

Institutional Documents

Copyright © SELA, September 2016. All rights reserved.
Printed in the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, Caracas, Venezuela.

The Press and Publications Department of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA must authorize reproduction of this document, whether totally or partially, through sela@sela.org. The Member States and their government institutions may reproduce this document without prior authorization, provided that the source is mentioned and the Secretariat is aware of said reproduction.

C O N T E N T S

NOTE	1
PANAMA CONVENTION ESTABLISHING THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA)	3
HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA AND THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA)	13
ARRANGEMENT AIMED AT IMPROVING THE PROVISIONS OF THE HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT	2
REGULATIONS OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNCIL	25
REGULATIONS OF THE ACTION COMMITTEES	35
REGULATIONS OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT	43
REGULATIONS FOR OBSERVERS TO THE MEETINGS OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNCIL	51
REGULATIONS FOR ELECTIONS OF SELA FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNCIL	53

NOTE

In its XXXI Regular Meeting, the Latin American Council made the following provisions in its Decision N° 473:

"1. That the terms "Latin America" and "Latin American", as used in the Panama Convention establishing the Latin American Economic System should be interpreted as meaning "Latin America and the Caribbean" and "Latin American and Caribbean", respectively, and that, consequently, the name of the organization should be understood as meaning "Latin American and Caribbean Economic System."

2. To authorize the organs of the system to use, in its official documents, the name "Latin American and Caribbean Economic System", without changing the acronym.

3. To provide for the documents that will be published in the future to be in accordance with this Decision."

**PANAMA CONVENTION
ESTABLISHING THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA)^(*)**

^(*) See Note on page 1.

The Latin American States represented at the Ministerial Meeting convened to establish the Latin American Economic System.

WHEREAS:

There is a need to establish a permanent system of intra-regional economic and social cooperation, of consultation and coordination of the positions of Latin America in international bodies as well as before third countries and groups of countries;

The present dynamics of international relations and socio-economic fields also make it necessary that all initiatives and efforts for coordination among Latin American countries be converted into a permanent system which for the first time will include all States of the region and be responsible for all agreements and principles which up to now have been jointly adopted by all countries of Latin America and which will ensure their implementation through concerted actions;

This cooperation must be realized in the spirit of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and in manner consistent with the commitments for integration which the majority of Latin American countries have assumed;

It is imperative to promote greater unity among Latin American countries in order to ensure concerted action in the field of intra-regional economic and social cooperation, to increase the bargaining power of the region and to ensure that Latin America occupies its rightful position in the international community;

The action of a permanent system of intra-regional, coordination, consultation and cooperation of Latin America should be carried out on the basis of the principles of equality, sovereignty, independence of States, solidarity, non-intervention in internal affairs, reciprocal benefits, non-discrimination, and full respect for the social and economic systems freely chosen by States;

There is a need to strengthen and complement the various Latin American integration processes through the joint promotion of specific development programmes and projects;

Consequently, it is advisable and appropriate to establish a regional body to achieve these ends, and in the Panama Meeting held from July 31 to August 2, 1975, a consensus was reached to establish the Latin American Economic System.

4

AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING CONVENTION

CHAPTER ONE - ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE

- Article 1** The Latin American Economic System, hereinafter referred to as SELA, is established by the signatories, with the membership, power, and functions specified in this Convention.
- Article 2** SELA is a permanent regional body for consultation, coordination, cooperation and joint economic and social promotion, with its own international juridical personality. It is composed of sovereign Latin American States.
- Article 3** The fundamental purposes of SELA are:
- a) To promote intra-regional cooperation in order to accelerate the economic and social development of its members;
 - b) To provide a permanent system of consultation and coordination for the adoption of common positions and strategies on economic and social matters in international bodies and forums as well as before third countries and groups of countries.
- Article 4** The activities of SELA shall be based on the principles of equality, sovereignty and independence of States; on solidarity, non-intervention in internal affairs, with due respect for the differences in political, economic and social systems. Likewise, the actions of SELA shall duly respect the characteristics inherent to the various regional and sub-regional integration processes as well as their basic mechanisms and juridical structure.

CHAPTER II - OBJECTIVES

- Article 5** The objectives of SELA are:
1. To promote regional cooperation, with a view to attaining self-sustained, independent and integral development, particularly through actions designed to:
 - a) Encourage the optimum use of natural, human, technical and financial resources of the region, by creating and fostering Latin American multinational enterprises. These enterprises could be established with state, quasi-state, private or mixed capital whose national character is guaranteed by the respective Member States and whose activities are subject to their jurisdiction and supervision.
 - b) Stimulate satisfactory levels of production and supply of agricultural products, energy, and other commodities, with emphasis on the specific supply with a view to establishing a Latin American policy in this area;

- c) Stimulate throughout the region the processing of raw material of the Member States, industrial complementation, intra-regional trade and the export of manufactured goods;
 - d) Design and strengthen mechanisms and forms of association which will enable Members States to obtain adequate prices, ensure stable markets for the export of their commodities and manufactured goods and increase their bargaining power, without prejudice to the support necessary to the systems and mechanisms of coordination and protection of raw material prices to which the countries of the area may already belong;
 - e) Improve the bargaining power for the acquisition and utilization of capital goods and technology;
 - f) Encourage the channelling of financial resources toward projects and programmes which stimulate the development of the countries of the region;
 - g) Foster cooperation in Latin America for the creation, development, adaptation and exchange of technology and scientific information, as well as the optimum use and development of human, educational, scientific and cultural resources.
 - h) Study and propose measures which will ensure that the activities of transnational enterprises comply with the development objectives of the region and with the national interests of the Member States, and to exchange information on the activities of those enterprises.
 - i) Promote the development and coordination of transportation and communication, particularly within the region;
 - j) Promote cooperation among the member countries in the area of tourism;
 - k) Encourage cooperation for the protection, conservation and improvement of the environment of the environment;
 - l) Support all efforts to assist those countries which for emergency situations of an economic nature, as well as those resulting from natural disasters;
 - m) Support any other measures related to the foregoing, which may contribute to the achievement of the economic, social and cultural development of the region.
2. To support the integration processes of the region and encourage coordination among them, or with Member States of SELA, particularly with respect to those activities aimed at promoting greater harmonization and convergence, duly respecting the commitments made within the framework of such processes.
 3. To promote the formulation and implementation of economic and social programmes and projects of interest to the Member States.
 4. To act as a mechanism for consultation and coordination within Latin American for the purpose of formulation common positions and strategies on economic and social matters before third countries, groups of countries and in international organizations and forums.

6

5. To promote within the context of the objectives of SELA relating to intra-regional cooperation means to ensure preferential treatment for the relatively less developed countries and special measures for countries with limited markets and for those whose landlocked condition affects their development, taking into account the economic situation of each of the Member States.

CHAPTER III - MEMBERSHIP

Article 6 Sovereign Latin American States which sign and ratify the present Convention shall be members of SELA.

Article 7 The present Convention is open to accession by all other sovereign Latin American States which did not originally sign it. To this end, they shall deposit the appropriate instrument of accession with the Government of Venezuela. The Convention shall enter into force for the acceding State, thirty days after the appropriate instrument is deposited.

CHAPTER IV - ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Article 8 The organs of SELA are:

- a) The Latin American Council
- b) The Action Committees, and
- c) The Permanent Secretariat

A. The Latin American Council

Article 9 The Latin American Council is the supreme organ of SELA and shall be composed of one representative from each Member State. It shall normally meet at the headquarters of the Permanent Secretariat.

Article 10 Each Member State has the right to one vote.

Article 11 The Latin American Council shall hold an annual regular session, at the ministerial level, and may hold special sessions at ministerial or non-ministerial level whenever it is so decided by a regular session or requested by at least one-third of the Member States.

The Council, by consensus, may change the proportion mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

Article 12 Regular sessions of the Latin American Council, at the ministerial level, shall be preceded by a preparatory meeting. In the event of special sessions, the notice convening the session shall state whether or not a preparatory meeting is to be held.

Article 13 The Council may meet when at least a majority of the Members States is present.

Article 14 The Latin American Council shall elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and one Rapporteur of each session.

Article 15 The Latin American Council has the following functions:

- 1) To establish the general policies of SELA.
- 2) To elect and remove the Permanent Secretary and the Deputy Permanent Secretary.
- 3) To adopt its Rules of Procedure as well as those of the other permanent bodies of SELA.
- 4) To consider and approve, as the case may be, the Annual Report submitted by the Permanent Secretariat.
- 5) To approve the budget and financial statements of SELA, and to fix the quotas of the Member States.
- 6) To consider and approve the Work Programme of SELA.
- 7) To consider the reports of the Action Committees.
- 8) To decide on the interpretation of this Convention.
- 9) To approve amendments to this Convention proposed by Member States.
- 10) To evaluate, direct, and approve the activities of the organs of SELA.
- 11) To approve the common positions and strategies of the Member States with respect to economic and social matters, in international and regional organizations and forums, and before third countries or groups of countries.
- 12) To consider proposals and reports submitted by the Permanent Secretariat on matters within its competence.
- 13) To decide on the holding of special sessions.
- 14) To designate the venue of its sessions whenever they are not held at the headquarters of the Permanent Secretariat.
- 15) To approve operational agreements entered into by the Permanent Secretary, pursuant to the provisions of Article 31, sub-paragraph 8.
- 16) To adopt measures necessary for the implementation of this Convention and to evaluate the results of such implementation.
- 17) To decide on all other matters of interest to it which are related to the objectives of SELA.

