PROCEDURE AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

This new edition is a comprehensive manual of the rules of procedure for the conduct of business at the UN General Assembly, at international conferences and at assemblies of inter-governmental organisations such as the IAEA, ICAO, ILO, IMO and WHO. It examines the legal basis of these rules, the history of their development and the attempts at their codification. At the heart of the book is an examination of the practical applications of rules of procedure. Sabel also considers whether certain procedural rules and applications have become so well established that they have now attained the status of customary international law. The book is of interest to those involved in international law, international relations and international organisations. It also serves as an indispensable practical manual for delegates to the UN General Assembly and to international inter-governmental conferences. Procedural rulings, updated to February 2005, are quoted from the records of UN General Assembly meetings, from assemblies of international organisations and from treaty-making conferences. In its first edition, this book was awarded a 1998 American Society of International Law ‘Special Award’.

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PROCEDURE AT
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCES

A study of the rules of procedure at the UN and at inter-governmental conferences

Second edition
ROBBIE SABEL
CONTENTS

Preface to the second edition page xxi
List of abbreviations and conference references xxii

Introduction 1

1 Historical development of rules of procedure of conferences and attempts to establish model rules 7
   1.1 Development of conference rules of procedure 7
   1.2 Proposals for drafting model codes of conference rules of procedure 12
      1.2.1 League of Nations codification 12
      1.2.2 UN codification 15

2 Adoption of rules of procedure 19
   2.1 The adoption of conference rules of procedure 19
   2.2 The independence of an international conference 19
   2.3 Independent right of conferences to adopt their own rules of procedure 22
   2.4 The majority required to approve rules of procedure 26

3 Rules of procedure and international law 31
   3.1 The obligation of States attending a conference to comply with the rules of procedure of that conference 31
      3.1.1 Obligation of States to comply with the rules of procedure of an assembly of an international organisation 31
      3.1.2 Obligation of States at an international conference to comply with the rules of procedure adopted at the conference 32
   3.2 Are procedural precedents binding? 42
   3.3 Disclaimers as to setting a precedent 48
## Contents

### 4 Invitations, participation and credentials

4.1 Invitation and participation

4.1.1 Who issues the invitations? 51

4.1.2 Participation of States 51

4.1.3 Participation of non-State entities 53

4.2 Credentials

4.2.1 Submission of credentials 59

4.2.2 Invalid credentials 60

4.2.3 Credentials committee 64

4.2.4 Which body should decide disputes as to credentials? 65

4.2.5 Provisional admission 66

4.2.6 Credentials of observer organisations 67

### 5 Presiding officer and other officers of the conference

5.1 Presiding officer

5.1.1 Appointment of presiding officer 68

5.1.2 The obligation of impartiality of the presiding officer 72

5.1.3 Functions of the presiding officer 73

5.1.4 Right of presiding officer to change his decisions 93

5.2 Rapporteur 93

5.3 Secretariat 94

5.4 Vice-presidents of a conference or assembly 95

### 6 Meetings

6.1 Quorum

6.1.1 Quorum for a motion to adjourn a meeting 101

6.1.2 Is it sufficient that there be a quorum at the opening of a meeting? 101

6.1.3 Calculating a quorum 101

6.1.4 Voting again in the absence of a quorum 102

6.2 Suspension or adjournment of meetings 103

6.2.1 Suspension or adjournment of a meeting ‘during the discussion of any matter’ 104

6.2.2 Time limit for speaker moving suspension or adjournment 104

6.3 Adjournment of a meeting 105

6.3.1 When can a motion for adjournment be proposed? 105

6.3.2 Adjournment of a meeting to a particular date 105

6.3.3 Adjournment of a meeting ‘during the discussion of any matter’ 106
CONTENTS

6.3.4 Interrupting a speaker to move adjournment of a meeting 106
6.3.5 A representative who had requested the floor prior to the motion for adjournment of the meeting 107

