

## **General Assembly Resolution 257A(III) – Permanent Missions to the United Nations**

On 3 December 1948, the General Assembly adopted resolution 257 A (III) regarding permanent missions of Member States to the United Nations. The resolution reads as follows

*The General Assembly,*

*Considering* that, since the creation of the United Nations, the practice has developed of establishing, at the seat of the Organization, permanent missions of Member States,

*Considering* that the presence of such permanent missions serves to assist in the realization of the purposes and principles of the United Nations and, in particular, to keep the necessary liaison between the Member States and the Secretariat in periods between sessions of the different organs of the United Nations,

*Considering* that in these circumstances the generalization of the institution of permanent missions can be foreseen, and that the submission of credentials of Permanent Representatives should be regulated,

*Recommends*

1. That credentials of the Permanent Representatives shall be issued either by the Head of the State or by the Head of the Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and shall be transmitted to the Secretary-General;
2. That the appointments and changes of members of the permanent missions other than the Permanent Representative shall be communicated in writing to the Secretary-General by the head of the mission;
3. That the Permanent Representative, in case of temporary absence, shall notify the Secretary-General of the name of the member of the mission who will perform the duties of head of the mission;
4. That Member States desiring their Permanent Representatives to represent them on one or more of the organs of the United Nations should specify the organs in the credentials transmitted to the Secretary-General;

Instructs the Secretary-General to submit, at each regular session of the General Assembly, a report on the credentials of the Permanent Representatives accredited to the United Nations.

The annex to the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fourth session on permanent missions to the United Nations gave a form of credentials which, in the light of the above resolution, appears to be satisfactory and which, accordingly, is reproduced below as a guide to the drafting of such instruments.

It should be noted that all letters of credentials must be addressed by name to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Whereas Article 104 of the Charter of the United Nations provides that the Organization shall enjoy in the territory of each of its Members such legal capacity as may be necessary for the exercise of its functions and the fulfilment of its purposes and

Whereas Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations provides that the Organization shall enjoy in the territory of each of its Members such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the fulfilment of its purposes and that representatives of the Members of the United Nations and officials of the Organization shall similarly enjoy such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the Organization:

Consequently the General Assembly by a resolution adopted on 13 February 1946 approved the following convention and proposes it for accession by each Member of the United Nations.