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Seventy-first session

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Summary record of the 1st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 14 September 2016, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Thomson (President of the General Assembly) (Fiji)

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

Organization of the seventy-first regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/71/1)

II. Organization of the session

1. **The Chair**, drawing attention to paragraph 6 of chapter II of the memorandum, said he trusted that he would shortly receive from each of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly a letter concerning the designation of a liaison person for the duration of the session. He also drew attention to paragraph 23 concerning holidays and observances on which United Nations bodies were invited to avoid holding meetings, and informed the Committee of the dates in question.

2. *The Committee took note of all the information contained in chapter II and decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to that information and to recommend to the Assembly that it should take action on all the proposals made in chapter II. It also decided to draw the attention of the Assembly in particular to paragraph 29, recommending that the general debate should continue on Saturday, 24 September 2016; to paragraph 55 concerning the timely submission of draft proposals for review of their programme budget implications; to paragraph 62 concerning the views of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the use of the phrase “within available resources” or “within existing resources” and the report in which it emphasized the responsibility of the Secretariat to inform the Assembly thoroughly and accurately about whether there were enough resources to implement a new activity.*

III. Adoption of the agenda

3. **The Chair** informed the Committee that, in accordance with paragraph 2 (a) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, the draft agenda was organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization as contained in every medium-term plan, or in the strategic framework, with an additional heading for “Organizational, administrative and other matters”.

4. Since the draft agenda was organized under nine headings, the Committee might wish to consider the inclusion of items under each heading as a whole. However, it might wish to take separate decisions on certain items, where it was deemed appropriate, including in some cases the placement of items under appropriate headings.

5. The draft agenda contained fourteen new items, namely item 62 under heading B, item 88 under heading F, items 99 (mm) to (qq) under heading G, item 116 (i), item 133 (u) and items 171 to 175 under heading I.

Paragraphs 70 to 72

6. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 70 to 72 relating to the standard practice of the General Assembly.*

Paragraph 73

7. **The Chair** drew attention to paragraph 73 listing items to be included in the agenda. Items 1 to 8 were not under any heading. The General Assembly had already dealt with items 1 and 2. Items 3 to 8 related to organizational matters.

8. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of items 1 to 8.*

Heading A. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences

9. **Mr. Djani** (Indonesia), speaking in his capacity as Chair of the Second Committee, said that item 21 (a), concerning the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence, had been allocated to the Second Committee in past sessions. While it appeared in the Second Committee’s draft programme of work, it had been brought to his attention that as a biennial item, in line with General Assembly resolution 70/211, item 21 (a) should have been recommended for inclusion in the draft programme of work for the seventy-second session of the General Assembly. He therefore proposed its deletion from the agenda of the current

session and its inclusion in the provisional agenda of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly.

10. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading A, taking into account the remarks made by the Chair of the Second Committee regarding item 21 (a).*

Heading B. Maintenance of international peace and security

Item 38. Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte

11. **The Chair** recalled that the General Assembly, at the 116th plenary meeting of its seventieth session, had decided to include item 38 in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session.

12. **Mr. Bouah-Kamon** (Côte d'Ivoire) proposed, on the basis of consultations held by the delegations of Comoros and France, that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that item 38 should be included in the agenda, on the understanding that there would be no consideration of the item at the present session.

13. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 38 under heading B, on the understanding that there would be no consideration of the item until further notice.*

Item 59. Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India

14. **The Chair** recalled that the General Assembly, at the 2nd plenary meeting of its seventieth session, had decided to include item 59 in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session.

15. **Mr. Balé** (Congo) proposed, on the basis of consultations held by the delegations of France and Madagascar, that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of item 59 should be deferred to its seventy-second session and that the item should be included in the provisional agenda of that session, without prejudice to the position of either Madagascar or France.

16. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of item 59 should be deferred to its seventy-second session and that the*

item should be included in the provisional agenda of that session.

Item 62. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

17. **The Chair** recalled that item 62 had been included in the provisional agenda pursuant to resolution 70/262, tentatively under heading B.

18. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 62 under heading B.*

19. *The Committee further decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of all the items listed under heading B, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 38, 59 and 62.*

Heading C. Development of Africa

20. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading C.*

Heading D. Promotion of human rights

21. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items under heading D.*

Heading E. Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts

22. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading E.*

Heading F. Promotion of justice and international law

Item 88. Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965

23. **The Chair** said that the inclusion of item 88 had been requested by Mauritius (A/71/142).

24. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 88 under heading F, on the understanding that there would be no consideration of that item by the General Assembly before June 2017 and that thereafter it would be considered upon notification by a Member State.*

25. *The Committee further decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of all the items listed under heading F, taking into account the decision regarding item 88.*

Heading G. Disarmament

Item 99 (mm). Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices

26. **The Chair** recalled that item 99 (mm) had been included in the provisional agenda pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/46, tentatively under heading G.

27. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 99 (mm) under heading G.*

Item 99 (nn). Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons

28. **The Chair** recalled that item 99 (nn) had been included in the provisional agenda pursuant to resolution 70/47, tentatively under heading G.

29. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 99 (nn) under heading G.*

Item 99 (oo). Humanitarian pledge for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices.

30. **The Chair** recalled that item 99 (oo) had been included in the provisional agenda pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/48, tentatively under heading G.

31. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 99 (oo) under heading G.*

Item 99 (pp). Ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world

32. **The Chair** recalled that item 99 (pp) had been included in the draft agenda pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/50, tentatively under heading G.

33. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 99 (pp) under heading G.*

Item 99 (qq). Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

34. **The Chair** recalled that item 99 (qq) had been included in the provisional agenda pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/54, tentatively under heading G.

35. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 99 (qq) under heading G.*

36. *The Committee further decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of all the items listed under heading G, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 99 (mm) to (qq).*

Heading H. Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

37. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading H.*

Heading I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

Item 116 (i). Appointment of members of the Board of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.

38. **The Chair** recalled that item 116 (i) had been included in the provisional agenda pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/411, tentatively under heading I.

39. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 116 (i) under heading I.*

Item 133 (u). United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

40. **The Chair** recalled that item 133 (u) had been included in the provisional agenda pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 70/238 and 70/248, tentatively under heading I.

41. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 133 (u) under heading I.*

Item 171. Observer Status for the Central American Bank for Economic Integration in the General Assembly

42. **The Chair** said that the inclusion of item 171 had been requested by Honduras ([A/71/141](#)).

43. *The Committee decided to postpone its consideration of the question of the inclusion of item 171 until its next meeting.*

Item 172. Observer status for the Conference of Ministers of Justice of the Ibero-American Countries in the General Assembly

44. **The Chair** said that the inclusion of item 172 had been requested by Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Spain and Uruguay ([A/71/191](#)).

45. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 172 under heading I.*

Item 173. Observer status for the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America in the General Assembly

46. **The Chair** said that the inclusion of item 173 had been requested by Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Spain and Uruguay ([A/71/192](#)).

47. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 173 under heading I.*

Item 174. Observer status for the Pacific Island Development Forum in the General Assembly

48. **The Chair** said that the inclusion of item 174 had been requested by Fiji ([A/71/231](#)).

49. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 174 under heading I.*

Item 175. Observer status for the International Chamber of Commerce in the General Assembly

50. **The Chair** said that the inclusion of item 175 had been requested by France ([A/71/232](#)).

51. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 175 under heading I.*

IV. Allocation of items

Paragraphs 74 to 76

52. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 74 to 76 of the memorandum.*

Paragraphs 77 to 83

53. **The Chair** said that paragraph 77 of the memorandum listed the items of the draft agenda which had not been considered previously by the General Assembly. Paragraphs 78 to 82 contained suggestions regarding the allocation of those items.

