

NOTES FOR OPENING REMARKS OF CONVENORS OF FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUPS

Aspects to be covered in these remarks must deal amongst other with :

1. The DMC meeting of 13 January decided that each Working Group shall be convened for its first session by a member of the DMC who would chair this session initially;
2. Formally table Guidelines to Chairpersons of Working Groups; Standing Rules; and Terms of Reference of Working Group. Inform the Working Groups that the draft agenda items for this first session are derived from these three documents; and on the basis that: CODESA I decided that each of the Working Groups would meet on 20 January in order to determine how they will approach their work and to determine a programme according to which they will discharge their duties.
3. At this stage questions relating to coordination between Working Groups are guided by Tasks of the Management Committee. In this regard, note the decision that "it will be the task of the Management Committee and its sub-structures to supervise and coordinate the working of the Working Groups" (Transcript p.227) This does not preclude direct inter- Working Groups liaison and contact as and when the need arises.
4. Under establishing the mechanisms/structures to facilitate the functioning of the Working Groups, this should be taken in conjunction with any additional guidelines that the DMC adopts. In the event that the DMC accepting the Secretariat's proposed additions, the following items would need to be raised under this agenda item:
 - 4.1 Appointing WGSC
 - 4.2 Appointing Rapporteurs
 - 4.3 Mechanism for chairperson rotation
 - 4.4 Note needs to be taken of the additions to the guidelines regarding submissions by interest groups (see item 2.3 of these additions)
5. In general, it is proposed by the DMC that, starting from 10 February 1992, Monday be the day appointed for Working Group meetings. However, Thursday 6 February 1992 will still mark the start of the Working Group meetings.
6. The DMC has resolved that the DMC itself should handle the issuing of press statements, or anything linked to the press, in so far as today's meeting is concerned. With regard to the future, it has been resolved that the DMC and the WGSC should formulate guidelines on publicity and press statements, having due regard to the fact that there is a need to ensure that the resolutions and recommendations to be submitted to CODESA II will not be laid bare for public debate even before CODESA II convenes.