6.4 Suspension of a meeting 107
6.4.1 Suspension or adjournment of a meeting during voting 108

6.5 Closed meetings 109

7 Statements by delegations 110
7.1 The right of representatives to speak 110
7.1.1 Limiting the number of times a representative may speak 111
7.1.2 Length of statements 113
7.1.3 Limiting the number of speakers 114
7.1.4 Statements by observers 115
7.1.5 List of speakers 115
7.1.6 Closing the list of speakers 117

7.2 Right of reply 120
7.2.1 Discretion of president to grant right of reply 121
7.2.2 Right of reply and closure of debate 123
7.2.3 At what stage of a debate can the right of reply be exercised? 123
7.2.4 Right of reply by observers 125
7.2.5 Right of reply to statements made by heads of State and non-delegates 126
7.2.6 Relevance of right of reply 127
7.2.7 Time limit on right of reply 127
7.2.8 Under what circumstances does a right of reply arise? 128
7.2.9 Limit on number of interventions in exercise of right of reply 130
7.2.10 Right of reply to explanation of vote 131
7.2.11 Right of reply to a statement made in right of reply 131
7.2.12 Closure of debate on right of reply 131

7.3 Explanation of vote 132
7.3.1 Discretion of president to allow explanation of vote 133
7.3.2 Explanation of vote on procedural motions 134
7.3.3 Explanation of vote on motions to adjourn the debate or close the debate 134
7.3.4 Explanation of vote on motions to adjourn or suspend a meeting 135
7.3.5 Length of explanations of vote 135
## CONTENTS

7.3.6 Explanation of vote by proposer     136  
7.3.7 Discretion of conference or assembly to allow proposer to explain a vote     137  
7.3.8 Explanation of vote by proposer voting against the resolution or withdrawing sponsorship     138  
7.3.9 Explanation of vote on a resolution proposed by a committee     138  
7.3.10 Explanation of vote by co-sponsor     138  
7.3.11 Explanation of vote on a consensus     139  
7.3.12 Explanation of vote on a secret ballot     139  
7.3.13 Explanation of vote on non-participation in voting     139  
7.3.14 Explanation of vote should not include comments on other delegations     140  
7.3.15 Explanation of vote on voting taken paragraph by paragraph     140  
7.3.16 Explanation of vote by a representative of an inter-governmental organisation     140  
7.3.17 When to explain a vote?     140  
7.3.18 Explanation of vote after the list of speakers has been closed     141  
7.4 Offensive or irrelevant statements     141  
7.5 Clarity of speech     143  
7.6 Personal attacks     143  
7.7 Speaking to substance on procedural motions     143  

8 Submission of proposals     145  
8.1 The difference between proposals and motions     145  
8.2 Order of discussion of proposals     146  
8.3 Sponsors     146  
     8.3.1 Limitation on number of sponsors     146  
     8.3.2 Agreement to join list of sponsors     147  
     8.3.3 Withdrawal of sponsorship     148  
     8.3.4 Seconding of motions     149  
8.4 Notice of proposals     150  
     8.4.1 Notice of submission of written proposals     150  
     8.4.2 Notice of procedural motions     151  
     8.4.3 Notice of substantive proposals     153  
     8.4.4 Discretion of presiding officer to allow discussion of amendments submitted without due notice     154  
     8.4.5 Discretion of presiding officer to allow voting on amendments submitted without due notice     154  
     8.4.6 Substantive proposals submitted without due notice     155
CONTENTS

8.4.7 Practice in international conferences regarding discussion and voting on substantive proposals and amendments submitted without due notice 156

8.4.8 Practice in UN bodies regarding dispensing with the need for due notice of submission of substantive amendments 161