Item 62. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

Item 88. Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965

Item 116 (i). Appointment of members of the Board of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes

54. *The Committee decided, owing to the nature of the items, to recommend to the General Assembly that items 62, 88 and 116 (i) should be considered directly in plenary meeting.*

Item 99 (mm), (nn), (oo), (pp) and (qq). General and complete disarmament

55. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 99 (mm), (nn), (oo), (pp) and (qq) should be allocated to the First Committee.*

Item 133 (u). United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

56. *The Committee decided that item 133 (u) should be allocated to the Fifth Committee.*

Item 172. Observer status for the Conference of Ministers of Justice of the Ibero-American Countries in the General Assembly

Item 173. Observer status for the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America in the General Assembly

Item 174. Observer Status for the Pacific Island Development Forum in the General Assembly

Item 175. Observer Status for the International Chamber of Commerce in the General Assembly

57. **The Chair** recalled that, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 54/195, any request by an organization for the granting of observer status in the General Assembly would be considered in plenary meeting after consideration of the issue by the Sixth Committee.

58. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that items 172 to 175 should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

Paragraph 84

Item 9. Report of the Economic and Social Council

59. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 84 and decided to recommend that the General Assembly, when considering item 9 in its entirety in plenary meeting, should take note of the clarification that, in implementing resolution 58/316, the relevant parts of chapter I of the report of the Economic and Social Council would be considered by the Main Committees concerned, under agenda items already allocated to them, for final action by the Assembly.*

Paragraphs 85 to 91

Item 13. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.

Item 118. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Item 19. Sustainable development

Item 64. Report of the Human Rights Council

Item 67. Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Item 69 (a). Implementation of human rights instruments

Item 69 (b). Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

60. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 85 to 91.*

Paragraph 92

Item 99. General and complete disarmament

61. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 92 and decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the relevant paragraphs of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency dealing with the subject matter of item 89 should be drawn to the attention of the First Committee in connection with its consideration of item 99.*

Paragraph 93

Item 110. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

62. *The Committee took note of the information provided in paragraph 93.*

Paragraph 94

Item 122. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

63. *The Committee took note of the information provided in paragraph 94 and decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 122 should be allocated to all the Main Committees for the purpose of discussing their working methods, as well as considering and taking action on their respective tentative programmes of work.*

Paragraphs 95 and 96

Item 136. Programme planning

64. *The Committee took note of the information provided in paragraphs 95 and 96 and decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 136 should be allocated to all the Main Committees and to the plenary Assembly to enhance discussion of evaluation, planning, budgeting and monitoring reports.*

Paragraph 97

Item 146. Administration of justice at the United Nations

65. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 146 should be allocated to the Fifth Committee for consideration of the administrative and budgetary aspects and to the Sixth Committee for the purpose of considering the legal*

aspects of the comprehensive report to be submitted by the Secretary-General.

Paragraph 98

Plenary Assembly

66. The Committee, taking note of paragraph 98, decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items to the plenary Assembly, taking into account the decisions the Committee had taken regarding items 9, 62, 88, 116 (i) and 136.

First Committee

67. The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items to the First Committee, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 89, 99 (mm) to (qq), 122 and 136.

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

68. The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 122 and 136.

Second Committee

69. The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items to the Second Committee, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 122 and 136.

Third Committee

70. The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items to the Third Committee, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 122 and 136.

Fifth Committee

71. The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items to the Fifth Committee, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 122, 133 (u), 136 and 146.

Sixth Committee

72. The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items to the Sixth Committee, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 122, 136, 146 and 172 to 175.

Statement by the Chair

73. **The Chair** said that in his years as Permanent Representative of Fiji, he had come to appreciate the Committee's value. Noting the recent adoption by the General Assembly of a resolution stressing the importance of enhancing the role of the General Committee, he affirmed his intention to avail himself of the unparalleled pool of expertise gathered in the Committee in fulfilling his mandate as President of the Assembly. In particular, the Committee's steadfast support would be crucial to efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He counted on the Committee to continue embracing transparency and innovation and to make the most of online services to enhance access to and distribution of information. In closing, he looked forward to more interactive deliberations at future meetings during the seventy-first session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.