

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE  
PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

## I. CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN, AND RAPPORTEUR

## Rule 1

The Special Committee shall elect its own Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, or Rapporteurs.

## Rule 2

If the Chairman is unable to perform his functions, a new Chairman shall be elected for the unexpired term.

## Rule 3

The Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

## Rule 4

In addition to exercising the powers which are conferred upon him elsewhere by these Rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting, shall direct the discussions, ensure observance of these Rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce the decisions. He shall rule on points of order, and, subject to these Rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings at any meeting.

## II. LANGUAGES

## Rule 5

The Committee will conduct its work in both English and French except when it may agree that the interpretation may be dispensed with.

## Rule 6

Witnesses who are unable to employ any of the official languages of

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the United Nations shall as a rule provide their own interpreters. If

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/a witness

a witness who appears at the instance of the Committee is unable to speak any of the official languages and to provide his own interpreter, the Secretariat shall arrange for the same.

### III. RECORDS

#### Rule 7

As a general rule only summary records of its public and private meetings shall be drawn up unless the necessity for verbatim records in respect of a specific meeting or part of a meeting is recognized by the Committee.

#### Rule 8

Verbatim records will be taken of all hearings and made available to the members of the Committee. The Committee will decide in each case whether the testimony and discussion will be circulated verbatim or in summary form for the whole or part of the hearing.

### IV. PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS, PRESS COMMUNIQUE AND VERBAL BRIEFINGS

#### Rule 9

The meetings of the Committee shall be held in public unless the Committee decides otherwise.

#### Rule 10

Meetings of sub-committees shall also be held in public unless the sub-committee concerned decides otherwise.

#### Rule 11

Official press communiques shall be previously approved by the Chairman of the Committee. Press releases and verbal briefings may be issued by the press officer unless instructions to the contrary are given by the Committee.

### V. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

#### Rule 12

A majority of the Members of the Special Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 13

No representative may address the Special Committee without having previously obtained the permission of the Chairman. The Chairman shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Chairman may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 14

The Chairman and the Rapporteur of a sub-committee may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusion arrived at by their sub-committee.

Rule 15

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the Chairman in accordance with the Rules of Procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the Chairman. The appeal shall immediately be put to the vote, and the Chairman's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 16

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority in the debate. In addition to the proposer of the motion, two representatives may speak in favour of, and two against, the motion.

Rule 17

The Special Committee may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

Rule 18

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. If application is made for permission to speak against the closure it may be accorded to not more than two speakers.

#### Rule 19

The Chairman shall take the sense of the Special Committee on a motion for closure. If the Special Committee is in favour of the closure the Chairman shall declare the closure of the debate.

#### Rule 20

Resolutions, amendments, and substantive motions shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Principal Secretary who shall circulate copies to the representatives. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the Special Committee unless copies of it have been circulated to all representatives not later than the day preceding the meeting. The Chairman may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, or of motions as to procedure, without previous circulation of copies.

#### Rule 21

Parts of a proposal may be voted on separately if a representative requests that the proposal be divided.

#### Rule 22

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Special Committee shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

#### Rule 23

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first, and if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

### VI. VOTING

#### Rule 24

Each Member of the Special Committee shall have one vote.

#### Rule 25

Decisions of the Special Committee shall be taken by a majority of the members present and voting. Abstentions shall not be counted as votes.

Rule 26

The Special Committee shall normally vote by show of hands, but any representative may request a roll-call which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Members.

Rule 27

The vote of each Member participating in any roll-call shall be inserted in the record.

Rule 28

If a vote is equally divided on matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting; this meeting shall be held within forty-eight hours of the first vote, and it shall be expressly mentioned in the agenda that a second vote will be taken on the matter in question. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

VII. SUB-COMMITTEES AND SECRETARIAT

Rule 29

The Special Committee may set up sub-committees.

Rule 30

The Secretary-General or a member of the Secretariat designated by him may make to the Special Committee or any sub-committee any oral or written statement which the Secretary-General considers desirable.

VIII. LIAISON OFFICERS

Rule 31

The Mandatory Power, the Arab Higher Committee, and the Jewish Agency for Palestine may appoint liaison officers to the Committee who shall supply such information or render such other assistance as the Committee may require. The liaison officers may, ex officio, present at the discretion of the Committee such information as they may think advisable.

/IX. ORAL

#### IX. ORAL AND WRITTEN TESTIMONY

##### Rule 32

The Committee may, at its discretion, invite representatives of Governments or organizations, or private individuals, to submit oral or written testimony on any relevant matter.

##### Rule 33

Requests for oral hearing shall contain an indication of the subject or subjects on which the witness desires to testify.

##### Rule 34

The Committee may refer to a sub-committee for examination and recommendation such requests to present oral testimony as it deems advisable.

##### Rule 35

The Committee shall in each case decide the time and place of the hearing of any witness from whom it may decide to receive oral testimony. The Committee may advise any witness to submit his testimony in writing.

##### Rule 36

The Committee, on the basis of the time available to it, may limit either the number of witnesses or the time to be allowed to any witness.

##### Rule 37

The Committee may refer to a sub-committee for study and report such written testimony as it may deem advisable.

#### X. AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS

##### Rule 38

These rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by a decision of the Special Committee taken by a majority of the members present and voting.

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