8.4.9 Summary as to requirement that motions be in writing and due notice be given of their submission 163

8.4.10 Procedural motions to enforce the rule on due notice 164

8.5 Time limits for submission of amendments and proposals 164

8.6 Time limit for submission of sub-amendments 165

8.7 Revision of proposals by the sponsors 165

8.8 Submission of proposals by the secretariat? 166

8.9 Submission of proposals by observers 166

8.10 Decisions on competence of a conference to deal with an issue 168

8.10.1 Can legal counsel give an opinion on competence? 170

8.10.2 Voting procedure on a question of competence 171

8.10.3 A vote on competence regarding part of a proposal 171

8.10.4 Priority as between a motion on competence and a motion for inclusion in the agenda 172

8.10.5 Debating a motion on competence in the UN General Assembly 172

8.10.6 Competence of conferences to discuss an issue as opposed to competence to vote on an issue 173

8.11 Basic texts 175

9 Adjournment and closure of debate 177

9.1 Adjournment of debate 177

9.1.1 Effect of adjourning the debate 177

9.1.2 A motion not to take a vote on a proposal as a motion for adjournment of debate 179

9.1.3 Difference between a motion not to vote and a motion to adjourn the debate 180

9.1.4 A motion to ‘refrain from making a decision’ as a motion for adjournment of debate 180

9.1.5 A motion for ‘postponement of consideration’ as a motion for adjournment of debate 180

9.1.6 Is a motion for postponement synonymous with a motion for adjournment of debate? 181

9.1.7 A motion to adjourn a vote as a motion for adjournment of debate 182
9.1.8 A motion for referral as a motion for adjournment of debate 182
9.1.9 A motion to adjourn the debate after the debate is completed and before voting 182
9.1.10 A motion to adjourn the debate on a resolution until completion of discussion on another resolution 183
9.1.11 A motion to adjourn the debate on a procedural motion 183
9.1.12 A single motion to adjourn the debate on two separate resolutions 184
9.1.13 What is ‘an item under discussion’ for purposes of adjournment of debate? 184
9.1.14 Adjournment of debate on specific proposals or amendments 185
9.1.15 Limits on number of speakers on a motion to adjourn the debate 187
9.2 Closure of debate 188
9.2.1 Closure of debate and protection of minority 189
9.2.2 Motion for immediate vote as motion for closure 190
9.2.3 What is an item under discussion for purposes of closure of debate? 191
9.2.4 Process of voting on a motion for closure 191
9.2.5 Voting on proposals after adoption of a motion for closure 191
9.2.6 Right of reply after closure of debate 192
9.2.7 Explanation of vote after closure of debate 193
9.2.8 Right to complete a statement after closure of debate 194
9.2.9 Speakers who had requested the floor before the closure of debate 195
9.2.10 Right of proposer, after closure of debate, to introduce a previously submitted proposal 196
9.2.11 Right of proposer to reply to questions after closure of debate 197
9.2.12 Right to propose procedural motions after closure of debate 197
9.2.13 Submission of amendments after closure of debate 198
9.2.14 Submission of sub-amendments after closure of debate 199
9.2.15 Closure of debate and revision of amendments 199
9.2.16 Closure of debate before its commencement 200
9.2.17 Closure of debate on points of order 200
10 Amendments 201

10.1 Distinguishing between separate proposals and amendments 201

10.1.1 Definition by the Legal Counsel of the UN as to the difference between amendments and separate proposals 203

10.1.2 Practice regarding distinguishing between amendments and separate proposals 203

10.1.3 Can an amendment call for the removal of the substance of a proposal? 207

10.1.4 Can an amendment call for deferment of discussion? 208

10.1.5 Can an amendment call for taking no decision on a committee report? 209

10.1.6 Can an amendment call for referring an issue to a different committee? 209

10.1.7 Can an amendment call for deleting some existing paragraphs, revising others and adding a new paragraph? 210

10.1.8 Can a separate proposal be transformed into an amendment? 211

10.1.9 How are decisions made whether a proposal is an amendment to another proposal? 211

10.1.10 Adoption of an amendment by the proposer 212

10.1.11 Presenting an amendment before presenting the resolution itself 212

10.1.12 A series of amendments as a package 212

10.2 An inadvertent oral amendment 213

10.3 Amendments to procedural motions 213

10.4 Revising amendments by proposer 214

10.5 Voting on an amended proposal 215

10.6 Prohibition of amendments 215

10.7 Sub-amendments 216

10.7.1 Adoption of a sub-amendment and subsequent rejection of the amendment itself 218

10.7.2 Adoption of a sub-amendment implying rejection of another sub-amendment that had been accepted by the sponsors of the original amendment 219

