

**CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FIRST SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES****Report of the Credentials Committee****1. Introduction**

- 1.1 On 12 May 1997, upon the proposal of the Chairman, in accordance with Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the States Parties (C-I/3), the Conference appointed the following 10 States as members of the Credentials Committee for the First Session: the Czech Republic, Italy, Kenya, Namibia, New Zealand, Oman, Peru, the Philippines, the Slovak Republic and Suriname.
- 1.2 The Committee met on 14 May 1997 and elected H.E. Mr Jaroslav Mihule of the Czech Republic as its Chairman.
- 1.3 On 16 May 1997, upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Conference appointed Malta as a member of the Credentials Committee to replace Italy, which had withdrawn.
- 1.4 At its second meeting on 21 May 1997, the Committee noted the following elements of Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference:
 - (a) credentials designate the Representative of a member in a given session of the Conference;
 - (b) the credentials of each Representative shall be submitted to the Director-General (for the First Session of the Conference, credentials were addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who convened the Conference in his capacity as Depositary of the Convention, and the credentials were deposited with the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission); and
 - (c) credentials shall be issued by the head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the member concerned or by any other authority acting on their behalf.

2. Examination of Credentials

2.1 The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Director-General, dated 21 May 1997, concerning the credentials of Representatives of members of the Organisation participating in the First Session of the Conference. On the basis of that memorandum, as of 21 May 1997, the Committee determined the following:

- (a) formal credentials, in conformity with Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, were submitted by 55 members of the Organisation: Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Togo, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay; and
- (b) faxes or copies of formal credentials or other official communications concerning representatives were received from the following 25 members of the Organisation: Argentina, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Fiji, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Swaziland, Switzerland, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe. In accordance with Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the representatives of these members are participating provisionally in the First Session pending the submission of credentials satisfying the requirements of Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference.

2.2 The Committee agreed that the credentials of the representatives of the members referred to in subparagraphs 2.1(a) and 2.1(b) above would be accepted, on the understanding that formal credentials for representatives of the members referred to in subparagraph 2.1(b) would be communicated to the Director-General as soon as possible.

3. Recommendation

The Committee unanimously adopted its Report to the Conference and recommended that the Conference approve it.