



General Assembly

Fifty-seventh session

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Summary record of the 5th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 4 December 2002, at 9.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Kavan..... (Czech Republic)

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The meeting was called to order at 9.45 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda of the fifty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly and allocation of items: request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session (A/57/234)

1. **The Chairman** said that the representative of the Philippines had asked to address the Committee under rule 43 of the rules of procedure regarding the proposal contained in document A/57/234 concerning the proclamation of 2004 as the International Year of Rice.

2. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Manalo (Philippines) took a place at the Committee table.*

3. **Mr. Manalo** (Philippines) said that the proposal to proclaim 2004 as the International Year of Rice reflected the desire of over 180 members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. That proclamation would signify recognition by the General Assembly of the importance of rice, a staple food for more than half the world's population, in ensuring food security, poverty alleviation and the attainment of the Millennium development goals. Rice was important not only for its nutritional value but also as an integral part of the political and social features of many societies. Rice production and post-harvest activities also provided employment for several hundred million people. Proclamation of an international year would also call attention to the need to address concerns regarding declining productivity, the depletion of natural resources and the environment and the loss of biodiversity, as well as the important interrelationship between poverty, food security, malnutrition and rice.

4. **The Chairman** said he took it that the General Committee wished to recommend the inclusion of an additional item, entitled "International Year of Rice, 2004", in the agenda of the current session.

5. *It was so decided.*

6. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee recommended that the item should be allocated to the plenary Assembly.

7. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 9.50 a.m.