11 Withdrawal and reconsideration of motions 220

11.1 Withdrawal of motions 220
# CONTENTS

11.1 Withdrawal of a motion adopted by a committee 220
11.1.1 Withdrawal of a motion adopted by a committee 220
11.1.2 Withdrawal of part of a motion 221
11.1.3 Resubmitting a proposal previously withdrawn 221
11.1.4 Time limits for withdrawal 222
11.1.5 Agreement by all sponsors for withdrawal 222
11.1.6 Meaning of the qualification that the motion ‘has not been amended’ 222
11.1.7 A motion not to vote on a proposal as an alternative to withdrawal 224

11.2 Reconsideration of proposals 225
11.2.1 Majority required for reconsideration 225
11.2.2 Reconsideration in committees 226
11.2.3 Reconsideration in regard to proposals in different committees 229
11.2.4 Reconsideration in plenary of decisions of committees 229
11.2.5 Is it a reconsideration when there is a request for a separate vote on part of a text on which there had been a previous request for a separate vote? 229
11.2.6 Is it reconsideration to request a separate vote on a text when an amendment for deletion of the text has been defeated? 230
11.2.7 Is a request to vote again, due to misunderstandings during the vote, a request for reconsideration? 231
11.2.8 Is voting again due to discrepancy in language versions to be considered a reconsideration? 233
11.2.9 Is a motion to vote on an amendment inadvertently not voted on to be considered a motion to reconsider? 233
11.2.10 Recounting the vote as reconsideration 234
11.2.11 Is a motion not to discuss an item inscribed on the agenda a motion for reconsideration? 234
11.2.12 Where a decision has been taken not to inscribe an item on the agenda, is a draft resolution on that item a motion for reconsideration? 234
11.2.13 Is a motion to change the order of items in an agenda a reconsideration of the adoption of the agenda? 235
11.2.14 Is a motion for adjournment of debate a motion for reconsideration of the decision to hold the debate? 235
11.2.15 Reconsideration of invitations to multi-session conferences 236
11.2.16 Can a conference decide to reserve the right to reconsider an item in the future? 237
11.2.17 Where there has been a vote on a proposal, is it reconsideration to then convene a discussion group? 238
11.2.18 Relocation of part of a paragraph as reconsideration 238
11.2.19 An interpretive vote as reconsideration 238
11.2.20 After a motion not to vote on a resolution has been defeated, is it reconsideration to move that the conference is not competent to discuss the issue? 239
11.3 Reconsideration of amendments 239
11.3.1 Where an amended basic text is defeated, is it reconsideration to revert to the original basic text? 241
11.4 Reconsideration of procedural decisions 242
11.4.1 Does the rule on reconsideration apply to motions for adjournment or suspension? 243
11.4.2 Does the rule on reconsideration apply to motions to suspend the rules of procedure? 244
12 Procedural motions and points of order 245
12.1 Procedural motions 245
12.1.1 Definition of a procedural motion 245
12.1.2 Examples of decisions as to what is a procedural motion 246
12.2 Points of order 247
12.2.1 Distinction between a point of order and a procedural motion 249
12.3 Categories of points of order 250
12.3.1 A point of order requesting a decision by the presiding officer 250
12.3.2 A point of order raised in order to submit a procedural motion 251
12.3.3 A point of order requiring neither a vote nor a presidential decision 252
12.3.4 A point of order on a matter of clarification 253
12.3.5 A point of order on technical arrangements 253
12.4 Decisions by presiding officers on points of order 253
12.5 Discretion of presiding officer to allow a delegation to raise a point of order 254
12.6 Can a conference or assembly decide a point of order? 254
12.7 Raising a point of order while a representative is speaking on an earlier point of order 257
12.8 Limiting the duration of statements on points of order 258
12.9 Limiting the number of points of order 258
12.10 Challenging a decision of a presiding officer 258
12.10.1 The process of voting on a challenge to a decision by a presiding officer 259
12.10.2 Can a challenge to a ruling be debated? 260
12.10.3 Can there be separate votes on parts of a challenge to a ruling by the presiding officer? 261
12.11 Speaking to the substance during a statement on a point of order 261

