



General Assembly

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Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean

Summary record of the 454th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 14 July 2011, at 3 p.m.

Temporary Chairman: Mr. Cherniavsky (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management)

Chairman: Mr. Kohona (Sri Lanka)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Opening of the session

1. **The Temporary Chairman** declared the 2011 session open.

Election of the Chairman

2. **The Temporary Chairman** said that the former Chairman, Ambassador Palihakkara, had returned to his capital. The delegation of Sri Lanka had agreed to continue to provide the Chairman of the Committee and had nominated Ambassador Kohona for that post. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to elect Ambassador Kohona as Chairman.

3. *Mr. Kohona (Sri Lanka) was elected Chairman by acclamation.*

4. *Mr. Kohona (Sri Lanka) took the Chair.*

Adoption of the agenda (A/AC.159.L.141)

5. The agenda was adopted.

Report of the Chairman of the Committee pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 64/23

6. **The Chairman** said that profound changes had taken place in the security and geopolitical situation of both the region and the world since the 1971 Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace had been conceived. Nevertheless, the region could continue to benefit by using the vision underlying the Declaration as a framework for future work. The so-called Cold War had ended and some disarmament issues had been resolved. New arms trade and disarmament challenges had come to the fore, while non-State actors, including terrorist groups, transnational subversive elements and sophisticated pirates, had emerged as threats to peace and security within and between States. It was precisely because of such concerns that the objectives of the Declaration remained relevant.

7. The Indian Ocean region had seen positive developments in the recent past, including growing regional cooperation in economic, technical and scientific disciplines and exponential growth in people-to-people contacts. Many countries in the region had registered phenomenal economic growth in many countries of the region had provided much-needed

stability to the global system affected by the recent downturns. Nevertheless, new and disturbing threats, including terrorism, arms trafficking, piracy, transnational crime, people smuggling and many other new regional and international security concerns, seemed to work against those positive trends.

8. Since the Committee had been unable to develop common ground for implementing the Declaration, Member States might wish to consider the development of new approaches and make recommendations to the General Assembly concerning the way forward. A review of the scope of the work of the Committee might include a revision of the Declaration. The Bureau should therefore continue the consultative process.

9. **Mr. Erwin** (Indonesia) said that the vision underlying the Declaration remained a strong and appropriate framework for ensuring the prosperity and well-being of the people of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, despite the challenging complexities of the security and geopolitical environment. The members of the Committee should consider how the Committee could continue to contribute to the maintenance of peace and security in the region by identifying and building on the common views that had held them together for so long.

10. The participation and contributions of members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean was essential and all parties should focus on the challenge ahead. The next stage would be to implement the substantive elements mandated by the Declaration. The Committee should also address the challenge of enhancing socio-economic development of the States of the region, as peace and security could be endangered if there was no development.

11. **Mr. Pan Jingyu** (China) said that his delegation supported the efforts of the States of the Indian Ocean area to defend their sovereignty and independence, as well as peace, security and stability in the region. The Declaration should be implemented at an early date, which would require joint efforts by States both within and beyond the region. The relevant General Assembly resolutions emphasized that all permanent members of the Security Council and the main maritime users of the Indian Ocean should participate in the Committee's work.

**Adoption of the report of the Committee to the
General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session**
(A/AC.159/L.142)

12. **Mr. Randrianarivony** (Madagascar), Rapporteur, introducing the draft report of the Committee (A/AC.159/L.142), explained that paragraphs 3 and 7 would be completed to reflect the statements made at the current meeting.

13. *The draft report was adopted.*

Closure of the session

14. The Chairman declared the 2011 session closed.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.