



# General Assembly

Fifty-seventh session

## Official Records

Distr.: General

4 October 2002

Original: English

---

## Sixth Committee

### Summary record of the 3rd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 27 September 2002, at 10 a.m.

*Chairman:* Mr. Prandler . . . . . (Hungary)

## Contents

Agenda item 153: Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives  
(*continued*)

Agenda item 163: Observer status for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in the General Assembly

Agenda item 164: Observer status for Partners in Population and Development in the General Assembly

Agenda item 165: Observer status for the Asian Development Bank in the General Assembly

Agenda item 166: Observer status for the International Centre for Migration Policy Development in the General Assembly

Agenda item 22 (h): Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Organization of work

---

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

*The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.*

**Agenda item 153: Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives** (*continued*) (A/57/99 and Add.1 and 2 and Corr.1)

1. **Mr. Yengejeh** (Islamic Republic of Iran) commended the Nordic countries for their efforts to promote the safety and security of diplomatic and consular missions and their personnel.

2. The 1961 and 1963 Vienna Conventions on diplomatic and consular relations, along with the 1973 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, stipulated the obligations of States in ensuring the security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. Moreover, several General Assembly resolutions reiterated those obligations and urged States to take measures to ensure that such crimes were fully investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice.

3. Nevertheless, it was regrettable to note that several instances of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and their personnel had occurred in the past two years. In some cases the perpetrators of those crimes had yet to be brought to justice.

4. His Government, as a party to all the instruments listed in the annex to the Secretary-General's report (A/57/99), called upon States in which crimes against diplomatic and consular missions and their personnel had been committed and the perpetrators of such crimes were being held in custody to take appropriate measures to prosecute and punish those persons. His delegation also believed that the reporting mechanism established in General Assembly resolution 42/154 had proved useful and should continue.

5. **Mr. Kleber** (Venezuela) said that his delegation, like other delegations, attached the greatest importance to the protection and security of diplomatic and consular missions. His Government had always respected its international obligations in that regard and had done its utmost to comply with them. It was in that context that his delegation wished to refer to the regrettable incidents that had occurred at the Cuban embassy in Caracas in April.

6. At the moment when the embassy had come under siege by a group of frenzied individuals, his country had suffered a coup. President Hugo Chávez Frías had been held hostage for nine hours. Fortunately, the coup had failed; the President had been released, and his Government had been able to regain control of the situation.

7. In the midst of those difficult and abnormal circumstances, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, despite not being in control of the situation, had immediately requested the mayor's office in Caracas, which had authority over the police, to take all necessary measures to ensure the security and protection of the Cuban embassy and its personnel.

8. Unfortunately, the Cuban embassy in his country was a target of some opposition political groups. Stones had been thrown, vehicles belonging to the embassy had been destroyed, and threats had been made.

9. Upon resuming power, his Government had vigorously condemned the acts of violence against the Cuban embassy, and the Office of the Attorney-General of the Republic had opened investigations in order to establish the responsibility of the individuals who had directed or taken part in those acts.

10. His Government reaffirmed its commitment to comply with the principles and norms of international law concerning the protection and security of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

11. **The Chairman** said that the delegation of Finland would coordinate the preparation of a draft resolution on the item.

**Agenda item 163: Observer status for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in the General Assembly** (A/55/226)

12. **The Chairman** said that the item had first been placed on the Committee's agenda at its fifty-fifth session, in 2000, and had also been considered by the Committee at its previous session, at which time the Committee had decided to defer a decision on the item to the current session.

13. **Mr. Groth** (Sweden), introducing the agenda item, said that the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) had 19 States members representing all parts of the world.

Four more States held observer status and were on their way to becoming members.

14. International IDEA dealt with practical and technical aspects of democracy. Its mission was not to promote any political solutions in particular, but rather to assess, study and advise Governments which requested cooperation in those areas. It was widely recognized as filling a gap within the broad group of organizations dealing with aspects of democracy.

15. International IDEA worked through a range of thematic projects and in-country programmes. It had been a useful partner to the United Nations in the past. Should its application for consultative status be approved, its usefulness would be enhanced.

16. The Institute's statutes contained an unusual provision allowing non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to be associated with it. While there were only four such NGOs, they were entitled to participate in meetings of the Board of Directors and in decision-making. In practical terms, that was of no consequence, since in its seven years of existence International IDEA had never voted on any matter, preferring to take decisions by consensus. Nevertheless, when the item had first been introduced in the Committee, some delegations had asked that it should be deferred in order to allow them to study the matter further.

17. He wished to make an important clarification, namely, that the States members of the organization decided which NGOs to accept as associate members. The statutes stipulated that such associate members should have a functional and professional role relevant to the Institute's sphere of activity.