Article 16 The functions set forth in sub-paragraphs 11 to 17 of the preceding Article may be performed by a special meeting at the non-ministerial level whenever agreed to by the Member States.

8

- Article 17** The Latin American Council shall adopt its decisions:
- a) By consensus, in the case of the functions set forth in sub-paragraphs 1, 8, 9 and 11 of article 15 of this Convention and
 - b) By majority of two-thirds of the Member present, or by an absolute majority of the Members States, whichever is greater, in the case of the functions wet forth in the remaining sub-paragraphs of Article 15. With respect to any issue arising for decision under Article 15, sub-paragraph 17, if a member state informs the Council that it considers the issue to be one of fundamental importance which has implications for its own national interest, the decision on that issue shall be by consensus.
- Article 18** The specific agreements and projects dealing with regional cooperation shall be binding only on those countries participating therein.
- Article 19** The Latin American Council shall not take decisions adversely affecting national policies of the Member States.

B. The Action Committees

- Article 20** Action Committees composed of representatives of the Member States concerned shall be established to carry out specific studies, programmes and projects and to prepare and adopt joint negotiating positions of interest to more than two Member States.
- Article 21** The Committees may be established by decision of the Council or by decision of the States concerned, which shall so notify the Secretariat and the latter shall inform the other Member States. The Committees shall be of a temporary nature and shall cease to function upon completion of their specified tasks. They will be open to participation by all Member States. The Permanent Secretariat may propose the Council to establish Action Committees
- Article 22** Financing of the Action Committees shall be the responsibility of the Member States participating therein.
- Article 23** Each Action Committee shall establish its own Secretariat. The functions of the Secretariat shall be performed insofar as possible by an official of the Permanent Secretariat with a view to supporting the work and contributing to the coordination of the Action Committees. These shall at all time keep the Permanent Secretariat informed of the progress and results of their work.
- Article 24** Compliance with the objectives relating to regional cooperation through the Action Committees shall be binding only on those Member States participating therein.
- Article 25** Activities of the Action Committees operating within the general objectives of SELA shall not discriminate against or create conflicts detrimental to other Member States of SELA.

Article 26 Action Committees shall submit annual reports of their activities for consideration by the Latin American Council. When required, the Member States may request that the Permanent Secretariat provide them with information on the activities of the Action Committees.

C. The Permanent Secretariat

Article 27 The Permanent Secretariat is the technical administrative organ of SELA, with Headquarters in Caracas, Republic of Venezuela.

Article 28 The Secretariat shall be under the direction of a Permanent Secretary. He shall be responsible for the technical and administrative personnel necessary for the performance of the functions of the Permanent Secretariat.

The Permanent Secretary shall be the legal representative of the Permanent Secretariat and in specific cases as determined by the Latin American Council, he shall act as legal representative of SELA. The Permanent Secretary shall be elected for a four-year term. He may only be re-elected once, but not for consecutive terms. He may not be replaced by a person of the same nationality. The foregoing also applies to the election of the Deputy Permanent Secretary, who cannot be of the same nationality as the Permanent Secretary.

Article 29 The Permanent Secretary shall be a citizen of one of the Member States and shall participate with voice but without vote in the sessions of the Latin American Council.

Article 30 The Permanent Secretary shall be responsible to the Latin American Council for the proper performance of the functions of the Permanent Secretariat. In the performance of his or her duties, the Permanent Secretary and the personnel of the Secretariat shall not seek or receive instructions from any government, or national or international body.

Article 31 The functions of the Permanent Secretariat shall be as follows:

1. To perform the functions assigned to it by the Latin American Council and, when appropriate, implement its decisions.
2. To encourage and carry out preliminary studies and take the necessary measures to identify and promote projects of interest to two or more Member States. Whenever such actions have budgetary implications, their implementation shall be subject to the availability of funds.
3. To facilitate the activities of the Action Committees and contribute to their coordination, including the provision of assistance for carrying out the appropriate studies.
4. To propose to the Council programmes and projects of common interest and to suggest ways in which they may be carried out, including meeting of experts and other measures which may better contribute to the attainment of the objectives of SELA.
5. To prepare and submit for consideration by Member States the draft agendas for the sessions of the Council and to prepare and distribute all related documents.

10

6. To prepare the draft budgets and work programmes to be submitted to the Council for its approval.
7. To submit the financial statements of SELA for consideration by the Council, at its regular sessions.
8. To promote and conclude, subject to the approval of the Council, arrangements with international organizations and agencies, national agencies of Member States and third countries, to carry out studies, programmes and projects, especially those of a regional nature.
9. To formally convene the sessions and meetings of the organs of SELA.
10. To collect the contributions of the Member States, to administer the resources, and to execute the budget of SELA.
11. To prepare the annual report on its activities for consideration by the Latin American Council at its regular sessions; and to coordinate the submission of the annual reports drafted by the Action Committees, without prejudice to the reports they may submit directly to the Council.
12. To recruit and hire the technical and administrative staff of the Secretariat.

CHAPTER V - RATIFICATION AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

- Article 32** Each signatory State shall ratify the Convention in accordance with its laws. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Government of Venezuela, which shall notify the Government of signatory and acceding States of the date of deposit.
- Article 33** This convention shall enter into force for the ratifying States when an absolute majority of the signatory States have deposited their respective instruments of ratification; and for the other signatory States, from the date of deposit of their respective instruments of ratification in the order in which they were deposited.
- Article 34** Amendments to this Convention proposed by any Member State shall be approved by the Latin American Council. The amendments shall enter into force for the ratifying States when two-thirds of the Member States have deposited their respective instruments of ratification.
- Article 35** This Convention shall remain in force indefinitely. It may be denounced by any of the Member States by written notification addressed to the Government of Venezuela, which shall forward such notification without delay to the other Member States. After ninety (90) days have elapsed from the date on which the Government of the host country receives such notification, this Convention shall cease to be binding on the denouncing State. The denouncing Member State shall fulfil all obligations undertaken prior to its notification of withdrawal, notwithstanding the fact that such obligations may extend beyond the effective date of withdrawal.

CHAPTER VI - GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Article 36** The Member States of SELA shall defray the cost of its operation. The Council, upon approving the annual budget, shall establish the quotas of the Members in accordance with the formula agreed upon.
- Article 37** SELA, its organs, staff members of the Permanent Secretariat and government representatives shall enjoy, in the territory of each Member State, such legal status, privileges and immunities as are necessary for the exercise of their functions. To this end, appropriate agreements shall be entered into with the Government of Venezuela and other Members States.
- Article 38** The official languages of SELA shall be: English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.
- Article 39** This Convention shall remain open for signature for a period of thirty (30) days from October 17, 1975.
- Article 40** This Convention shall be registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations by the Government of Venezuela.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries, having deposited their Full Powers, found to be in due and proper order, do hereby sign this Convention on behalf of their respective Governments.

DONE at the City of Panama, Republic of Panama, on the seventeenth day of October, nineteen hundred and seventy-five (1975), with original copies in the English, French, Portuguese and Spanish languages, whose texts are equally authentic.

The Government of Venezuela shall be the depository of the present Convention and shall forward duly authenticated copies of the Convention to the Government of the other signatory and acceding countries.

This Convention was signed by the Representatives of Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

**HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA
AND THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM "SELA"(*)**

(*) See Note on page 1.

HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA AND THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM "SELA"

The Government of the Republic of Venezuela, hereinafter "**THE GOVERNMENT**", and the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System, hereinafter "**SELA**", represented by the Permanent Secretary of its Permanent Secretariat, hereinafter "**THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT**", with the purpose of complying with the provisions set forth in Article 37 of the Panama Convention Establishing the Latin American Economic System "**SELA**" – which states that "**SELA**", its organs, the officials of "**THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT**", and the governmental officials, will have those judicial capacity, privileges and immunities that are strictly necessary in order to carry out their duties, for which the corresponding Agreements will be reached – have decided to sign this Agreement as follows:

Article 1 "**SELA**" shall have, within the territory of the Republic of Venezuela, the judicial capacity and the necessary privileges and immunities to comply with its functions and pursue its objectives as an international organization, as provided for in this Agreement.

Sole Paragraph The purchase of properties and immovable assets by "**SELA**" shall be subject to the conditions established in the Constitution of the Republic of Venezuela and to the restrictions set forth in the Law provided for in Article 8 of said instrument.

Article 2 The Permanent Secretary of "**THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT**", in his or her capacity as legal representative of the Secretariat, shall be authorized to execute in Venezuela the necessary duties so as to enable "**SELA**" to perform its functions, pursuant to the Convention establishing this organization and its corresponding regulations.

