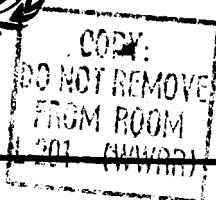


United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**
THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION
*Official Records**



SECOND COMMITTEE
2nd meeting
held on
Monday, 27 September 1982
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. FAFOWORA (Nigeria)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/C.2/37/1; A/C.2/37/L.1 and Add.1)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that each chapter of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 was to be submitted to the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly before the plan as a whole was adopted in plenary session. Accordingly, he suggested that the Committee consider the chapters submitted to it under agenda item 12, bearing in mind the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination as well as of the Economic and Social Council, and that an appropriate corrigendum to document A/C.2/37/L.1/Add.1 be issued. After consulting with the Bureau he would make suggestions as to how the Committee might proceed expeditiously with the consideration of the relevant chapters, bearing in mind also the programme of work of the Fifth Committee.

2. With regard to the arrangements agreed upon by the General Assembly to rationalize its work, he drew the Committee's attention to General Assembly decision 34/401, the text of which had been annexed (annex VI) to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/520/Rev.14), as well as to section II of the first report of the General Committee (A/37/250). In addition, he drew attention to General Assembly resolution 34/212 - in particular, to paragraphs 3 to 5 - by which the Assembly adopted new arrangements for the formulation of its agenda relating to economic and financial matters and for the organization of the work of the Second Committee. The proposed programme of work for the Committee contained in the annex to document A/C.2/37/L.1 took into account the arrangements set out in General Assembly resolution 34/212 and was similar to the programme of work adopted by the Committee in recent years. He believed that the proposed programme of work provided ample opportunity to all delegations to express fully their views on any matter within the Committee's purview. With regard to the dates proposed for the consideration of the various items and for action on proposals submitted under those items, although they were indicative in nature, he hoped that delegations would try to adhere to them, particularly those dates set for action on resolutions which might have financial implications. During the course of the Committee's work he would, after consulting with members of the Committee, make the necessary adjustments to the programme of work, so as to enable the Committee to conclude its work in time.

3. He also intended to follow the established practice of requesting the two Vice-Chairmen of the Committee to be responsible for various agenda items and to co-ordinate all the informal consultations on draft proposals submitted under those items; the distribution of responsibilities would be communicated to members of the Committee as soon as he had consulted with members of the Bureau. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/197, he would consult with the Chairman of the Third Committee and with the Chairman of the Fifth Committee in order to improve the co-ordination of the work of those Committees with that of the Second Committee.

4. While paying tribute to the Secretary-General for his efforts to improve the documentation situation with regard to availability and length of documents, he

(The Chairman)

pointed out that the crucial initiative with respect to streamlining of agenda items and documentation lay with the delegations. He therefore urged members of the Committee to exercise restraint in requesting documents and additional meetings for, regrettably, despite the recurrent complaints about the excessive number of agenda items and heavy volume of documentation, progress in reversing the trend had been very marginal at best. In that connexion he urged delegations to bear in mind the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly concerning the necessity to streamline agenda items and documentation and suggested that measures be taken to implement paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 34/212 concerning the possibility of examining some items on its agenda allocated to the Second Committee on a biennial basis.

5. Recalling that in its resolution 32/197 the General Assembly had emphasized the importance, for the Economic and Social Council, of assisting in the preparation of the work of the Assembly in the economic, social and related fields, he pointed out that in its resolution 1982/50, entitled "Revitalization of the Economic and Social Council" the Council had adopted important measures concerning its programme and organization of work, as well as documentation and calendar of meetings. After reading paragraphs 1 (b) and 1 (g) of that resolution, he said that the Council had endorsed the recommendations of the Secretary-General and had recommended to the General Assembly to do likewise. As the Council could not implement fully the provisions of its resolution 1982/50 unless delegations took account of its provisions at the present session, he urged delegations submitting draft resolutions to bear in mind the provisions of resolution 1982/50 and to keep to a minimum their requests for submission of documents to the Council, or to the Assembly through the Council. It was his intention to carry out, with the assistance of the Bureau, informal consultations with members of the Committee, the regional groups and the President of the Economic and Social Council, on ways and means of strengthening the interaction of the work carried out by the Assembly and the Council.

6. Mr. PLECHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the documents before the Committee concerning organization of work made no mention of a general debate. The previous year, the general debate had been cancelled as an exceptional measure. Since delegations had divergent views on the matter, he asked the Chairman to consult the different regional groups informally so as to determine how delegations felt about holding of general debate and to reach a consensus on the matter.

7. Mr. DON NANJIRA (Kenya) said that the preceding year, on the recommendation of the Group of 77, the Second Committee had decided not to hold a general debate; the fact that such a debate had nevertheless taken place at various levels, should reassure delegations which regretted its absence from the programme of work. He therefore thought that a programme of work similar to that of the preceding year would be a good compromise.