13 Priorities between different proposals 263
13.1 Order of voting on proposals 263
13.1.1 When is a proposal considered to have been submitted? 267
13.1.2 Decision not to vote on subsequent proposals 267
13.1.3 How is a decision made about whether to vote on a subsequent proposal? 268
13.1.4 Is a decision granting priority to a proposal affected by a subsequent revision of the proposal? 269
13.1.5 Do subsequent revisions of proposals affect the rule as to voting on proposals in the order in which they were submitted? 269
13.1.6 Order of priority of reintroduced proposals 269
13.2 Priority of procedural motions over substantive motions 270
13.2.1 Does a motion not to take a vote on a proposal have priority over the substantive proposal? 270
13.3 Priority between procedural motions 271
13.3.1 Priority of motion for suspension of meeting 272
13.3.2 Priority of motion for adjournment of meeting 272
13.3.3 Priority of motion for adjournment of debate 273
13.3.4 Priority of a motion for adjournment of debate coupled with a substantive motion 274
13.3.5 Priority as between different motions for adjournment of debate 274
13.3.6 Order of priority between different procedural motions not entitled to special priority under the rules of procedure 274
13.3.7 Order of priority between different motions to grant priority 275
13.4 Voting on amendments prior to voting on the proposal itself 275
13.5 Voting on the main proposal when the voting on an amendment is tied 278
13.6 Priority between amendments 278
  13.6.1 Decisions as to which amendment is ‘furthest removed in substance from the original proposal’ 282
13.7 Can a conference decide not to vote on an amendment? 283
13.8 Order of voting on sub-amendments 283
  13.8.1 Voting first on the sub-amendment furthest removed from the amendment 284
14 Decision taking and method of voting 285
14.1 Determining the issue to be voted on 285
  14.1.1 Reading out proposals or amendments prior to the vote 285
  14.1.2 Declarations as part of a decision? 285
14.2 Method of voting 286
  14.2.1 Voting by the European Commission 287
  14.2.2 Voting by show of hands 287
  14.2.3 The right to call for a recorded vote 287
  14.2.4 Disclosing who requested a recorded vote 290
  14.2.5 A recorded indicative vote? 291
  14.2.6 When can a recorded vote be requested? 291
  14.2.7 Recording delegations present and not voting 291
  14.2.8 Recording abstentions 292
  14.2.9 Order of voting in a roll-call vote 293
  14.2.10 Voting by mechanical or electronic means 294
14.3 Secret ballot 294
  14.3.1 Representatives absent when their names are called in a secret ballot 298
14.4 Voting by proxy 298
14.5 Decision taking without voting 298
14.6 Voting on principles 299
  14.6.1 What is the effect of having a vote on principle? 301
  14.6.2 Decision making as to whether to hold a vote on principle 302
14.7 Indicative vote 303
  14.7.1 Indicative vote by roll call 306
14.8 Voting on preferences 306
14.9 Voting in elections 309
## CONTENTS