Article 3 The premises, offices, assets, archives and documents of "**SELA**" and its organs shall be inviolable regardless of the location in the Republic of Venezuela or in whose hands they are; they shall be exempt from searches, requisitions, inspections, censorship, seizure, expropriation, confiscation, and from any other form of executive, judicial or legislative intervention.

Article 4 "**SELA**" and its organs, as well as their goods, archives, funds and assets, shall have judicial and administrative immunity in the Republic of Venezuela. The Permanent Secretary, on behalf of "**SELA**" could issue a waiver of immunity as regards specific cases, with the effect of said waiver not being extended to the execution measures affecting the goods, archives, funds and assets of "**SELA**" and its organs, except for those cases in which "**SELA**" or its organs are judicially involved as actors. In such latter case, "**SELA**" and its organs will be subject to the corresponding Venezuelan laws for the purposes of the legal action.

Article 5 The premises of "**SELA**" and its organs shall not be used as a place for political asylum. Therefore, the competent authorities of "**SELA**" and its organs shall not allow its premises to be used as a place for political asylum by people trying to avoid to be arrested in compliance with a judicial order issued by a competent tribunal in the Republic of Venezuela, or trying to ignore a summons to appear in court, or by people who are pursued by "**THE GOVERNMENT**".

16

Article 6 Venezuelan public order officials will not be allowed to enter the premises of **"SELA"** and its organs without the consent of the Permanent Secretary of the **"PERMANENT SECRETARIAT"**, or whoever is performing his or her functions.

Article 7 The goods, funds, income and donations, as well the assets and operations conducted by **"SELA"** and its organs shall be exempt from taxes, fiscal contributions and duties imposed by either national, state or municipal authorities, particularly those concerning:

- a) Movable or immovable property, or their value, as well as purchasing and selling operations of those movable or immovable goods which are necessary for the Secretariat to perform its functions;
- b) The value of the air tickets purchased for national or international travels;
- c) The wire, telex and teleprinter services, or any other type of similar communications services;
- d) The telephone service; and
- e) The circulation licenses for its vehicles.

First Paragraph: For the above-mentioned purposes, the only requirement will be a certification issued by the **"PERMANENT SECRETARIAT"**.

Second Paragraph: **"SELA"** and its organs shall not be exempt from those tariffs and duties that constitute remunerations for public services.

Article 8 **"SELA"** and its organs shall be exempt from obligations involving retention or collection of any taxes, contributions or duties.

Article 9 **"SELA"** and its organs shall be exempt from prohibitions and restrictions on those articles, equipment, vehicles or working tools and publications that may be imported or exported for official use.

Sole Paragraph: The articles imported under these exemptions cannot be sold in the Republic of Venezuela, unless they are sold in compliance with the laws or regulations established by **"THE GOVERNMENT"** governing such cases.

Article 10 **"SELA"** and its organs shall be allowed to keep any type of funds or accounts in any type of currency, to freely transfer funds and currencies within or outside the Republic of Venezuela, and to convert the resources available to them into any type of currency.

Article 11 **"SELA"** and its organs shall have the right to use codes and to dispatch and receive correspondence by courier or sealed pouches, which will have the same privileges as diplomatic couriers and pouches.

Article 12 The aforementioned privileges and immunities are granted exclusively for the fulfilment of the functions of **"SELA"** and its organs.

Article 13 While they are in the territory of the Republic of Venezuela performing their duties, the Government Representatives to the organs of **"SELA"** shall enjoy the privileges and immunities granted to the diplomatic officials in accordance with the norms and practices of the International Law. Such privileges and immunities extend to their direct family members.

Sole Paragraph: **"THE GOVERNMENT"** shall not grant these privileges and immunities to its nationals or to the persons representing it in the organs of **"SELA"**.

Article 14 **"THE GOVERNMENT"** shall take all the necessary measures to facilitate the entry into the country, residence and exit of the persons indicated below:

- I) the government representatives to the organs of **"SELA"**;
- II) the members of the directive staff;
- III) the members of the technical and administrative staff; and
- IV) The experts and consultants who are to perform duties in Venezuela on the account of **"SELA"**.

The privileges referred to above shall include, in accordance with the Venezuelan laws and regulations, the issuance of visas for periods of up to one year.

The provisions set forth in this article shall apply to the spouse and the direct relatives of the interested party, provided that they live with said party and do not exercise an independent profession or activity.

The provisions set forth in this article shall be applied in accordance with the communications timely issued by **"THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT"** to **"THE GOVERNMENT"**.

The legal and regulatory provisions issued by **"THE GOVERNMENT"** concerning sanitary matters shall apply to the persons referred to in this article.

Article 15 The Permanent Secretary of the **"PERMANENT SECRETARIAT"** as well as the members of its directive, technical and administrative staff who are not nationals of the Republic of Venezuela, provided that they are included in the list forwarded by **"THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT"** to **"THE GOVERNMENT"**, shall be granted the following privileges and immunities:

- a) Immunity from personal arrests, detentions, administrative or legal processes with respect to the activities performed by them in their official capacity (including words spoken or written) and with respect to the issues within their competence.
- b) Immunity from seizure of personal baggage, papers and documents, related to the activities concerning the organs of **"SELA"**.
- c) Exemption from income taxes, fiscal duties on their salaries, benefits and any other emoluments paid to them by **"THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT"**.

18

- d) Exemption, which is also extended to their spouses and minor children, from all types of national compulsory services.
- e) Facilities as regards foreign exchange provisions. In this regard, they will be allowed to keep, within the territory of the Republic of Venezuela, foreign property titles and foreign currency accounts, and will be able to unrestrictedly transfer out of Venezuela the funds that they have brought with them as well as those stemming from the sale of their personal belongings, household goods and vehicles.
- f) Exemption from taxation on circulation of vehicles, which will be identified in accordance with the provisions in force regarding such cases without any additional charge.
- g) Facilities, which are also extended to their relatives, for freely obtaining driving licenses for automobiles or other vehicles.
- h) Exemption from import duties and other additional duties, as well as customs-duty conditions and clearance of baggage, furniture and household goods that they might bring for their stay in the country. This provision is also applicable to the personal effects and goods of the members of their families and to those goods that enter the country as "unaccompanied baggage" in one or several shipments, provided that they enter the country within the six (6) months following the arrival of the official.
- i) Right to import an automobile in accordance with the conditions and requirements provided for in the law, regulations and resolutions governing the matter in Venezuela.
- j) Free export of their baggage and personal goods, furniture and vehicles upon termination of their duties and up to three months after their definitive departure from the country.

Sole paragraph: Those Venezuelan citizens who are members of the directive, technical and administrative staff of "**THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT**", who are included in the list referred to in the first paragraph of this Article, shall be granted only the benefits provided for in paragraphs a), b) and c).

Article 16 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela shall issue special identity cards to the Permanent Secretary, the Deputy Permanent Secretary, the Directors and other international officials, their spouses and other family members; the remaining staff members of "**THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT**", their spouses and other family members will be issued identity cards.

This Article shall be applied in accordance with the list of officials referred to in Article 15.

Article 17 For protocol purposes, the Permanent Secretary of "**THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT**" shall be recognized the rank of Ambassador and Head of Mission. Both the Permanent Secretary and the Deputy Permanent Secretary shall

enjoy the benefit of the annual free import quota that **"THE GOVERNMENT"** grants to the Heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the country, and shall be given diplomatic license plates for their vehicles. The rest of the staff members of **"THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT"** who are not citizens of the Republic of Venezuela shall also enjoy the annual free import quota granted by **"THE GOVERNMENT"**.

- Article 18** The privileges and immunities agreed to in the paragraphs above are granted exclusively in the interest of **"SELA"** and its organs, not as personal advantages for the persons benefiting from them. Therefore, the government of any interested State could suspend such immunities to their representatives and relatives. As far as the staff of **"THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT"** is concerned, the Permanent Secretary has the right and the duty to waive such privileges and immunities in case they might hinder regular judicial processes, without detriment to the purposes for which they are granted.
- Article 19** The organs of **"SELA"** and its officials shall fully cooperate with Venezuelan authorities in order to facilitate an impartial administration of justice, ensure observance with the laws of the country and prevent any abuse in exercising the privileges and immunities provided for in this Agreement.
- Article 20** **"THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT"** commits itself to take any possible appropriate measures in order to facilitate the settlement of any litigation which might involve any of its officials who have been granted immunities and privileges due to their position.
- Article 21** In case an official of **"THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT"** abuses or illegally takes advantage, in any way, of the privileges and immunities granted by virtue of this Agreement, the Permanent Secretariat shall suspend such immunities and privileges for that official and will adopt any other measures that it may deem convenient.
- Article 22** **"THE GOVERNMENT"** will not be impeded to expel a foreigner who is under the protection of immunities established in this Agreement. In the case of officials of **"THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT"**, **"THE GOVERNMENT"** will previously communicate the decision by intermediation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to **"THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT"**, so that the latter can take the suitable measures.
- Article 23** The representatives or officials of international organizations, as well as experts and consultants will enjoy, during their permanence in the territory of the Republic of Venezuela performing duties related to the Consulting Agreement of **"SELA"**, the same treatment established for the officials of **"THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT"**, as per notification of **"THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT"** to **"THE GOVERNMENT"**.
- Article 24** The labour and social benefits regime applicable to the personnel of **"THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT"** will be established by **"SELA"** under the criterium that such provisions shall not be less advantageous than those in force in Venezuela.

