

XI. Schedule of work

29. The General Assembly convened the Conference for the period from Tuesday, 18 February, to Friday, 21 March 1986.
30. The Conference would have available to it a total of 24 working days. This allows for a total of 48 meetings of the plenary or of the Committee of the Whole, counting two meetings a day on regular working days, and having in mind that the opening meeting will take place on the morning of the first working day, 18 February 1986. If some extra meetings are needed, additional evening meetings could be arranged. The figure of 48 meetings does not include the meetings of the Drafting Committee or of sub-committees or working groups which may be established.
31. In view of the number of draft articles and other matters to be considered and the limited time available to the Conference, it would seem desirable that there be no general debate either in the plenary or in the Committee of the Whole, and that work on draft articles should begin as soon as possible, it being understood, of course, that in the debate on a particular draft article, consideration of the relationship to any other draft articles or to the draft articles as a whole should be possible. This procedure would follow the practice observed at earlier legal codification conferences.
32. The Conference, at its 1st plenary meeting on the morning of 18 February, may be expected to deal with at least items 1 to 4 of the provisional agenda (Opening of the Conference, Election of the President, Adoption of the agenda, and Adoption of the rules of procedure).
33. The Conference, at its 2nd plenary meeting on the afternoon of 18 February, may be expected to deal with items 5 to 10 of the provisional agenda (Election of Vice-Presidents, Election of the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, Election of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, Appointment of the Credentials Committee, Appointment of other members of the Drafting Committee, and Organization of work).
34. It would seem desirable for the Conference to deal in plenary on the first day, under item 10 on the organization of work, with the question that would arise under rule 28 of the draft rules of procedure, namely, as to which of the draft articles of the basic proposal should be referred by the Conference to the Committee of the Whole and which should be referred directly to the Drafting Committee. In doing so, the Conference may wish to take into account the list of draft articles of the basic proposal set out in annex II to General Assembly resolution 40/76 (see para. 20 above). Furthermore, a decision will have to be taken as to the method of considering the draft final clauses (see para. 21 above).
35. The Conference would need to meet in plenary in the final week of the Conference to take such action as may be necessary under items 11 to 13 of the provisional agenda. These may be expected to include: consideration of the report of the Committee of the Whole and of the Drafting Committee (those reports of the Drafting Committee that may be submitted directly by the Drafting Committee to the Conference) on the draft articles and other proposals; adoption of a convention and other instruments deemed appropriate and the final act of the Conference; signature of the final act of the Conference and of the convention and other instruments.