

ASSEMBLY - 1st session  
Agenda item 4

DETERMINATION OF NON-CONTRACTING STATES TO BE INVITED AS OBSERVERS

Note by the Secretary-General of IMCO

1. In accordance with Article 18(10), it is for the Assembly to determine which non-contracting States shall be admitted to send observers to meetings of the Assembly, the Executive Committee and subsidiary bodies. In preparing for the first session of the Assembly, the Secretary-General considered that invitations to such observers to attend the first session would have to be circulated well before the opening meeting of that session, subject of course to confirmation by the Assembly. The Secretary-General has, therefore, issued invitations to send observers to the first session to all Governments which have signed the Convention but who are not yet Contracting States. It has been indicated that the invitations are subject to subsequent formal approval by the Assembly.
2. It was also felt that the Assembly might wish to consider whether States which have indicated their intention to accede to the Convention but which have not been able to complete the process of accession should also be invited to participate as observers. In this connexion, the Secretary-General recalls that, at the twenty-third and twenty-sixth sessions of the Legal Committee respectively, the delegations of Italy and the German Democratic Republic made statements indicating such an intention on the part of their governments. He has, therefore, issued invitations to these Governments to attend the first session as observers, subject to approval by the Assembly. Invitations shall be issued to other Governments which give similar indications to the Secretariat before the opening of the session of the Assembly.
3. A list of all Governments invited to participate as observers is annexed.
4. The Assembly is invited to take a decision on these matters.

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ANNEX

Governments invited to participate as observers

Belgium

Brazil

Finland

German Democratic Republic

Ireland

Italy

Netherlands

Poland

Portugal

Switzerland

United States

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