20

- Article 25** All discrepancies on the application and interpretation of this Agreement will be referred to the solution proceeding that **"THE GOVERNMENT"** and **"THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT"** jointly agree to establish.
- Article 26** **"THE GOVERNMENT"** and **"THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT"** can establish the necessary complementary agreements on the subject regulated by this agreement.
- Article 27** This agreement, as well as the complementary agreements that can be adopted, will come into force when **"THE GOVERNMENT"** informs **"THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT"** that all constitutional and legal requirements have been met for such purpose in Venezuela.
- Article 28** This agreement and those with a complementary nature will cease to be effective one (1) year after any of the Signing Parties inform the other, in writing, its decision to terminate it.

The undersigned, representatives duly authorized by **"THE GOVERNMENT"** and **"SELA,"** sign this agreement in two equally authentic copies, in the city of Caracas, on the twenty-seventh day of the month of March of the year one thousand nine hundred and seventy-eight, 169th year of the Independence and 120th year of the Federation.

Jaime Moncayo
Permanent Secretary
Latin American Economic System (SELA)

Simón Alberto Consalvi
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Venezuela

**ARRANGEMENT AIMED AT IMPROVING THE PROVISIONS
OF THE HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT(*)**

(*) See Note on page 1.

Caracas, 17 May 1990

Honourable Mister
Carlos Pérez del Castillo
Permanent Secretary of the
Latin American Economic System
Caracas

I am honoured to write to you in reference to your note dated 27 April 1990, in which you proposed an agreement between your organization and the Republic of Venezuela in the following terms:

"Honourable Minister: I am honoured to address Your Excellency in order to propose the adoption of an agreement based on the exchange of Notes between the Government of Venezuela and the Latin American Economic System (SELA) for improving the provisions of the headquarters agreement signed between the two parties on 27 March 1987, in the following terms:

Sole Article: Article 24 of the headquarters agreement between the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and the government of the Republic of Venezuela signed on 27 March 1978 shall be interpreted in the following manner:

- a) The labour regime established by SELA, as a whole, must be at least as advantageous as that established by the Venezuelan labour legislation.
- b) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela will present the Permanent Secretariat of SELA any observation that it finds appropriate on the compliance with the provisions of Article 24. In case of differences as regards the interpretation, conversations tending to solve them will immediately start between the officials chosen by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Secretary.
- c) Article 24 will not be interpreted as an exception to the judicial and administrative immunity that SELA and its organs enjoy in Venezuela, in accordance with Article 4 of the headquarters agreement; nor will it be interpreted as an attribution of jurisdiction to Venezuelan labour courts or authorities regarding SELA or its organs.
- d) Article 24 is not applicable to the officials of SELA who enjoy privileges and immunity according to Article 15 of the headquarters agreement.

This note and your Excellency's response will constitute the agreement on the preceding text.

I avail myself of the opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration."

In response, it is a pleasure to tell you that the government of Venezuela accepts the terms proposed in the Note sent by your Excellency and transcribed above, which, together with this letter, constitute an agreement between the Republic of Venezuela and the Latin American Economic System (SELA), which is to come into force as of this date.

24

I avail myself of the opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Caracas, 27 April 1990

Your Excellency
Mr. Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of Venezuela

Honourable Minister:

I am honoured to address Your Excellency in order to propose the adoption of an agreement based on the exchange of Notes between the Government of Venezuela and the Latin American Economic System (SELA) for improving the provisions of the headquarters agreement signed between the two parties on 27 March 1987, in the following terms:

Sole Article: Article 24 of the headquarters agreement between the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and the government of the Republic of Venezuela signed on 27 March 1978 shall be interpreted in the following manner:

- a) The labour regime established by SELA, as a whole, must be at least as advantageous as that established by the Venezuelan labour legislation.
- b) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela will present the Permanent Secretariat of SELA any observation that it finds appropriate on the compliance with the provisions of Article 24. In case of differences as regards the interpretation, conversations tending to solve them will immediately start between the officials chosen by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Secretary.
- c) Article 24 will not be interpreted as an exception to the judicial and administrative immunity that SELA and its organs enjoy in Venezuela, in accordance with Article 4 of the headquarters agreement; nor will it be interpreted as an attribution of jurisdiction to Venezuelan labour courts or authorities regarding SELA or its organs.
- d) Article 24 is not applicable to the officials of SELA who enjoy privileges and immunity according to Article 15 of the headquarters agreement.

This note and your Excellency's response will constitute the agreement on the preceding text.

I avail myself of the opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

Carlos Pérez del Castillo
Permanent Secretary

**REGULATIONS OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNCIL (*)
(Approved by the Latin American Council in its Decision N° 1,
adopted in its First Regular Meeting, held in Panama
on 17 October 1975, and ratified in its First Special Meeting,
held in Caracas on 14 January 1976)**

(*) See Note on page 1.

I. NATURE AND COMPOSITION

- Article 1** The Latin American Council, hereinafter "THE COUNCIL", has the powers granted to it by the Convention establishing SELA.
- Article 2** These Regulations shall govern the functioning of the Council and its subsidiary bodies.
- Article 3** The cases provided for in the Convention and not covered by these Regulations shall be resolved by the Council.
- Article 4** The Council at the ministerial level will be made up by a representative designated by the Government of each Member State. When the Council holds non-ministerial special meetings, it will involve the participation of high-level representatives.
- Article 5** In addition to its representative, each Government may appoint as many delegates and advisers as it deems suitable.
- Article 6** For each meeting of the Council the Government of the Member States shall communicate to the Permanent Secretariat the name of its representative, as well as the names of the delegates and advisers designated to form part of its delegation.
- Article 7** The Permanent Secretariat will inform about the appointments referred to in the previous Article to the other members of the Council.
- Article 8** The credentials of the representatives shall be communicated to the Permanent Secretary.

II. MEETINGS

- Article 9** The Latin American Council will hold an annual regular meeting at the ministerial level. It may hold special meetings at the ministerial or non-ministerial levels, whenever the regular meeting decides to do so, or at the request of at least one-third (1/3) of the Member States.
- Article 10** The meetings of the Latin American Council will be held at the headquarters of the Permanent Secretariat, unless consensus is reached to decide to conduct them elsewhere.
- Article 11** Each regular Council meeting will be held during the first quarter of the year and will be preceded by a preparatory meeting, with the participation of high-level representatives. In convening special meetings, it will be established whether a preparatory meeting will be held or not.

28

Article 12 The Permanent Secretary will formalize the convening of the regular sessions of the Council not less than 60 days in advance of the scheduled date for the meeting at the ministerial level and, at the same time, he shall forward the basic relevant documents.

Within 15 days following the date of receipt of the convocation, any Member State may request modification of the date set by the Permanent Secretary, who will immediately consult with the other Member States on the proposed change, by telegraphic means. The Member States shall give their opinion on the inquiry within 10 days following the date on which they received it. Should the proposed change receive support from the majority of the Member States, including the proposer, the Secretary shall proceed to make a new formal convocation. The lack of response by any State to the consultation made by the Secretariat, within the period indicated in the preceding paragraph, will be understood as opposition to the change of date.

Article 13 The preparatory meetings for the Council will be of a private nature and shall endeavour to reach agreements upon:

- a) The annotated draft agenda;
- b) The recommendations on specific items of the agenda;
- c) The possible establishment of committees or working groups; and
- d) Other matters that may contribute to facilitate the Council meeting.

Article 14 The Council may hold its sessions with the attendance of, at least, the majority of the Member States.

Article 15 The decision to hold a special meeting may be adopted:

- a) At the annual meeting of the Council at ministerial level;
- b) At the special meetings of the Council at ministerial or non-ministerial levels; and
- c) Upon a proposal made by at least one-third (1/3) of the Member States.

Article 16 Any initiative to hold a special meeting must be forwarded, not less than 60 days in advance of the proposed date, to the Permanent Secretary, who will immediately notify the Member States, as well as the diplomatic representations accredited to the Government of Venezuela, by telegraphic means.

Along with its proposal, the proposing country must also present a draft agenda and an explanatory memorandum.

Article 17 From the date of receipt of the communication, the Member States will have a period of 15 days to propose other topics, also with their due justification, and to give their opinion on the conduction of the special meeting.

At the end of that period, the Permanent Secretariat will notify the Member States if the proposal has received the necessary support. If so, the Secretariat will proceed to formalize the convocation of the meeting, not less than 15 days in

advance of the scheduled date, and to forward the provisional agenda at the same time.

Article 18 Notwithstanding the two previous Articles, the Council may hold special meetings of an urgent nature, which shall be convened by the Permanent Secretary, at the request of one or more Member States not less than 10 days in advance to the scheduled date, provided that it has the support of a minimum of two-thirds (2/3) of the Member States.

