



# General Assembly

Sixty-sixth session

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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 1st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 16 September 2011, at 12.20 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Momen . . . . . (Bangladesh)

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*The meeting was called to order at 12.20 p.m.*

### **Election of the Bureau**

1. **The Chair** said that the following candidates had been endorsed to serve as Vice-Chairs of the Committee for its sixty-sixth session: **Mr. Zdorov** (Belarus), endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; **Mr. Donckel** (Luxembourg), endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States; and **Mr. Yohanna** (Nigeria), endorsed by the Group of African States. For the office of Rapporteur, the candidacy of **Mr. Landveld** (Suriname) had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

2. *Mr. Zdorov (Belarus), Mr. Donckel (Luxembourg) and Mr. Yohanna (Nigeria) were elected Vice-Chairs, and Mr. Landveld (Suriname) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

### **Statement by the Chair**

3. The Chair, referring to the division of responsibilities within the Bureau for the 2011 session, said that he himself would assume responsibility for the general debate and the dialogue with the executive secretaries of the regional commissions; the agenda item on revitalization of the work of the General Assembly; and the item on programme planning and special events. Mr. Zdorov (Belarus) would be responsible for agenda item 17 on macroeconomic policy questions; item 18 on follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference; and item 25 on agriculture development and food security. Mr. Donckel (Luxembourg) would be responsible for agenda item 22 on groups of countries in special situations; item 23 on eradication of poverty and other development issues; and item 61 on the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources. Mr. Yohanna (Nigeria) would be responsible for agenda item 16 on information and communications technologies for development; item 21 on globalization and interdependence; item 24 on operational activities for development; and item 26 on global partnerships. Lastly, Mr. Landveld (Suriname) would be responsible for agenda item 19 on sustainable development; and item 20 on implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human

Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

4. Turning to the Committee's working methods, he said that the Committee's meetings would begin punctually at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. If there were few or no speakers inscribed for a particular meeting, the time and conference services should be utilized either for negotiations or for meetings of interest groups. In view of the limited time available and the new working methods in place, it was important for the Committee to function more efficiently and to maximize the use of its time.

5. The list of speakers for both the Committee's general debate and the agenda items allocated to it would be open on Monday, 19 September 2011. Delegations were requested to inscribe their names on the list of speakers as soon as possible to enable the Committee to plan its work more efficiently. If a speaker was absent, his or her delegation would automatically be placed last on the list of speakers, unless it had made arrangements to change places with another delegation.

6. Its decision 65/530, the General Assembly had decided to maintain the current time limits of 7 minutes for individual Member States and 10 minutes for delegations speaking on behalf of a group of States during the general debate. It had also decided to maintain, as appropriate, the time limits of 5 minutes for individual Member States and 7 minutes for delegations speaking on behalf of a group of States during debates on individual agenda items. Speakers should therefore confine themselves to the salient points of their statements and to provide copies of longer statements for distribution. Similarly, introductions by the Secretariat should be limited to 10 minutes. Representatives of the Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes were explicitly requested to focus their statements on selected issues of concern to them and, if possible, to provide copies of their statements for distribution. He intended to notify all speakers when their time was running out.

7. The agenda items that had been allocated to the Committee by the General Assembly were contained in a letter from the President of the General Assembly, which would be issued as document A/C.2/66/1. He recalled several important changes in working methods adopted by the General Assembly in its decision 65/530. As draft resolutions under the various agenda items would be negotiated and adopted by the

Committee throughout the session, rather than at the end, delegations should do their utmost to facilitate the adoption of draft proposals by the deadlines recommended in document A/C.2/66/L.1.

8. Pursuant to General Assembly decision 65/530, the Committee was keeping multiple mandatory deadlines for the submission of draft resolutions and would adhere strictly to the deadlines established by the Bureau. As noted in the guidelines for the submission of draft proposals which had been circulated, the Secretariat required 48 hours to process and issue documents in all languages before the scheduled consideration of those draft proposals. Unless such modalities were respected, the Committee ran the risk of returning to its much-criticized past practice.

9. In the spirit of General Assembly resolution 65/530, draft resolutions should be more concise and action-oriented. Since informal negotiations would be held early in the session, facilitators must be appointed and draft proposals submitted on time. Those interested in facilitating negotiations or submitting draft proposals should strive to respect the deadlines that were being recommended. If necessary, informal consultations could be scheduled prior to the adoption of draft proposals at the recommendation of the Bureau.

10. With regard to the draft programme of work, he said that time had been set aside for six side events, which would focus on people-empowered development models for sustainable peace; financing for development; follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; alternative development strategies for job creation; food and energy security and energy efficiency; and means of implementation for sustainable development. Interpretation for the special events would be on an “if available” basis.

11. Two key elements were required for the successful completion of the Committee’s programme of work. One was discipline in honouring the deadlines for submission of draft proposals indicated in the organization of work document (A/C.2/66/L.1). The other was the full utilization of time in between the consideration of items for delegations to prepare draft proposals, establish group positions or conduct informal consultations.

#### **Organization of work** (A/C.2/66/L.1; and Add.1)

12. **The Chair** drew attention to the Committee’s proposed organization of work as contained in

document A/C.2/66/L.1. The general debate was scheduled from 3 to 5 October 2011. On the afternoon of 4 October, the Committee would hold its annual dialogue with the executive secretaries of the regional commissions. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 65/146, the Committee would hold a separate meeting on financing for development to consider the question of innovative mechanisms of financing for development. That meeting would take place on Thursday, 13 October 2011. The Committee also planned to hold a joint meeting with the Economic and Social Council on 28 October 2011, most likely on the topic “investing in productive capacity for job-rich growth”, but the details were still to be finalized.

13. The target date for the conclusion of the Committee’s work was 23 November 2011, which was based on the time required for the Committee’s reports to be processed and issued as documents for consideration by the General Assembly prior to its recess, and for the Fifth Committee to be seized of the Committee’s recommendations. It was vitally important for the Committee to complete its work by that target date, because major events had been scheduled on dates that might otherwise affect the availability of Committee members, namely the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Durban from 28 November to 9 December 2011, and the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to be held in Busan from 29 November to 1 December 2011.

14. Lastly, he suggested that the organization of work should be adopted as the first order of business on Monday, 3 October 2011, by which time the letter from the President of the General Assembly informing the Committee about the items allocated to it would have been issued and the full picture of the timing of the Committee’s special events would have emerged. He then drew attention to document A/C.2/66/L.1/Add.1, which provided information on the status of documentation before the Committee.

15. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee) said that, as in previous years, the Committee would have at its disposal “QuickPlace”, a secure online shared workspace. Instructions on the use of the tool and a registration form had been circulated.

*The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.*