The San Francisco Conference, 1945

The United Nations Conference in San Francisco, the aim of which was to adopt a statute concerning a new system of public security, was the largest diplomatic meeting of the World War II. More than 5,000 people worked on the statute and the final documents of the meeting. Their effort was instrumental in the launch of a new system of public security – the United Nations – shortly after the war.

In the first phase of the conference, the Steering Committee and the heads of delegations of the inviting powers – the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and China – worked out a common position mainly in those cases in which their unanimity could impinge directly on the smooth running and implementation of the working programme of the conference. These included more than a thousand organizational arrangements and amendments to the draft statute submitted by the superpowers. The relatively expeditious finalization of the preparatory work by the Steering Committee and the reconciliation of all issues requiring the unanimity of the inviting four brought the conference much closer to the final success.

According to a widespread opinion, the second part of the conference involved more technical and legal issues and did not lead to serious controversy. After its completion, four commissions began to work on the committees’ reports. They standardized and edited the text of the statute of the new security organization – The Charter of the United Nations and the Statute of the International Court of Justice. At the plenary conference, both documents – each in five languages treated as equal originals – were subjected to voting and unanimously approved.

The basic objective of the San Francisco Conference was reached.

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