Article 19 The Council shall decide, by a majority vote, the nature of its meetings, i.e. whether they will be public, restricted, or private meetings.

Public sessions can be attended by the observers and guests selected by the Council, in addition to the representatives of the Member States and the Secretariat. Restricted sessions shall be attended only by the representatives of the Member States, the Permanent Secretariat and the observers who may be invited, depending on the meeting. Private sessions can only be attended by the representatives of the Member States and the Permanent Secretariat. The plenary sessions of the Council will be of a restricted nature, unless the Council decides otherwise. The sessions of the Committees and Working Groups will be private, unless they decide otherwise.

Article 20 The Council may agree, during any session, to temporarily adjourn it and resume it at a later date.

III. AGENDA

Article 21 The Permanent Secretary shall prepare and distribute to the representatives of the Member States, at the end of each regular session, the provisional agenda for the next regular session.

Such provisional agenda will include all the topics proposed by:

- a) The Council;
- b) The Action Committees;
- c) Any Member State in the Council, and
- d) The Permanent Secretary of SELA

Proposed topics must be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and, if possible, base documents or draft resolutions.

Article 22 At the beginning of each session, the Council shall approve the agenda for the session by an absolute majority of the Member States.

IV. CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMEN AND RAPPORTEUR

Article 23 The Bureau shall be made up by one Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and one Rapporteur.

The designation of those countries whose representatives will hold the aforementioned positions will be automatic, rotatory and in the alphabetical order of the names of the Member States, in accordance with the rules adopted by the Council for this matter.

The Bureau appointed at a session of the Council at Ministerial level will continue to perform its duties until the next session of the Council at Ministerial level, regardless whether it is a regular or a special session.

Article 24 In case of absence, the Chairman will be replaced by one of the Vice Chairmen, with the same powers.

Article 25 The duties of the Chairman are as follows:

- a) Propose the agenda for the plenary sessions;
- b) Preside over, open and close the plenary sessions;
- c) Pass the floor to participants, in the order in which they request it;
- d) Decide over points of order raised during the debates;
- e) Make remarks to any representative whose comments drift away from the subject under discussion;
- f) Close the list of speakers;
- g) Postpone, adjourn and close debates;
- h) Submit any proposals discussed in the plenary sessions for decision;
- i) Announce the results of the decision-making process, and
- j) Comply with and enforce the provisions of these Regulations.

Article 26 The agenda for the sessions shall be duly notified in advance to the members of the Council.

V. SECRETARIAT

Article 27 The Permanent Secretariat will act as the Secretariat of the Council and will provide the necessary support services for its proper functioning.

VI. COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Article 28 In each session, the Council may establish Committees and Working Groups, made up by the members it appoints, and it may entrust them with dealing with any matter included in the agenda so that they analyze it and report on it.

The Committees and Working Groups will hold valid sessions with half plus one of the members appointed to form part of them, and if their meetings are not plenary, they will be open to the participation of all the Member States.

Article 29 Each Committee and Working Group to be set up for a period of session will elect the members of its Bureau, unless the Council decides otherwise.

VII. DEBATES AND VOTES

Article 30 The Chairman will pass the floor to representatives in the order in which they express their desire to speak.

Article 31 During the debates on any matter, a representative may raise a point of order which will be immediately addressed by the Chairman. Any decision in this regard can be appealed and the Chairman will immediately submit such appeal to the Council for a decision.

Article 32 Motions and draft decisions or amendments that are to be considered by the plenary sessions, or by the Committees and Working Groups, will be submitted in writing to the Secretariat, which will provide copies to all delegations with due notice. However, in the course of the sessions a text that had not been previously distributed could be discussed, if the Council agrees to do so.

Article 33 The Chairman or any representative may request that a proposal be voted in parts. The texts of the parts that are approved will be immediately voted all together. If all resolute sections are rejected, the proposal as a whole will not be put to the vote and will be considered as rejected.

Article 34 Voting will be by simple indication, but any representative may request a roll-call vote. No representative may interrupt the voting except for a point of order regarding the way it is being conducted.

The voting will end when the Chairman has declared the result.

After the voting is complete, any representative may request the floor to briefly explain the reasons for his or her vote.

Article 35 When the members of a Committee or Working Group do not reach a consensus, any representative will have the right to state a dissenting opinion in the Act of the session concerned, or in the report to be submitted to the plenary session.

Article 36 The following motions will take precedence over all motions or draft resolutions related to the issue under discussion, in the order indicated below:

- a) Adjourn the session;
- b) Adjourn the session with an indication of date or time to hold the next session;
- c) Refer the matter to a Commission, to a working group or to the Permanent Secretary;

32

- d) Defer the debate
- e) Limit the duration of the comments of each representative, as well as the number of interventions on a same subject;
- f) Close the list of speakers; and
- g) Introduce an amendment.

Article 37 The Chairman, on his own initiative or at the request of any representative, can read the list of registered speakers and, with the consent of the meeting, declare the list closed. However, the Chairman should grant the right to reply to any representative.

Article 38 Any motion or draft decision may be removed at any time by the proposing representative while the issue concerned has not been subject to decision. Any representative will be able to endorse a motion or draft decision that had been previously removed.

Article 39 Before a proposal is submitted to vote, the amendments thereto will undergo discussion and decision, in accordance with the provisions of Article 17 of the constitutive Convention. When several amendments to a same proposal are presented, the first one to be voted will be that which differs the most from the original text. The same criterion will be used to vote the remaining amendments.

In case of doubt, the Chairman will decide, with the consent of the meeting, the order in which the amendments will be put to vote.

Article 40 When the adoption of an amendment implies the exclusion of another, the latter will not be put to vote. If one or more of the amendments are approved, the proposal as a whole will be put to vote in the form in which it has been modified.

Article 41 To re-open the debate on a decision already taken, it will be necessary that the respective motion is supported by a majority of representatives at least equal to that majority that adopted the decision in question.

VIII. LANGUAGES AND MINUTES

Article 42 The official languages of the Council will be Spanish, French, English and Portuguese.

Article 43 The Secretariat will prepare summarized minutes of all the sessions of the Council, Committees and Working Groups, and of the subsidiary organs of the Council itself.

The minutes of each session shall be distributed as drafts and participants in the session may propose the Secretariat to introduce relevant corrections on the basis of their remarks.

Article 44 Any representative may request that the minutes include any opinion expressed by him during the discussions.

Article 45 At the end of a private meeting, the Council may decide to issue a statement through the Permanent Secretariat.

Article 46 At the end of each meeting, the Rapporteur, assisted by the Secretariat, will submit a report on the fundamental aspects of the plenary meetings and a list of the decisions adopted, which will constitute the final minutes and will be approved at the closing session.

IX. OBSERVERS

Article 47 The Council, or the Preparatory Meeting, may authorize by consensus the participation of representatives of those international organizations that it deems suitable to invite as observers in certain periods of sessions.

X. REFORMS

Article 48 Reforms to these regulations must be approved as provided for in Article 17, paragraph b), of the establishing Convention.

XI. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 49 At the second regular period of sessions, by drawing lots among countries, the Council shall appoint those representatives who will hold the positions of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur for that period.

Such designations will serve as a basis to start the rotation system among the countries whose representatives will hold those positions during the following periods of sessions, pursuant to Article 23 of these regulations.

REGULATIONS OF THE ACTION COMMITTEES ^(*)
(Approved by the Latin American Council in Decision N° 5,
Adopted during its First Regular Meeting, held in Panama
on 17 October 1975, and ratified in its First Special Meeting,
held in Caracas on 14 January 1976)

^(*) See Note on page 1.

CHAPTER I

COMPOSITION AND OBJECTIVES

Article 1 The Action Committees shall be composed of more than two Member States of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), interested in participating in them.

Participation in the Action Committees, whose temporary function shall end upon conclusion of their tasks, shall be open to all Member States.

Article 2 The objectives of the Action Committees shall be to serve the participating Member States as instruments of joint action in the following activities, among others:

- a) To draw up studies, specific cooperation programmes and projects among participating Member States, preferably linked to the fields of action outlined in SELA's Work Programme.
- b) To coordinate the execution of specific cooperation programmes and projects, agreed upon by the participating Member States, which preferably form part of the fields of action outlined in SELA's Work Programme.
- c) To prepare and adopt joint positions for specialized meetings and negotiations which are of direct interest to more than two of the Member States, in accordance with the joint positions on coordination matters adopted by the Latin American Council.

CHAPTER II

FORM OF CONSTITUTION

Article 3 The Action Committees shall be constituted by decision of the Council or the interested Member States. The Permanent Secretariat may propose the creation of Action Committees to the Latin American Council.

A. ACTION COMMITTEES CONSTITUTED BY THE COUNCIL

Article 4 Upon proposal of any Member State or of the Permanent Secretariat, the Council may establish Action Committees to achieve the objectives set forth in Article No. 2 of these Rules of Procedure, and to carry out SELA's Work Programme.

Article 5 Any initiative submitted to the Council to establish an Action Committee should be sent to all the other Member States at least 30 days prior to the Council Meeting in which it shall be considered.