14.10 Request not to vote 310  
14.11 Invalid vote 311

15 Majority required 312  
15.1 Unanimity 312  
15.1.1 Unanimity and consensus 315  
15.1.2 Unanimity in the UN 316  
15.1.3 Do abstentions negate unanimity? 316  
15.2 Majority voting 317  
15.3 Simple majority 318  
15.4 Two-thirds majority 320  
15.4.1 Majority required for amendments to proposals requiring a two-thirds majority 323  
15.5 ‘Representatives present and voting’ 324  
15.6 Calculating fractions of votes 326  
15.7 Absolute majority of all States represented 327  
15.8 Two-thirds majority of all States represented 329  
15.9 Weighted majority 330  
15.10 Equally divided votes 332  
15.11 A situation where two alternative proposals each receive equally divided votes 333

16 Consensus 335  
16.1 Defining consensus 335  
16.1.1 Taking decisions by ‘general agreement’ or ‘without a vote’ 338  
16.2 Background to the increased use of consensus 338  
16.3 Consensus at the Third Law of the Sea Conference 340  
16.4 Use of the word ‘consensus’ in the rules of procedure of the UN General Assembly 343  
16.5 Consensus without possibility of voting 344  
16.6 Consensus with possibility of voting 344  
16.7 Reservations to a consensus 345

17 Separate votes 347  
17.1 Separate votes on parts of proposals and amendments 347  
17.2 Consequence of holding a separate vote 348  
17.3 The right of a delegation to have a separate vote on parts of a proposal 348  
17.4 The IMO formula for authorising requests for separate votes 351
Contents

17.5 Does a delegation requesting a separate vote need to submit a motion? 352
17.6 Voting on request for a separate vote 352
17.7 Form of voting on the separate vote 353
17.8 Number of speakers on a motion for a separate vote on part of a proposal 353
17.9 Right to object to a motion for a separate vote on part of a proposal 354
17.10 Can a motion be submitted for a separate vote on a particular sub-paragraph after defeat of a previous motion for a separate vote on every sub-paragraph? 356
17.11 What are 'parts of a proposal' for purposes of a separate vote? 356
17.12 A motion for a separate vote on a paragraph after such a motion had been defeated regarding other paragraphs of the resolution 357
17.13 A motion for a separate vote on a phrase after the failure of a motion for deletion of the phrase 357
17.14 Status of preambular parts of an amendment when operative parts have been rejected 359
17.15 Can a motion for a separate vote be amended? 360
17.16 Voting on the proposal as a whole following a separate vote 360
17.17 Voting on parts of a resolution rejected in a separate vote 364
17.18 A motion to vote on the text as a whole, paragraph by paragraph, after each paragraph had been earlier voted on separately 364
17.19 Voting on the remainder of a proposal after voting on separate paragraphs 364
17.20 Priority as between voting on amendments and voting on a separate part of a proposal 365
17.21 Combining the vote on several proposals 366
17.22 Separate votes on two amendments submitted together 367
17.23 Does a decision to have separate discussions on parts of a proposal also imply holding separate votes? 368
17.24 A separate vote on parts of a procedural motion 368

18 Conduct of voting – interruption of voting and correction of vote 370
18.1 Interruption of voting 370
18.2 Interruption when voting on individual proposals 370
18.3 When does voting commence? 371
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18.3.1 When does voting commence during a connected series of voting?</td>
<td>374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.3.2 When does voting commence in elections?</td>
<td>374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.3.3 When does voting commence in a vote paragraph by paragraph?</td>
<td>375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.3.4 When does voting end?</td>
<td>375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.4 Interruption of voting</td>
<td>376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.4.1 Is an adjournment of a meeting an interruption of the voting</td>
<td>376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.4.2 Is a suspension of a meeting an interruption of the voting</td>
<td>377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.4.3 Interruption of voting between votes on a series of amendments</td>
<td>378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.4.4 Interruption of voting for points of order</td>
<td>379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.4.5 Interruption of voting for proposal not to vote</td>
<td>380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.4.6 Interruption of voting for proposal to defer the vote</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.4.7 Interruption of voting to make comments</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.4.8 Interruption of voting with a request for explanation</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.4.9 Interruption of voting due to discrepancy in language versions</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.4.10 Interruption of voting in order to submit an amendment</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.4.11 Interruption of voting to submit an oral amendment</td>
<td>383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.4.12 Interruption of voting to submit an amendment where the right</td>
<td>384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to do so had been previously reserved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.4.13 Interruption of voting to submit sub-amendments</td>
<td>384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.4.14 Interruption of voting to ascertain what majority is required</td>
<td>385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.4.15 Interruption of voting to withdraw sponsorship of a resolution</td>
<td>385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.4.16 Interruption of voting to allow explanation of vote on a</td>
<td>385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>separate paragraph</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.4.17 Interruption of voting to revise a proposal</td>
<td>386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.4.18 Interruption of voting to request reconsideration</td>
<td>387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.4.19 Interruption of voting for withdrawal of candidatures</td>
<td>387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.5 Correction of vote</td>
<td>388</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONTENTS

18.5.1 The report of the UN Secretary-General on correction of vote 388
18.5.2 Practice as to correction of votes before announcement of results 389
18.5.3 Correction of votes after announcement of results 390
18.5.4 Correction of votes in a roll-call vote 393
18.5.5 Correction of votes – indication in the records 393

19 Languages, records and documents  395
19.1 Languages of the conference  395
19.1.1 Official languages  395
19.1.2 Working languages  397
19.1.3 Voting on one language version of a text  397
19.1.4 Authentic language  397
19.1.5 Voting again because of a discrepancy between different language versions  398
19.2 Records and documents of the conference  398
19.2.1 Documentation  398
19.2.2 Distribution of documentation submitted by observers  399
19.2.3 Summary and verbatim records  400
19.2.4 Adding written statements to the record  402
19.2.5 Correcting the record  403
19.2.6 Adding to the record  403
19.2.7 Deleting from the records  404
19.2.8 Final Act  407

20 Committees  408
20.1 Committees  408
20.2 Procedure of committees  408
20.3 Relations between committees and plenary  408
20.4 The different committees  409
20.4.1 General committee  409
20.4.2 Main committees  411
20.4.3 Drafting committee  412

21 Suspension and amendment of rules of procedure  427
21.1 Suspension of rules of procedure  427
21.1.1 Practice in international conferences as to suspension  428
21.1.2 Practice in the UN General Assembly as to suspension 430
21.1.3 Practice in international organisations as to suspension 432
21.2 Amendment of rules of procedure 434
21.2.1 Majority required for amending rules of procedure 435

Bibliography 437
Index 446
The emphasis of this second edition is on the book serving as a practical manual on procedure rather than as a purely academic study. Although the book examines the proposal that some rules of procedure are by now customary law, the detailed description of the process of formation of custom has been omitted from this edition.

Updated procedural rulings are quoted from the records of UN General Assembly meetings, from assemblies of international organisations and from treaty-making conferences, updated to February 2005. Other international conferences nowadays rarely publish records of meetings. The increased availability on websites of records of proceedings has facilitated such updating and also means that readers who so wish can easily access the full record of any procedural ruling.

I should like to thank some of those who have helped with advice, assistance or encouragement, and in some cases all three in this and in the earlier edition: Ms Kochevet Ben-Shahar; Ms Shelly Benvenisti; Judge Thomas Buergenthal; Ambassador Oded Eran; Professor Ruth Lapidoth; Sir Eli Lauterpacht QC; Gaetano Librando; Paolo Ponzano; Johan Rautenbach; Ambassador Shabtai Rosenne; Ms Daphna Shraga; Professor Louis Sohn; the late Professor Paul Szasz; Ralph Zacklin; Paul Zarins; Ms Nili Zentler. My appreciation goes to Ms Elizabeth Davey; Ms Diane Iltot; Ms Jane O’Regan; and Ms Finola O’Sullivan at Cambridge University Press for their professionalism and encouragement.

