

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

FIFTEENTH SESSION

Official Records



**SECOND COMMITTEE, 645th
MEETING**

Thursday, 6 October 1960,
at 11.15 a.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Opening statement by the Chairman</i>	3
<i>Election of the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur</i>	3
<i>Organization of the Committee's work</i>	3

Chairman: Mr. Janez STANOVNIK (Yugoslavia).

Opening statement by the Chairman

1. The CHAIRMAN welcomed the representatives of the new Member States, almost all of whom came from countries whose economic development left much to be desired; they would certainly contribute greatly to the deliberations and the work of a Committee whose special concern was the economic development of the under-developed countries.

Election of the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur

2. Mr. CUEVAS CANCINO (Mexico) proposed the appointment of Mr. Roa Kouri (Cuba) as Vice-Chairman.

3. Mr. CAMARA Sikhé (Guinea) supported that proposal.

Mr. Roa Kouri (Cuba) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

4. Mr. ENCINAS (Peru) proposed the election of Mr. Ahmad (Pakistan) as Rapporteur.

5. Mr. GREEN (New Zealand) and Mr. MAHDAVI (Iran) supported that proposal.

Mr. Ahmad (Pakistan) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

Organization of the Committee's work (A/C.2/205, A/C.2/L.457)

6. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to his suggestions regarding the order in which the Committee might take up the items on its agenda (A/C.2/L.457, paras. 3-10). An error had slipped into paragraph 4 of that document, which should begin with the words "The Chairman envisages..." and not "The Committee envisages...". In formulating those suggestions, his sole concern had been to make the conduct of the Committee's work easy and orderly; that was all the more necessary as the Committee was larger now than it had been and the consideration of each item on the agenda would necessarily take longer than in previous years.

7. Experience had shown that a number of items on the Committee's agenda had certain elements in common. Such was the case with items 12, 29 and 74 of the agenda of the fifteenth session. The Committee would

do well to consider them together in a general debate, in which each delegation could express its views on the principal economic problems the Committee was to study. Representatives might submit draft resolutions during the general debate, but the Committee would decide only after its conclusion the order in which it would take them up.

8. At the end of the general debate, in two or three weeks' time, in other words about 14 November, the Committee could take up the second group of questions, those dealing with the programmes being carried out by the Organization (agenda items 28, 30, 31 and 32). It would be particularly useful to consider those items after the first group since some of the specific proposals which would be made during the general debate might bear closely on the organization and operation of programmes of assistance and international co-operation.

9. If the Committee was to complete its work by 17 December, delegations must be ready to take the floor as soon as the general debate started and draft resolutions must be submitted as early as possible.

10. Mr. BERNARDO (Argentina) was in general agreement with the Chairman's proposals. However, if items 12, 29 and 74 were grouped together, there was a risk that representatives' statements in the general debate might be somewhat long. That being so, he wondered whether it might be possible for delegations so wishing, to make two general statements, the first on economic development and the second on other matters. He also asked whether representatives might speak again on certain items when they submitted draft resolutions.

11. The CHAIRMAN explained that any representative who so wished could speak twice during the general debate. What was important was that each delegation should not feel obliged to make a statement on each of the three items in question. With regard to draft resolutions, they were always the subject of detailed explanations by their sponsors and by any representatives speaking in connexion with them. His intention was not to restrict discussion but simply to streamline it.

12. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) asked whether, in view of the large number of representatives who would be taking part in discussions, it would not be advisable to place a time-limit on interventions. There was, of course, as the Chairman had stressed, no question of restricting the debate, but in order to save time it might perhaps be wise to limit the length of general statements.

13. The CHAIRMAN thought that, at the outset at least, no restriction ought to be placed on the length of general statements, in order to allow each representative to describe in detail the points of principal concern to his country. After the general debate, however, it would probably be necessary to place a time-limit on interventions so that the Committee might complete its

work in time. On that point, he had every confidence that delegations would co-operate.

