

First regular session 1997  
13-17 January 1997, New York  
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**PROGRESS REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT ON THE WORK OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON RULES OF PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED BY DECISION 96/25**

1. In accordance with Executive Board decision 96/25, an ad hoc open-ended working group on rules of procedure was established. Ms. Cecilia Rebong (Philippines) serves as Chairperson of the working group. The Executive Board received an interim report by the President on progress achieved by the ad hoc working group at the third regular session 1996.
  2. While it was envisaged at the time of the third regular session 1996 that the working group would complete its work in time to present draft rules of procedure at the first regular session 1997, the working group was unable to do so owing to the difficulty of scheduling regular meetings during the General Assembly session.
  3. The working group convened four meetings, on 11 October, 21 October, 31 October, and 10 December 1996. The working group completed a first reading of the draft rules of procedure as contained in the chairperson's text. The draft incorporated the views of delegations made through oral and written comments on a working paper presented by the secretariat and reviewed by the working group.
  4. The Office of Legal Affairs reviewed the draft rules of procedure and submitted its comments to the Secretariat. The comments were distributed to the working group at its 10 December 1996 meeting.
  5. The working group will continue its work with a view to completing draft rules of procedure for the consideration of the Executive Board at its annual session 1997.
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