18. He acknowledged and respected the fact that there were different views in the Committee as to the usefulness of NGO participation in the work of the United Nations. He was of the opinion, however, that the item under consideration was not the proper forum in which to resolve that important issue.

19. His delegation was available for further consultations on the matter.

20. **Mr. Su Wei** (China) said that when the item had first been discussed in the Committee, a number of delegations had raised doubts as to whether the organization in question met the criteria set out in General Assembly decision 49/426 for the granting of observer status. The decision stated clearly that such status should be confined to States or

intergovernmental organizations. International IDEA was a new type of organization, one founded pursuant to an intergovernmental agreement, but with a membership that included both States and non-governmental organizations. The fact that NGOs had rights identical to those of States members called into question the organization's intergovernmental nature. His delegation therefore believed that the Committee should study the matter further and avoid taking a hasty decision.

21. **Mr. Samy** (Egypt) said that his delegation, too, had doubts as to whether observer status was appropriate in the light of General Assembly decision 49/426. He was concerned that including organizations of a different composition might weaken the character of the Assembly.

22. **Mr. Much** (Germany) said that his delegation supported the granting of observer status to International IDEA. In view of the offer by Sweden to engage in broad consultations, he urged delegations to avoid taking premature positions on the matter.

23. **Mr. Ortúzar** (Chile) said that, as a member of International IDEA, his Government supported the statements made by the representatives of Sweden and Germany.

#### **Agenda item 164: Observer status for Partners in Population and Development in the General Assembly (A/55/241; A/C.6/57/L.2)**

24. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Bangladesh), speaking as representative of the host country of Partners in Population and Development, reintroduced the request of that organization for observer status in the General Assembly. Consideration of the request had been deferred from the previous session pending further clarifications. Established in 1994 to promote follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development, Partners in Population and Development currently had 18 developing country members representing more than half the world population. Its mission, as stated in document A/55/241, was to help implement the Cairo Programme of Action by quickly expanding and improving South-South collaboration in the fields of family planning and reproductive health. As the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs had concluded in a memorandum dated 3 November 1995, Partners in Population and Development had all the characteristics of an intergovernmental body. It was

financed through mandatory annual contributions and governed by a board of directors comprising a representative of each member country. The board was responsible for determining policies, programmes and administrative matters. Non-governmental organizations could not be members or associate members, nor could they be included on the Board. They could become associates and be invited to participate in meetings, but none had been made associates to date. The organization had followed several General Assembly events with interest. Observer status would greatly facilitate its work and contribute to the achievement of common objectives.

25. He introduced draft resolution A/C.6/57/L.2 on behalf of the sponsors, all of which were members of the organization.

26. **Mr. Traisorat** (Thailand) said that his country, a member of Partners in Population and Development, wished to become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

27. **Ms. Álvarez Núñez** (Cuba) said that her delegation supported the request and the draft resolution introduced by the representative of Bangladesh.

28. **Mr. Mutahar** (Yemen) said that his country, was also a member of Partners in Population and Development, and he endorsed the statement by the previous speaker.

29. **Mr. Samy** (Egypt) said that his delegation wished to become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

#### **Agenda item 165: Observer status for the Asian Development Bank in the General Assembly (A/57/141)**

30. **Mr. Su Wei** (China) introduced the request for observer status for the Asian Development Bank in the General Assembly. Founded in 1966, the Bank was an intergovernmental institution that contributed significantly to economic growth and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, helping to accelerate the economic and social development of its developing country members. As stated in document A/57/141, in order to remain relevant to the changing needs of the region, the Asian Development Bank had continually adapted its priorities, assistance modalities and organizational structure. It was now a fully fledged development institution which sought to achieve its goal of poverty reduction by providing loans,

guarantees and technical assistance to its members. The Bank had cooperative working arrangements with various economic bodies in the United Nations system and had participated in the preparatory processes of several conferences on development issues sponsored by the United Nations. It would be mutually beneficial to both organizations to enhance their cooperation, in particular on lending programmes that focused on social infrastructure, the environment and social development. The General Assembly had, after all, already granted observer status to the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank.

31. **Ms. Sarah** (Malaysia), **Mr. Hoang Huy Chung** (Viet Nam), **Mr. Macadangdang** (Philippines) and **Mr. Adamhar** (Indonesia) expressed support for the request introduced by the representative of China.

#### **Agenda item 166: Observer status for the International Centre for Migration Policy Development in the General Assembly (A/57/142)**

32. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to begin its consideration of the item and drew attention to document A/57/142, containing a letter from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations which requested inclusion of the item in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.

33. **Mr. Marschik** (Austria) noted that document A/57/142 had two annexes, one of which contained an explanatory memorandum in support of his delegation's request for the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda of the current session. The second annex contained the text of a draft resolution by which the General Assembly would grant observer status to the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). The explanatory memorandum provided a complete picture of the work of ICMPD that ought to enable the Committee to discern the benefits that would accrue to the Organization if the Centre was granted observer status.