14. Mr. OMAR (Afghanistan) thought that a general debate on each item on the agenda would considerably delay the Committee's work. The Chairman's suggestion therefore seemed to him a wise one, it being understood that any representative might, if he wished, speak on the draft resolutions submitted.

15. With regard to the date on which the Committee should begin consideration of the second group of questions, it was still too early to make it definite.

16. The CHAIRMAN said that he had suggested 14 November as the date for the start of the discussion of the second group of questions because by that time the Committee would have before it the Secretary-General's report, under item 31, (Opportunities for international co-operation on behalf of former Trust Territories and other newly independent States) and for other reasons of a practical kind.

17. Mr. RAJAPATIRANA (Ceylon) endorsed the Chairman's suggestions for the division of the items on the agenda into two groups. It would, however, be difficult for some representatives to deal with items 12, 29 and 74 in a single statement. Some flexibility ought, therefore, to be allowed—similarly with regard to the date 14 November, which should not be maintained regardless of circumstances.

18. Mr. PHILLIPS (United States of America) supported the Chairman's suggested order for the Committee's work, and, like the representative of Haiti, felt that delegations should bear in mind the desirability of brevity wherever feasible, every representative retaining, of course, full liberty to state his views.

19. Mr. CAMARA Sihké (Guinea) agreed with the organization of work proposed by the Chairman, but thought that it would be preferable not to lay down rigid dates for the examination of the two groups of items, as that might impede discussion. Moreover, it was desirable that new members, most of whom were under-developed countries of Africa, should have the opportunity to express their views in detail and to hear those of older members, in particular concerning items 12, 29 and 74.

20. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) supported the Chairman's suggestions in principle, but felt that item 74 might perhaps be considered separately. In the past that item had been considered along with the general questions, but it would now be preferable to group it with the items concerning operational programmes. Regarding the length of speeches, the Greek delegation had always been of the opinion that no fixed limit should be set. It had never been the length of interventions that had delayed the Committee's work, but rather the fact that representatives had not been ready to speak or that the Committee had become involved in long procedural debates. As to the question of dates, it was still too early to lay down a definite time-table.

21. The CHAIRMAN emphasized that the plan could be applied with all necessary flexibility. Concerning the question of land reform, he did not feel it would be necessary to consider it separately, as representatives who were especially interested in that problem could speak on it not only in the course of the general discussion, but also during the consideration of the relevant draft resolutions or proposals which might be submitted.

22. Mr. CHERNYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the Chairman's proposals.

23. Mr. PENTEADO (Brazil), while supporting the suggestions of the Argentine representative, agreed with the Chairman's proposals, on the understanding that delegations could make a separate statement on each of the items 12 and 29.

24. Mr. HASSAN (Sudan) shared the opinion of the representatives of Haiti and the United States regarding the length of speeches.

25. Mr. SERBAN (Romania) pointed out that the speeches of the various representatives were not always proportional to the importance of their countries. At the current session, the Committee would be especially interested to hear the representatives of the new States Members and to give each of them the opportunity to make as full a statement as he wished. He therefore hoped that, if it was decided to limit the length of speeches, that measure would not apply to the said countries. He also thought that it would be difficult at present for the Committee to set a definite date for concluding its examination of the first group of items.

26. Mr. FLERE (Yugoslavia) emphasized the importance attached by delegations to agenda items 12, 29 and 74. In the course of the general discussion, they could set out the general policies of their Governments in the economic sphere, thus facilitating the determination of measures which the Organization might undertake with a view to ensuring international economic co-operation. The Committee would therefore have to consider those items in detail. In particular, it would be desirable to allow delegations the opportunity of speaking on land reform either during the general discussion or in a special intervention. Another important item was that regarding opportunities for international co-operation on behalf of newly independent States. That was a fundamental question deserving special attention on the part of the Committee.

27. The CHAIRMAN confirmed that he had no intention of limiting the length of the speeches of the various delegations. He proposed that, subject to the observations made during the meeting, the plan of organization of work he had presented (A/C.2/L.457, paras. 3-10) should be adopted.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.