517 | 5 February 1992 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/23609 | 19 February 1992 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/23761 | 27 March 1992 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/23803 | 10 April 1992 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/23818 | 16 April 1992 | The situation relating to Afghanistan |
| S/23878 | 5 May 1992 | Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia |
| S/24010 | 27 May 1992 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/24058 | 3 June 1992 | Central America: efforts towards peace |
| S/24113 | 17 June 1992 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |

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| <i>Statement by the President</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> |
|--|-------------------|--|
| S/24240 | 6 July 1992 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/24257 | 9 July 1992 | Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia |
| S/24352 | 27 July 1992 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/24379 | 4 August 1992 | Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia |
| S/24424 | 12 August 1992 | Items relating to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya |
| S/24425 | 12 August 1992 | The situation relating to Afghanistan |
| S/24493 | 26 August 1992 | The situation relating to Nagorny-Karabakh |
| S/24541 | 10 September 1992 | The question of South Africa |
| S/24542 | 10 September 1992 | The situation in Georgia |
| S/24584 | 24 September 1992 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/24674 | 16 October 1992 | The situation in Somalia |
| S/24683 | 19 October 1992 | Items relating to the situation in Angola |
| S/24843 | 24 November 1992 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/24872 | 30 November 1992 | An agenda for peace: preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping |
| S/24884 (note transmitting statement by the President on the increasing number of attacks against United Nations personnel serving in peacekeeping operations) | 2 December 1992 | Items relating to the situation in Angola; items relating to the situation in Cambodia; items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia |
| S/24925 | 9 December 1992 | Items relating to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya |

C. Cases in which Security Council decisions were recorded in letters or notes from the President of the Security Council

| <i>Letter or note</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| S/20480 | 23 February 1989 | The situation in Namibia |
| S/20658 | 26 May 1989 | The situation in Namibia |

| <i>Letter or note</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---|
| S/20769 | 3 August 1989 | Items relating to the situation in Cambodia |
| S/20848 | 15 September 1989 | The situation in Namibia |
| S/20857 | 20 September 1989 | Central America: efforts towards peace |
| S/20872 | 28 September 1989 | The situation in Namibia |
| S/20874 | 29 September 1989 | The situation in Namibia |
| S/20906 | 17 October 1989 | The situation in Namibia |
| S/20890 | 21 November 1989 | Central America: efforts towards peace |
| S/20978 | 21 November 1989 | The situation in the Middle East |
| S/20982 | 21 November 1989 | Central America: efforts towards peace |
| S/21218 | 28 March 1990 | The situation relating to Afghanistan |
| S/21233 | 5 April 1990 | Central America: efforts towards peace |
| S/21262 | 20 April 1990 | Central America: efforts towards peace |
| S/21718 | 6 September 1990 | Central America: efforts towards peace |
| S/21826 | 24 September 1990 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/21833 | 24 September 1990 | The situation in the Middle East |
| S/21847 | 5 October 1990 | Items relating to the situation in Haiti |
| S/22033 | 21 December 1990 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/22280 | 28 February 1991 | The situation between Iran and Iraq |
| S/22334 | 6 March 1991 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/22361 | 19 March 1991 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/22398 | 21 March 1991 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/22400, annex | 22 March 1991 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/22479 | 10 April 1991 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S22485 | 11 April 1991 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/22489 | 12 April 1991 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/22509 | 19 April 1991 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/22528 | 24 April 1991 | Central America: efforts towards peace |
| S/22566 | 3 May 1991 | The situation in the Middle East |
| S/22593 | 13 May 1991 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |

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| <i>Letter or note</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---|
| S/22717 | 18 June 1991 | Items relating to the situation in Angola |
| S/22735 | 24 June 1991 | The situation concerning Western Sahara |
| S/22752 | 1 July 1991 | Central America: efforts towards peace |
| S/22772 | 9 July 1991 | The situation concerning Western Sahara |
| S/22798 | 16 July 1991 | Items relating to the situation in Angola |
| S/22946 | 14 August 1991 | The situation in Cambodia |
| S/22955 | 16 August 1991 | Items relating to the situation in Angola |
| S/22978 | 26 August 1991 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/23009 | 4 September 1991 | The situation concerning Western Sahara |
| S/23044 | 17 September 1991 | The situation concerning Western Sahara |
| S/23070 | 25 September 1991 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/23118 | 7 October 1991 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/23187 | 31 October 1991 | The situation in Cambodia |
| S/23206 | 11 November 1991 | The situation in Cambodia |
| S/23208 | 11 November 1991 | The situation in Cambodia |
| S/23217 | 14 November 1991 | The situation in Cambodia |

| <i>Letter or note</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--|
| S/23698 | 11 March 1992 | Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia |
| S/23753 | 25 March 1992 | The situation in Cyprus |
| S/23755 | 25 March 1992 | The situation concerning Western Sahara |
| S/23775 | 2 April 1992 | The situation in Cambodia |
| S/23789 | 6 April 1992 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/23852 | 28 April 1992 | Items relating to the situation in Somalia |
| S/23861 | 30 April 1992 | Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia |
| S/23928 | 14 May 1992 | The situation in Cambodia |
| S/23986 | 20 May 1992 | Items relating to the situation in Angola |
| S/23988 | 20 May 1992 | Central America: efforts towards peace |
| S/24059 | 3 June 1992 | The situation concerning Western Sahara |
| S/24098 | 15 June 1992 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/24178 | 25 June 1992 | Items relating to the situation in Somalia |
| S/24181 | 25 June 1992 | Items relating to the situation in Somalia |
| S/24234 | 2 July 1992 | Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia |
| S/24315 | 20 July 1992 | The question of South Africa |
| S/24361 | 29 July 1992 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |
| S/24398 | 7 August 1992 | The situation in Cambodia |
| S/24452 | 14 August 1992 | Items relating to the situation in Somalia |
| S/24504 | 31 August 1992 | The situation concerning Western Sahara |
| S/24532 | 8 September 1992 | Items relating to the situation in Somalia |
| S/24534 | 8 September 1992 | Items relating to the situation in Somalia |
| S/24550 | 12 September 1992 | Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia |
| S/24580 | 21 September 1992 | The situation concerning Western Sahara |
| S/24594 | 28 September 1992 | The situation in Cyprus |
| S/24625 | 6 October 1992 | Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia |
| S/24639 | 8 October 1992 | Items relating to the situation in Angola |
| S/24645 | 8 October 1992 | The situation concerning Western Sahara |
| S/24649 | 9 October 1992 | Items relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait |

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| <i>Letter or note</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> |
|-----------------------|------------------|--|
| S/24707 | 23 October 1992 | The situation in Cambodia |
| S/24715 | 26 October 1992 | Items relating to the situation in Somalia |
| S/24835 | 23 November 1992 | The situation in Liberia |
| S/24850 | 24 November 1992 | Items relating to the situation in Somalia |
| S/24852 | 25 November 1992 | Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia |
| S/24924 | 9 December 1992 | Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia |
| S/24951 | 11 December 1992 | The situation in the Middle East |