38

- Article 6** Such initiative should contain the following:
- a) Background justifying the establishment of the Committee.
 - b) A description of the objectives of the Committee.
 - c) A description of the procedures deemed necessary to accomplish these objectives.
 - d) Estimated period of operation.
 - e) A preliminary estimate of the expenses of the Committee and the possible distribution of quotas to be allocated by participating Member States.
- Article 7** The Council shall decide on the establishment of Action Committees in accordance with paragraph b) of Article 17 of the Panama Convention.
- Article 8** The representatives of the Member States having an interest in participating in an Action Committee, duly authorized for this purpose, shall meet to sign its Constitution within the time frame specified by the Council decision.

B. ACTION COMMITTEES CONSTITUTED BY THE MEMBER STATES

- Article 9** Three or more Member States may establish Action Committees, compatible with the rules and objectives of the Latin American Economic System.
- To this effect, they shall sign a Constitution Act.
- Article 10** The Member States interested in creating an Action Committee must inform the Permanent Secretariat about such initiative through a notification accompanied with the corresponding proposal that should include the specific elements referred to in Article 11 of these regulations.
- The Permanent Secretariat will inform all Member States about the proposal.
- A Consultation Meeting may be held, open to the participation of all Member States, at the request of one of them. It would be convened by the Permanent Secretariat within 60 days following the date of the proposal. The convocation of such meeting should be made not less than 30 days in advance of the date specified for it.
- Also, the Permanent Secretariat, on the basis of its powers in the area of coordination and taking into account the activities carried out by other Action Committees, may recommend the Member States to convene a Consultation Meeting.
- Should this recommendation be accepted by any Member State, the Permanent Secretariat will convene a meeting, complying with the same deadlines.
- Upon the expiration of the period established in the previous paragraph for consultation, if no request has been made, or after holding the consultation meeting, if it was convened, the Member States will sign the Constitution Act.

C. CONSTITUTION ACTS

Article 11 The Constitution Acts of the Action Committees must contain, among others, the following elements:

- a) Participating Member States.
- b) Objectives, programmes, schedules and working procedures.
- c) Period of operation.
- d) Budget and distribution of quotas among participating member countries.
- e) Authorities.
- f) Details about the technical staff required.
- g) Procedure for adopting decisions.
- h) Rules of the Committee Secretariat and linkage with the Permanent Secretariat, in consultation with it.
- i) Headquarters.
- j) Complementary provisions deemed to be advisable for a better compliance with the objectives.

Article 12 The Permanent Secretariat will be the depositary of the Constitution Acts of the Committees and will send certified copies thereof to all Member States, within the following fifteen days.

Article 13 The Constitution Acts of the Committees can be reformed at any time, through a decision taken by consensus of the Member States participating in the Committee. The Permanent Secretary will inform about such reforms to all Member States.

CHAPTER III

FORMS OF PARTICIPATION OF MEMBER STATES

Article 14 The commitments agreed to by the Action Committees will be binding only for the participating Member States, in the terms set forth in Article 24 of the Panama Convention.

Article 15 The Action Committees will be open to the participation of other Member States of SELA, pursuant to the conditions agreed upon with the Member States participating in the Committee and taking into account the scope of paragraph 5 of Article 5 of the Panama Convention.

Article 16 The Action Committees may create Working Groups or adopt those operating procedures deemed relevant for better fulfilment of their objectives.

40

CHAPTER IV

PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION

- Article 17** The Action Committees will be made up by representatives of the participating Member States, who may be accompanied by their advisers.
- Article 18** Other non-participating Member States may attend all plenary meetings of the Action Committees as observers.
- Article 19** Each one of the Action Committees may decide, by consensus, to invite those persons or public or private organizations deemed appropriate to attend certain sessions as advisors or observers, in order to comply with their duties.

CHAPTER V

FUNDING OF THE ACTION COMMITTEES

- Article 20** The financing of Action Committees will be the responsibility of the Member States participating in them and should take into account the scope of paragraph 5 of Article 5 of the Panama Convention.

CHAPTER VI

RELATIONS WITH THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

- Article 21** Each Action Committee will establish its own Secretariat, which will be held by an official of the Permanent Secretariat to the extent of his possibilities and, in his absence, the participating Member States will notify the name of the official who will hold the Secretariat of the Committee to the Permanent Secretariat. The functions of the Secretary of the Committee will be mainly to support and coordinate the tasks of the Action Committee and to act as an intermediary with the Permanent Secretariat.
- Article 22** The Permanent Secretariat will include in its Work Programme the provisions to support the Action Committees and cooperate with them.
- Article 23°** The Permanent Secretary or his representative may attend all the plenary meetings of the Action Committees in order to comply with the functions of coordination and information set forth in the Panama Convention.

Article 24 The Action Committees will submit annual reports on their activities for consideration of the Council, without prejudice to the reports that they would submit to the special meetings of the Council at ministerial level.

These reports will be forwarded to the Member States at least thirty days in advance of the respective meetings.

Article 25 Without prejudice to the provisions of the previous Article, the Permanent Secretariat will coordinate the presentation of the reports drafted by the Action Committees.

Article 26 The Action Committees will keep the Permanent Secretariat informed about the progress of their work and will timely send to it the agendas of their meetings and their work documents.

Article 27 The Member States may request, whenever they need to do, information from the Permanent Secretariat on the progress of the Action Committees.

CHAPTER VII

HEADQUARTERS AND MEETINGS

Article 28 The meetings of the Action Committees will be held at their headquarters. They may also take place anywhere else as each Committee deems it appropriate in order to facilitate compliance with its duties.

CHAPTER VIII

WITHDRAWAL OF PARTICIPATING MEMBER STATES

Article 29 Any of the Member States participating in an Action Committee may withdraw from it through a written communication addressed to the other Member States participating in the Committee and to the Permanent Secretariat.

The withdrawal will take effect 90 days after the date on which the respective notification is received by the Permanent Secretariat.

The Member State which withdraws from a Committee is responsible for all those obligations it has taken on until the date of the notification of withdrawal.

Article 30 The Member States participating in an Action Committee may establish, by consensus, different rules from those set forth in the second and third paragraphs of Article 29 for the eventuality of withdrawal of a Member State from that Committee.

CHAPTER IX

PERIOD OF VALIDITY OF THE ACTION COMMITTEES

Article 31 Without prejudice to the competence of the Council in this matter, Action Committees will conclude their duties when they achieve their objectives.

For this purpose, if by the expiration of the period set forth in their Constitutive Act, they have not completed the activities entrusted to them, the Council or the participating Member States, as appropriate and in the same manner in which the original term was established, may decide to extend the period of validity for as long as they deem it suitable to their interests.

Article 32 Notwithstanding the provisions of the previous Article, the Member States participating in the Action Committees may decide, by consensus, to terminate their functions at any time.

Article 33 In addition, the Action Committees will terminate their activities when the number of States participating in them drops to less than three.

Article 34 When an Action Committee terminates its activities, the participating Member States will adopt the provisions that they may deem appropriate in order to deal with any debts and liquidate the funds and other assets of said Committee. Participating Member States will submit a final report on the activities of the Committee to the Council.

CHAPTER X

GENERAL PROVISION

Article 35 The Council will make decisions on any unforeseen cases that are not provided for in these Regulations.

REGULATIONS OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT (*)
(Approved by the Latin American Council in Decision N° 145,
adopted during the VIII Regular Meeting, held in Caracas
from 23 to 25 August 1982)

(*) See Note on page 1.

A. ON THE ORGANIZATION

Article 1 The Permanent Secretariat is the technical and administrative organ of the Latin American Economic System. It will perform the functions entrusted to it in the Panama Convention and those set forth in these regulations, and it will comply with the mandates of the Latin American Council.

Article 2 Pursuant to Article 31 of the Panama Convention, the functions of the Permanent Secretariat are as follows:

- a) Perform the functions assigned to it by the Latin American Council and, when appropriate, implement its decisions.
- b) Encourage and carry out preliminary studies and take the necessary measures to identify and promote projects of interest to two or more Member States. Whenever such actions have budgetary implications, their implementation shall be subject to the availability of funds.
- c) Facilitate the activities of the Action Committees and contribute to their coordination, including the provision of assistance for carrying out the appropriate studies.
- d) Propose to the Council programmes and projects of common interest and to suggest ways in which they may be carried out, including meeting of experts and other measures which may better contribute to attaining the objectives of SELA.
- e) Prepare and submit for consideration by Member States the draft agenda for the sessions of the Council and prepare and distribute all related documents.
- f) Prepare the draft budgets and work programmes to be submitted to the Council for its approval.
- g) Submit the financial statements of SELA for consideration by the Council, at its regular sessions.
- h) Promote and conclude, subject to the approval of the Council, arrangements with international organizations and agencies, national agencies of Member States and third countries, in order to carry out studies, programmes and projects, especially those of a regional nature.
- i) Formally convene the sessions and meetings of the organs of SELA.
- j) Collect the contributions of the Member States, administer the resources and execute the budget of SELA.
- k) Prepare the annual report on its activities for consideration by the Latin American Council at its regular sessions; and to coordinate the submission

of the annual reports drafted by the Action Committees, without prejudice to the reports they may submit directly to the Council.

