

**INTERNATIONAL  
COVENANT  
ON CIVIL AND  
POLITICAL RIGHTS**



Distr.  
GENERAL

CCPR/SP/2, Rev.1  
10 August 1984

Original: ENGLISH

MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES

**REVISED RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE MEETING OF STATES PARTIES  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS**

Submitted by the Secretary-General

**I. REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS**

Rule 1

Each State Party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (hereinafter referred to as the Covenant) shall be represented at the Meeting of States Parties (hereinafter referred to as the Meeting) by an accredited representative. If more than one representative is named, one shall be designated as the head of the delegation. Each delegation may also include such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Rule 2

The credentials of representatives and the names of members of a delegation shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations if possible not later than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the Meeting. The credentials shall be issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Secretary-General shall report to the Meetings on the credentials.

Rule 3

Pending the decision of the Meeting upon the report on credentials, the representatives of the participating States Parties shall be entitled provisionally to participate in the Meeting.

**II. OFFICERS**

Rule 4

The Meeting shall elect a Chairman and one to four Vice-Chairmen from among the representatives of the States Parties.

Rule 5

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, a Vice-Chairman nominated by him shall preside. The Vice-Chairman, when acting as Chairman, shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

Rule 6

The Chairman or Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman may in his capacity as representative appoint one of his alternates or advisers to participate in the proceedings and to vote in the meetings in his place. In such a case, the Chairman or Acting Chairman shall not vote.

III. SECRETARIAT

Rule 7

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be responsible for making the arrangements connected with the Meeting. He or his representatives may participate in the Meeting and may make either oral or written statements to the Meeting concerning any question under consideration.

IV. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 8

A quorum shall be constituted by the representatives of two thirds of the States Parties to the Covenant.

Rule 9

The Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting, and at such meetings shall direct the discussions, accord the right to speak, put questions to vote, announce decisions, rule on points of order and, subject to these rules of procedure, have complete control of the meeting. In exercising these functions the Chairman shall remain under the authority of the Meeting.

V. VOTING

Rule 10

Each State Party represented at the Meeting shall have one vote.

Rule 11

For the purposes of these rules, the phrase "representatives of States Parties present and voting" shall mean representatives casting an affirmative or a negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

Rule 12

Decisions of the Meeting shall be made by a majority of the representatives present and voting except as regards the election of the members of the Human Rights Committee, which shall be conducted in accordance with rules 13, 14 and 15 of these rules of procedure.

VI. ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Rule 13

1. The eighteen members of the Human Rights Committee shall be experts of high moral character and recognized competence in the field of human rights, who shall serve in their personal capacity, consideration being given in their election to the usefulness of the participation of some persons having legal experience.
2. The members of the Human Rights Committee shall be elected from a list of persons possessing the qualifications prescribed in paragraph 1 of this rule, nominated by the States Parties and submitted by the Secretary-General in conformity with the Covenant, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution of membership and to the representation of the different forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems.
3. Each State Party may nominate not more than two persons who shall be nationals of the nominating State.
4. The Human Rights Committee may not include more than one national of the same State.

Rule 14

Elections of members of the Human Rights Committee shall be held by secret ballot.

Rule 15

The persons elected to the Committee shall be those nominees who obtain in the first ballot the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties present and voting. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled, provided that, after the third inconclusive ballot, votes may be cast for any eligible nominee.

VII. LANGUAGES

Rule 16

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official languages of the Meeting. English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the working languages.

VIII. RECORDS

Rule 17

Official records of the Meeting shall be drawn up by the Secretariat of the United Nations in the working languages.

Rule 18

The text of all formal decisions adopted by the Meeting shall be distributed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the official languages as soon as possible after the Meeting to all States Parties and to all States eligible to become Parties to the Covenant.

IX. PUBLICITY

Rule 19

The meetings shall be held in public unless decided otherwise.

X. REFERENCE TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Rule 20

Any procedural matters arising at the Meeting of States Parties which are not covered by these rules shall be dealt with by the Chairman in the light of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly of the United Nations which may be applicable to the matter at issue.

XI. AMENDMENTS

Rule 21

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Meeting of States Parties to the Covenant, provided that the amendment is not inconsistent with the provisions of the Covenant.