INTERSESSIONAL PROCEDURES
BETWEEN THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH SESSIONS

1. At the close of the Seventh Session the CONTRACTING PARTIES made arrangements for the continuing administration of the Agreement between the Seventh and Eighth Sessions. The procedures adopted for dealing with matters referred to the Intersessional Committee and other urgent matters which may arise during the intersessional period are laid down in various reports adopted at the Seventh and previous sessions. The following is an outline of these procedures compiled by the secretariat for convenience of reference.

1 The memberships and functions of the intersessional Committee and working parties set up for this purpose are given in L/67/Rev.1.

I. MATTERS TO BE DEALT WITH BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON AGENDA AND INTERSESSIONAL BUSINESS

General Procedures

2. In respect of matters (other than those referred to in paragraphs 8-13 below) which in the opinion of the Committee require intersessional action or which are referred to it by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Committee may establish a working party consisting of some or all of its members, together with the countries directly concerned, any countries which claim a substantial interest in the matter and which wish to be represented on the working party, and any other countries which the Committee may consider it necessary to invite and which are willing to serve. The Committee may itself deal with any of the matters requiring intersessional action, without establishing a separate working party. In that case, however, it will co-opt as full members any contracting parties claiming an interest in the matter and wishing to be represented.

3. The Committee or the working party will examine all the relevant facts and views and submit a report thereon to the Eighth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. If, however, a matter is of sufficient urgency the Committee or the working party may request the convening of a special session, in accordance with the rules of procedure, to consider its report.

4. Where the Committee finds itself called upon to consider questions of interpretation of the General Agreement it may examine such problems of interpretation and draw up such detailed reports as would facilitate their subsequent discussion in the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

5. Where it appears to the Committee in its examination of matters submitted for the Agenda of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, that some preparatory work by the Committee would facilitate and expedite the discussion of any matter by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Committee will undertake such preparatory work or give appropriate instructions to the secretariat.

6. The Committee is empowered to establish and convene in advance of the Eighth Session working parties on matters of a complex technical character which have been carried over from the Agenda of the Seventh Session. In making decisions on this point the Committee will have regard to the convenience of contracting parties and difficulties which may be involved for them in providing appropriate representation.

7. When disputes or differences are referred to the Committee, its recommendations will be submitted for consideration and approval by the CONTRACTING PARTIES either at the Eighth Session, or at a special session, or by postal or telegraphic ballot in accordance with the rules of procedure. If, however, the parties directly concerned and other interested
parties agree to accept the findings of the Committee without reference to the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the recommendations, as recommendations of the Committee, may be addressed directly to the interested parties, and concurrently reported to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

Procedures for Consultations or Action under Articles XII-XIV

8. When a matter arises under Articles XII:4(a), XII:4(c), XII:4(d), XIV:2 or the proviso to Annex J:3, the Committee will determine whether a consultation or action should take place at the next ordinary session, or at a special session, or should be first entrusted to a working party appointed by the Committee.

9. With regard to matters arising under Articles XII:4(b), XII:5, XIII:4, XIV:1(h) or Annex J:3 (except proviso), the Committee will decide in the first place whether a consultation should be initiated (or action taken) by the CONTRACTING PARTIES and, if so, whether the consultation or action should take place at the next ordinary session, or at a special session, or be initiated by a working party appointed by the Committee.

10. Any contracting party which considers that its interests are substantially affected and which is dissatisfied with a decision of the Intersessional Committee taken pursuant to the procedures outlined in paragraphs 8 or 9 shall be entitled to call for the decision to be reviewed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES and a final decision to be taken by them by postal or telegraphic ballot.

11. The Committee, in deciding to proceed with any of the consultations under Article XII:4(b) or XIV:1(g) deferred by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the Seventh Session, should take into account the progress made by the International Monetary Fund in preparing for its consultations with the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the urgency of the respective cases and the convenience of governments.

II. APPLICATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XVIII

12. An application made by a contracting party when the CONTRACTING PARTIES are not in session, if requiring immediate attention, is to be referred direct to the Intersessional Working Party on Article XVIII. The Working Party will examine the application and make recommendations to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. Decision on the application may be taken by the CONTRACTING PARTIES either at the next ordinary session, or by postal or telegraphic ballot, or at a special session, according to the recommendation of the Working Party.
III. MATTERS ARISING UNDER SPECIAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS

13. When a question arises under a special exchange agreement requiring action by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at a time when they are not in session, the matter will be referred to the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The Chairman will consult with the International Monetary Fund and seek necessary determinations thereupon by the latter. The contracting party concerned may act in accordance with the determinations pending an opportunity for consideration by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in session.