



COUNCIL
89th session
Agenda item 10

C 89/10
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CONSIDERATION OF THE REINSTATEMENT OF SUMMARY RECORDS FOR DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCES

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document contains information on cost of production and use and purpose of Summary Records for diplomatic conferences
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 6
<i>Related documents:</i>	None

1 At its eighty-eighth session in June 2002, the Council noted a suggestion from some Member States that Summary Records be produced for diplomatic conferences. The Council agreed that the matter should be fully discussed at its eighty-ninth session and, to this end, the Secretary-General was requested to provide information on costs of production, together with information as to who might use the Summary Records and the purposes for which they might be used.

Background

2 Research from the IMO Library and other records shows that, during the early 1980s, the use of Summary Records was considerably reduced and became limited to the two executive bodies of the Organization, namely the Council and the Assembly. In this latter case, the use of Summary Records was limited to the plenary, to the exclusion of the committees. During this period, there was no fixed rule as far as diplomatic conferences convened by IMO were concerned and a specific decision was made each time according to the nature and type of conference. The general tendency was to limit the Summary Records to plenary meetings. However, in June 1985 at its fifty-fourth session, the Council approved that the International Conference on Harmonization of Survey and Certification Requirements be held without Summary Records. Since then, there is no available evidence of Summary Records for diplomatic conferences.

Information on costs involved in production of Summary Records for diplomatic conferences

3 The Summary Records which are now produced for the Council and the Assembly are prepared in English by teams of précis writers, then translated into French and Spanish and processed, printed and issued in these three languages. On this basis, the cost of producing

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Summary Records for diplomatic conferences would be in the region of £16,000 for a five-day meeting (as for a Council session), or £32,000 for a ten-day meeting (as for an Assembly session).

Use and purpose of Summary Records

4 Summary Records form part of the official documents constituting the permanent records of a meeting/conference. They provide a clear, concise and accurate picture of the proceedings and contain a summary of the views of the speakers and a record of the decisions taken.

5 If Summary Records were to be reinstated for diplomatic conferences, they would be distributed, as in the past, to Member States and other participants.

Action requested of the Council

6 The Council is invited to take note of the above information and take action as appropriate.