Finally thanks to my wife Ruthie for her understanding and forbearance.
### ABBREVIATIONS AND CONFERENCE REFERENCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AJIL</td>
<td><em>American Journal of International Law</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>BYIL</td>
<td><em>British Year Book of International Law</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTBT</td>
<td>Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC/EEC</td>
<td>European Community / European Economic Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECOSOC</td>
<td>United Nations Economic and Social Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organisation</td>
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<td>GAOR</td>
<td>General Assembly Official Records</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAEA</td>
<td>International Atomic Energy Agency</td>
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<td>ICAO</td>
<td>International Civil Aviation Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICC</td>
<td>International Criminal Court</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICJ</td>
<td>International Court of Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICLQ</td>
<td><em>International and Comparative Law Quarterly</em></td>
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<td>ICRC</td>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross</td>
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<td>ILC</td>
<td>International Law Commission</td>
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<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMF</td>
<td>International Monetary Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMO (IMCO)</td>
<td>Inter-Governmental Maritime (Consultative) Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>INMARSAT</td>
<td>International Maritime Satellite Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITU</td>
<td>Intenational Telecommunication Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>non-governmental organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPT</td>
<td>Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty</td>
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<tr>
<td>PCIJ</td>
<td>Permanent Court of International Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLO</td>
<td>Palestine Liberation Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCADI</td>
<td><em>Recueil des Cours (Collected Courses), Académie de Droit International</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNCIO</td>
<td>1945 United Nations Conference on International Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNCITRAL</td>
<td>United Nations Commission on International Trade Law</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND CONFERENCE REFERENCES

UNEP  United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO  United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNGA  United Nations General Assembly
UNIDO  United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UN Jur. Y.B.  United Nations Juridical Yearbook
UNTS  United Nations Treaty Series
WHO  World Health Organisation
YBILC  Yearbook of the International Law Commission

Abbreviated forms are used for referring to the records of the following conferences:


UN Doc. A/CONF.1.

‘The 1951 Conference on Refugees’ – Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons, 1951
UN Doc. A/CONF.2.


LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND CONFERENCE REFERENCES

Vol. I UN Doc. A/CONF.13/37, UN Sales No. 58.V.4;
Vol. II UN Doc. A/CONF.13/38, UN Sales No. 58.V.4;
Vol. III UN Doc. A/CONF. 13/39, UN Sales No. 58.V.4;
Vol. IV UN Doc. A/CONF.13/40, UN Sales No. 58.V.4;
Vol. V UN Doc. A/CONF.13/41, UN Sales No. 58.V.4;
Vol. VI UN Doc. A/CONF.13/42, UN Sales No. 58.V.4;

UN Doc. A/CONF.19.

UN Doc. A/CONF.20.

‘The 1963 Tokyo Air Law Conference’ – International Conference on Air Law, Tokyo, August–September 1963

UN Doc. A/CONF.25.

UN Doc. A/CONF.32.

UN Doc. A/CONF.35.


ICAO Doc. 9081-LC/170-1.


ICAO Doc. 9225-LC/178.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND CONFERENCE REFERENCES


UN Doc. A/CONF.78.

IMCO Doc. CONF.2.

UN Doc. A/CONF.89.

UN Doc. A/CONF.95.


UN Doc. A/CONF.114/PC.


Between States and International Organizations or Between International Organizations
UN Doc. A/CONF.129. UN Sales No. E.94. V.5.

UN Doc. E/CONF.82. UN Sales No. E.91.XI. 1.

UN Doc. A/CONF.152.


APL/CRT.

UN Doc. A.CONF.183.


‘The 2001 CTBT Conference’ – Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND CONFERENCE REFERENCES

Unless stated otherwise, reference to the United Nations rules of procedure of the General Assembly is to the rules in the General Assembly and not to the equivalent rules in committees.

Unless using a direct quotation, reference to the number of a specific rule of procedure is always to the rule of procedure as it appears in the 1984 version (UN Doc. A/520/Rev.15 (1984), UN Sales No. E.85.I.13) and not to the numbering of the rule as it was when the statement referred to was made.