- l) Recruit and hire the technical and administrative staff of the Secretariat.

Article 3° The functions of the Permanent Secretary are as follows:

- a) Lead the Permanent Secretariat so that it efficiently complies with its duties as set forth in Article 2 of these regulations.
- b) Guide the tasks of the technical and administrative staff necessary for performing the functions of the Permanent Secretariat.
- c) Exercise the legal representation of the Permanent Secretariat.
- d) Exercise the legal representation of SELA in specific cases determined by the Latin American Council.
- e) Maintain contacts with international organizations and public or private entities for the purposes of information and preliminary consideration of issues of interest to the Permanent Secretariat, and of other measures that will be eventually submitted to the Latin American Council.
- f) Coordinate the technical activities of the Permanent Secretariat with the activities of international organizations, trying to make the maximum possible use of technical assistance and specialized personnel that they can provide.
- g) Establish the classification of positions and the number of international and local staff of the Permanent Secretariat, in accordance with the provisions of the decisions of the Latin American Council and the agreement with the host country.
- h) Monitor the use of the immunities and privileges enjoyed by the officials of the Permanent Secretariat under the headquarters agreement with the Government of Venezuela and other agreements entered into with the Member States in accordance with Article 37 of the Panama Convention, and to renounce such privileges and immunities in the cases in which they impede the regular course of justice and can be waived without prejudice to the purpose for which they are granted.
- i) Suggest to the Latin American Council those measures that he deems appropriate for the operation of the Permanent Secretariat and the implementation of the Panama Convention.
- j) Administer the patrimony provided by the Latin American Economic System to the Permanent Secretariat for complying with its functions and to account for its administration vis-à-vis the Latin American Council.

46

- k) Apply and improve the manuals, systems and administrative procedures of the Permanent Secretariat in accordance with the functions that it performs and pursuant to the Panama Convention and these regulations, the mandates of the Latin American Council and the financial availability of the Permanent Secretariat.

Article 4 The Organization Manual will define the structure and establish the description of positions in the various units of the Permanent Secretariat in accordance with the Panama Convention, the mandates of the Latin American Council, the Work Programme of SELA and the financial availability of the Permanent Secretariat.

Article 5 The functions of the Deputy Permanent Secretary are as follows:

- a) Collaborate with the Permanent Secretary in performing the functions provided for in Article 3 of these regulations and, in particular, assist him with the coordination and supervision of the various units of the Permanent Secretariat.
- b) Stand in for the Permanent Secretary, whenever necessary, in performing his duties.

Article 6 The Permanent Secretary, and whenever appropriate the Deputy Permanent Secretary, will respond to the Latin American Council for exercising the functions of the Permanent Secretariat.

Article 7 In performing their functions, the Permanent Secretary, the Deputy Permanent Secretary and the staff of the Permanent Secretariat shall not seek or receive instructions from any Government or from national or international organizations.

Article 8 The organizational structure of the Permanent Secretariat will be of such a nature that this organ is fully qualified to assist, within the competence of its powers, to conform to the characteristics of SELA, as defined in Article 2 of the Panama Convention, as "a permanent regional body for consultation, coordination, cooperation and joint economic and social promotion, with its own international juridical personality, and composed of sovereign Latin American States" in order to achieve the fundamental purposes of SELA, as defined in Article 3 of that Convention, and to fully accomplish the objectives of SELA, as set forth in Article 5 of the Convention.

Consequently, that organization must include, at least, the areas of regional cooperation and consultation and coordination, the administrative support area and the ancillary services which are indispensable.

Article 9 The organization of the Permanent Secretariat will be provided with the necessary flexibility to fully comply with the functions provided for in Article 2 of these regulations and the Work Programmes adopted by the Latin American Council.

B. ON THE STAFF

RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF OFFICIALS

Article 10 All staff members are entitled to be treated with respect in view of their personal dignity.

Article 11 All officials will be entitled to promptly receive the value of the salaries to which they are entitled, according to the respective employment contract.

Article 12 In addition, the officials are entitled to timely receive the bonuses established by the Secretariat for overtime work and the value of the additional benefits that they are entitled to receive pursuant to Decision No. 1 of the Latin American Council and the Staff Manual.

Article 13 The officials of the Permanent Secretariat have the privileges and immunities set forth in the Headquarters Agreement concluded between the Government of the Republic of Venezuela and the Latin American Economic System, as well as other agreements concluded with the Member States in accordance with Article 37 of the Panama Convention. Also, the Permanent Secretariat officials will be entitled to receive an identification document that accredits them as such, which is to be issued by the relevant authorities.

The privileges and immunities referred to in this Article have been established in the interests of the Permanent Secretariat and to facilitate the proper performance of the functions that correspond to the staff. Therefore, such privileges and immunities shall be exercised with strict restraint and within the precise limits established in the aforementioned Headquarters Agreement.

Article 14 The officials of the Permanent Secretariat will exercise the functions assigned to them with loyalty and dedication, will refrain from requesting or accepting instructions from any Government or authority other than the Permanent Secretariat, will strictly comply, as relevant, with the Panama Convention, the decisions of the Latin American Council, these regulations and any other norms issued by the Permanent Secretariat.

Article 15 The intellectual property rights over any work carried out by an official of the Permanent Secretariat, as part of his or her duties, will belong to the Permanent Secretariat.

C. CLASSIFICATION OF POSITIONS AND SALARIES

Article 16 The officials of the Permanent Secretariat are classified into two categories: International and Local Officials, from the standpoint of their salary regime and their fringe benefits.

48

They are also classified into: Executive, Professional, Administrative and General Services Officials.

The Staff Manual will define the rules for hiring, the classification of positions, the salaries and other fringe benefits.

Article 17 In accordance with the provisions of the Chapter "Means and Operating Mechanisms of the Permanent Secretariat", contained in Decision No. 1 of the Latin American Council, it is deemed appropriate for the salary level of the international staff of the Permanent Secretariat to be similar to that of the United Nations staff in Caracas, also taking into account their fringe benefits. In addition, the salaries and fringe benefits of the local staff will be comparable to those set by UN agencies operating in Caracas, such as the UNDP.

D. RECRUITMENT OF STAFF

Article 18 Officials, both international and local, must be nationals of the Member States of SELA, and will be selected on the basis of their knowledge, experience, professional preparation and skills to carry out the corresponding positions. The selection must be in accordance with the provisions of the Chapter "Means and Operating Mechanisms of Permanent Secretariat" of Decision No. 1 of the Latin American Council.

Article 19° The International Staff can be hired for three years, as a general rule, so that the total renewable period does not exceed 5 years. However, the Permanent Secretary may enter into contracts for shorter periods when deemed appropriate.

Article 20 Local staff may be hired for an indefinite time, or on a temporary basis. Temporary contracts will be held to temporarily fill in for a vacancy and to carry out functions which, due to their nature, must be temporary.

Article 21 The Permanent Secretariat may contract consultants, preferably nationals of the Member States of SELA for short periods, in order to carry out specific functions that are temporary by nature.

The Permanent Secretariat shall set the remuneration of consultants by taking into account their category, the importance of their assignments and the duration of the contract, as well as the remuneration that should correspond to the category that is more similar to the nature of the corresponding services.

Article 22 The officials of the Permanent Secretariat and the consultants who need to provide services outside the headquarters of the Permanent Secretariat are entitled to receive air tickets and other travel expenses inherent to the mission assigned, according to the regulations set forth in the Staff Manual in this connection. This rule applies to those consultants who need to provide their services outside their place of residence.

E. ON THE ADMINISTRATION

- Article 23** The administration of the resources endowed by the Latin American Economic System to the Permanent Secretariat for complying with its functions is the responsibility of the Permanent Secretary.
- Article 24** The budget of the Permanent Secretariat is prepared on an annual basis and its fiscal year extends from 1 January to 31 December of each year. The Permanent Secretary will ensure that costs do not exceed income from quotas and voluntary contributions of the Member States for the corresponding fiscal year.
- Article 25** The Permanent Secretariat will submit the draft budget for approval of the Latin American Council each year. The budget will include the items required to ensure the normal functioning of the Permanent Secretariat and the execution of the programmes and projects adopted by the Latin American Council.
- The Permanent Secretary will send the draft budget 60 days in advance of the conduction of the Latin American Council to the Governments of the Member States for their consideration.
- Article 26** The Permanent Secretary will submit the draft budget accompanied by the following documents:
- a) A statement indicating the general orientation of the budget.
 - b) An account of the quotas corresponding to each Member State, calculated in accordance with Decision No. 1.
 - c) A detailed report on the operations made in bolivars, indicating the date and the exchange rate in which such operations were carried out.
 - d) Any other information that the Latin American Council may request.
- Article 27** The Administrative Manual will contain the rules concerning the preparation, execution and control of the budget of the Permanent Secretariat.
- Article 28** The Permanent Secretariat's accounting and financial reports will be drafted and presented in United States dollars.
- Article 29** The Permanent Secretariat will keep whatever accounting records are necessary and their financial reports will include the following items:
- Income and expenses of funds.
 - The original budget allocations.
 - The status of allocations, in such a way that allows for comparing with the approved budget.
 - The transfers that might have modified the original allocations.
 - A statement of assets and liabilities.