34. Migration, whether voluntary, enforced, legal or illegal, affected all Member States, and the problems associated with illegal migration in particular were becoming increasingly common. No State could manage cross-border migration on its own; cooperation was essential. Since its establishment in 1993, ICMPD had grown into an international organization of renown that cooperated with over 50 States. It had successfully

established networks of countries of origin and transit in several regions. The Centre also cooperated with many United Nations entities, including the Population Division, of the Secretariat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Labour Organization, as well as with the European Union. Observer status in the General Assembly would enable the Centre to assist United Nations initiatives on global migration issues and would enhance discussions of those issues in the Assembly. The Centre, in turn, would improve its capacity to service States. His delegation hoped that when the proposed draft resolution was issued as an official document, it would gain the support of all delegations.

35. **Mr. Zellweger** (Switzerland) noted that ICMPD had been established jointly by Austria and Switzerland and expressed support for the statement made by the representative of Austria.

36. **Mr. Simon** (Hungary) said that, as a member of the ICMPD Steering Committee, Hungary supported granting the Centre observer status in the General Assembly.

37. **Mr. Romeu González Barros** (Spain) noted that the question of migration had increased significantly in importance during the past 30 years. The work of ICMPD was thus of great interest to the United Nations, and his delegation supported the proposal to grant it observer status in the General Assembly.

#### **Agenda item 22 (h): Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (A/55/996)**

38. **The Chairman** recalled that the item had been referred to the Sixth Committee by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session and that the Committee had decided to defer a decision on the item to the fifty-seventh session.

39. **Mr. Molnár** (Hungary), introducing the agenda item, said that as a founding member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), which had been established in 1889, Hungary had consistently supported the Union's efforts to strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations and to obtain observer status in the General Assembly. The Hungarian Group of IPU had recently requested the Hungarian Government to initiate the submission of a draft resolution to the Assembly at its current session

inviting the Union to participate as an observer in the sessions and work of the Assembly.

40. The United Nations and IPU had continued to strengthen their joint activities in recent years, and the General Assembly had received annual reports from the Union on a number of major United Nations undertakings since 1996, when a cooperation agreement between the two organizations had been concluded. At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly had considered a report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and IPU (A/56/449) which had described the Union's contribution to the Organization's activities and highlighted the strengthening of the close and productive relationship between the two organizations. A preliminary discussion on the granting of observer status to IPU had then been held in which 25 speakers from all regional groups had identified practical benefits that the two organizations and their members would derive from closer cooperation.

41. His delegation intended to submit a draft resolution on the granting of observer status to IPU and had already obtained pledges of sponsorship from a number of delegations. He hoped to obtain further support from other delegations as the draft text was prepared for submission to the Committee.

42. **Mr. Kleber** (Venezuela), **Mr. Florent** (France), **Mr. Pegsteen** (Belgium), **Mr. Lavallo-Valdés** (Guatemala), **Mr. Marschik** (Austria), **Mr. Ortúzar** (Chile), **Ms. Sarah** (Malaysia), **Mr. Kone** (Burkina Faso), **Ms. Álvarez Núñez** (Cuba), **Ms. Stancu** (Romania), **Mr. Cabrera** (Peru), **Mr. Much** (Germany), **Mr. Adamhar** (Indonesia), **Mr. Ogonowski** (Poland), **Mr. Bocalandro** (Argentina), **Mr. Uykur** (Turkey), **Mr. MacLeod** (United Kingdom), **Mr. Hoang Huy Chung** (Viet Nam), **Mr. Kulyk** (Ukraine), **Mr. Mwandembwa** (United Republic of Tanzania), **Mr. Hoffman** (South Africa), **Mr. Hakwenye** (Namibia), **Ms. Randryanarivan** (Madagascar), **Mr. Akamatsu** (Japan) and **Mr. Nesi** (Italy) endorsed the statement by the representative of Hungary.

#### **Organization of work**

43. The Chairman noted that the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) on the work of its forty-second session (A/57/16) contained a section on the in-depth evaluation of legal

affairs conducted by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). The relevant OIOS report was contained in document E/AC.51/2002/5. In its report, CPC had recommended the approval of recommendations 1 to 7, 9 and 11 to 20 of the in-depth evaluation, the last of which read: "The present report, including the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination should be submitted to the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly, at its fifty-seventh session, for review and action". The two reports would be considered together by the Committee at a future meeting.

44. He recalled that the Committee had requested a briefing in the light of paragraph 11 of the report of the Secretary-General on improving the performance of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services (A/57/289 and Corr.1), which concerned the proposed transfer of the Committee's technical servicing secretariat from the Office of Legal Affairs to the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management. The Committee's request had been noted by the Secretariat, and the briefing would take place in the near future.

*The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.*