8. With regard to document A/C.2/37/L.1, he said that his delegation would prefer to speak of substantive discussion rather than of substantive debate on the various

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(Mr. Don Nanjira, Kenya)

agenda items, since in actual fact, the object was to discuss substantive matters in detail with a view to reaching an agreement. While his delegation generally endorsed the schedule proposed by the Chairman for the submission of proposals, it believed that delegations should be given some leeway and allowed to submit proposals after the deadlines. Since it was useless to schedule meetings on a given item if the relevant documents were not available, he requested the Chairman to emphasize, when he undertook his consultations before finalizing the programme of work, that the documents must be available in all working languages.

9. With regard to items which were not directly within the competence of the Second Committee but which might be relevant to its work, meetings of the Second Committee should not be scheduled at times which clashed with other important meetings, inter alia, the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, so that small delegations could attend all meetings. He also hoped that consideration of agenda item 12 would not overlap with the introductory statements to be made at the start of the session on behalf of organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system.

10. The CHAIRMAN said that, as the various footnotes to document A/C.2/37/L.1 indicated, important meetings would not be scheduled at times which clashed with other meetings and the Second Committee would be able to organize its work with the necessary flexibility within the time-frame available to it.

11. Mr. GADELHAK (Egypt) said that the scheduling of introductory statements by representatives of organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations at the start of the session did not make for the desired dialogue with members of the Committee. He would prefer those representatives to participate in the Committee's debate at a later stage. With regard to agenda item 71, which comprised over 15 subdivisions, and taking into account, inter alia, the comments made concerning the general debate, his delegation again proposed, as it had done the previous year, that related subjects be grouped into three or four main categories. Moreover, in view of the importance of item 71, delegations should be allowed to speak more than once on that item. His delegation agreed with the Kenyan delegation on the need for a certain flexibility in the programme of work, since members of the Second Committee had to consult frequently in order to reach consensus on the various items, and that might sometimes cause them to miss the deadlines.

12. Mr. ATTA (Algeria) said that the various groups had not yet had time for consultations. He therefore requested the Chairman to postpone temporarily any decision on the organization of work. The Group of 77 would meet in a few hours and would duly inform the Chairman of all its decisions.

13. Mr. IVERSEN (Denmark) said that he, too, believed that consultations were necessary and that a certain flexibility should be allowed for in the Committee's programme of work.

14. Mr. DIOP (Senegal) said that his delegation had no difficulty with the documents before the Committee, although it felt bound by what the Chairman of the

(Mr. Diop, Senegal)

Group of 77 had said. The documents were the fruit of past experience and it was on the basis of that very experience that the general debate had been abolished. Nevertheless, it was understood that there would be a substantive debate on each specific item and that the dates proposed in the Committee's programme of work were merely intended to be guidelines.

15. Mr. KORDS (German Democratic Republic) said that his delegation, in principle, supported the organization of work set forth in document A/C.2/37/L.1, but regretted that there would be no general debate on the implementation of United Nations decisions on the democratic restructuring of international economic relations and on development and international economic co-operation, especially in view of the current world economic situation. Accordingly, his delegation favoured a general debate in the Second Committee and believed that the proposal made by the representative of the Soviet Union was the best way of settling the matter.

16. Mr. TANIGUCHI (Japan) said that the Second Committee had already dispensed with a general debate in preceding years without being inconvenienced in the slightest. In the past, that debate had been ritualistic and of no specific use. His delegation therefore proposed that it be dispensed with again. With regard to the substantive consideration of agenda items allocated to the Committee, the greatest possible flexibility was called for; attention should be focused on important and priority items without, however, neglecting the others.

17. The CHAIRMAN, noting that the regional groups had still to hold consultations, suggested that, in view of the limited time available to the Committee, they should meet that very day and communicate the results of their consultations to him the following morning at 10 o'clock.

18. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Committee) reminded the representative of Egypt that it had been planned since June that the Executive Directors of the various organizations would speak during the first two weeks of the session. Representatives of those organizations, although not Executive Directors, would however, be present during the consideration of items of concern to the organizations.

ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMEN AND RAPPORTEUR

19. Mr. RINGNALDA (Netherlands) nominated Mr. Papadatos (Greece) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

20. Mr. ter HORST (Venezuela) nominated Mr. Fareed (Pakistan) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

21. Mr. ZHONG Shukong (China) supported the nomination of Mr. Fareed.

22. Mr. Papadatos (Greece) and Mr. Fareed (Pakistan) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.

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23. Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece) thanked the Committee for electing him and said he was prepared to listen to any suggestions and innovative ideas from members of the Committee.

24. Mr. FAREED (Pakistan) thanked the Committee for electing him and said that he would do everything possible to contribute to solving the important problems before the Committee.

25. The CHAIRMAN said that consultations were still being held on the election of a Rapporteur and that the election would be postponed until a later meeting.

The meeting rose at 4:35 p.m.