50

Article 30 Each quarter, the Permanent Secretary will inform the Governments of the Member States on the following aspects:

- a) Execution of the annual budget, with its corresponding notes.
- b) Status of the budget quotas collection.
- c) Financial statement, including the status and use of budgeted resources.
- d) Any further information deemed necessary by the Latin American Council or the Permanent Secretary.

Article 31 The Permanent Secretary may make short-term investments of funds that not necessarily must be kept in sight, in order to meet immediate needs.

Article 32 The acquisition of any kind of equipment and the contracting of services, depending on the amount, will be made by tender or by requesting several budgets, except in those cases of duly proven urgency, on which the Permanent Secretariat will inform the Latin American Council.

Article 33 In order to meet expenditures that must be made in the currency of the host country, the Secretariat will convert dollars in accordance with the foreign exchange regulations in force in the host country.

Article 34 Prior approval of the Latin American Council, an external auditor will be hired on the basis of a list presented by the Permanent Secretary, which should include at least three well-recognized professionals or firms, operating either in the host country or any other Member States. In appointing the external auditor, the Council will try, to the greatest possible extent and considering the financial implications, to maintain a rotation among the Member States.

The Permanent Secretariat will provide the external auditor with the necessary cooperation to carry out its work in a timely and effective manner.

The Permanent Secretariat shall inform the Governments of the Member States in advance about the date when the audit will be carried out, so that the governments that wish to do so may send, at their expense, officials to monitor the audit process.

Article 35 The external auditors will examine the accounting and certify the following aspects:

- Whether the annual accounts submitted by the Permanent Secretary are in accordance with the accounting books, records, documents and vouchers of the Permanent Secretariat.
- Whether the operations reflected in the financial statements are in accordance with these Regulations, with the financial provisions and any other applicable rules.
- Whether the assets and money on deposit have been verified through certifications of the depositories of the Permanent Secretariat and the cash on hand, by counting it physically.

Article 36 The external auditors will verify the effectiveness of the internal accounting control and will submit to the Latin American Council, through the Permanent Secretary, whatever reports deemed relevant in this regard.

Article 37 In their report, the external auditors must inform about any deficiency or irregularity they might have noticed in carrying out their work. Such report shall be presented by the Permanent Secretary for information and consideration of the Latin American Council, along with the clarifications deemed appropriate.

FINAL PROVISIONS

1. The Organization, Staff and Administrative Manuals of the Permanent Secretariat complement these regulatory provisions. The Permanent Secretary will submit said manuals for approval of the Latin American Council.

The Permanent Secretary may introduce modifications aimed at improving the Manuals, informing the Latin American Council about them during its regular meetings.

2. The enforcement of the provisions contained in these regulations corresponds to the Permanent Secretary. Doubtful, unforeseen and controversial cases will be interpreted and resolved by the Latin American Council.
3. In exercising the powers provided for in Article 15 of the Panama Convention establishing SELA, the Latin American Council will make decisions, upon proposals made by the Member States or the Permanent Secretariat, as regards any reform of these regulations.
4. These Regulations will enter into force once they are approved by the Latin American Council and will not have a retroactive effect.

REGULATIONS FOR OBSERVERS TO THE MEETINGS

OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNCIL

First: At the beginning of its Preparatory Meeting and in a private session, the Latin American Council may grant, by consensus, the Permanent Observer or Special Observer status to those bodies that request it, in accordance with the following rules of procedure.

Second: The following may be designated as Permanent Observers to the Latin American Council:

- a) Sovereign States of Latin America and the Caribbean that are not yet members of SELA;
- b) Action Committees and Permanent Committees of SELA;
- c) International organizations and other entities created by Member States as a result of programmes initiated by them within the framework of SELA;

52

- d) Inter-governmental international organizations dedicated to cooperation or integration in Latin America and the Caribbean or in any of its subregions, and
- e) Organizations belonging to the United Nations System or to the Inter-American System.

Third: Permanent Observers shall not require an invitation in order to attend the Regular Meetings of the Latin American Council.

Fourth: The following may be designated as Special Observers:

- a) Inter-governmental international organizations whose aims are similar to the purpose and objectives of SELA.
- b) Cooperation bodies of countries that carry out programmes in cooperation with SELA which have been duly approved by the Latin American Council.
- c) Non-governmental organizations which, in the judgement of the Latin American Council, can make an important contribution to SELA programmes.

Fifth: Special Observers may be invited to participate in a specific meeting of the Latin American Council when the matters to be considered in it are directly related to their purposes and objectives, or when the Member States consider their participation to be useful.

The Permanent Secretariat shall submit to the Member States, sufficiently in advance, a list of the Special Observers that it intends to invite, on its own initiative or on that of any Member State, to a meeting of the Latin American Council. The Permanent Secretariat shall refrain from inviting any given Observer if so requested by any Member State within fifteen days of the submission of the list.

The Permanent Secretariat shall establish the necessary mechanisms for Special Observers to cover the costs resulting from their participation.

Sixth: Permanent and Special Observers may attend public plenary sessions. They may attend private meetings or committees or working groups meetings only when they are invited to do so.

Seventh: Permanent or Special Observers shall have voice but no vote. They may take the floor only when authorized to do so by the Chairman of the Council. The Chairman may give the floor to Observers when, in his judgement, his or her remarks are of interest for the Council and when sufficient time is available.

Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, the Latin American and Caribbean States that have Observer status under Paragraph a) of the Second Rule may request the floor at any moment during a session.

Eighth: Observers are required to confirm attendance to a Regular Meeting at least one month in advance. Only those Observers that have given timely confirmation of their attendance will be guaranteed reserved seats and all documents prepared for the meeting.

Ninth: Any organization requesting Observer status shall address its request in writing to the Permanent Secretariat at least three months in advance of a Regular Meeting and provide information on its activities that are directly related to the purposes and

objectives of SELA. The Permanent Secretariat shall inform the Member States of these requests upon their receipt.

Tenth: The Permanent Secretariat shall invite to other meetings held under the auspices of SELA any Observers that, in its judgement, may make a significant contribution to the meeting in question.

Transitory Provision: At its next Regular Meeting, the Council shall review the list of current Observers for the purpose of eliminating those that no longer exist, those that do not fulfil the requirements established by these Rules, and those that have had no interaction with SELA, and classify those remaining on the list in their corresponding category, on the basis of a report to be submitted to this end by the Permanent Secretariat.

REGULATIONS FOR ELECTIONS OF SELA FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNCIL

Article 1. Elections at the Latin American Council will be held by secret vote. When there is one single candidate and the representatives of more than half of the Member States are attending the meeting, the Chairman of the Council may declare the candidate to be elected, without voting. In case there is any objection, the Council shall proceed to vote immediately, without further debate.

Article 2. In convening the Council Meeting in which a Permanent Secretary or a Deputy Permanent Secretary is to be elected, the Permanent Secretary shall invite the Member States to nominate candidates no less than one month in advance of the date agreed to for the Council meeting, in order to allow for analysis and consultation of the nomination, and shall suggest that the presentation letter be accompanied with the *curriculum vitae* of the candidate and an account, drafted by the candidate, of the Work Programme that would be developed in case he or she is elected Permanent Secretary.

The provisions contained the foregoing paragraph shall not preclude the possibility of nominating candidates after the specified deadline, in case it is necessary in order to ensure occupation of the position.

In making a nomination, the Member State must have previously made sure that the candidate is actually willing to take over the position, in case he or she is elected.

Article 3. Candidates to the positions of Permanent Secretary or Deputy Permanent Secretary must be a native and citizen of one of the Member States of SELA. They shall not have the same nationality of the official they are to succeed. In case the election is being made for only one of the aforementioned positions, the candidate shall not have the same nationality as the person who is holding the other position.

Article 4. The election of the Permanent Secretary or of the Deputy Permanent Secretary will require an affirmative vote by a majority of two-thirds of the Member States present, or by an absolute majority of the Member States, whichever is greater.

54

- Article 5.** Once the first vote is held, if no candidate obtains the required majority of votes, up to three additional voting rounds will be held, if necessary, so as to decide between the two candidates who obtained the highest number of votes in the first voting.
- Article 6.** Yet, if no candidate obtains the required majority, the nomination of candidates for the next voting will be open again. If no candidate is chosen in the new voting either, the voting procedure will be undertaken again in accordance with Article 4, and so on until an election is accomplished.
- Article 7.** The Latin American Council may decide, at any moment, by the majority indicated in Article 4, to postpone the election for a subsequent regular or special meeting of the Council.
- Article 8.** Unless it is decided otherwise, elections for any other position will be made by means of a favourable vote of the absolute majority of the Member States attending the meeting and voting. If no candidate obtains the absolute majority in the first vote, a new vote will be held to decide between the two candidates who obtained the highest number of votes.