



# General Assembly

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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 1st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 19 September 2014 at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Cardi. . . . . (Italy)

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.03 p.m.*

### **Statement by the Chair**

1. **The Chair** informed the Committee how responsibility for the various agenda items would be divided among the members of the Bureau.

2. 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, it was important for the Committee to maximize the use of its time.

3. The list of speakers for both the Committee's general debate and the agenda items allocated to it was open. Delegations were requested to inscribe their names on the list as soon as possible to enable the Committee to plan its work more efficiently. If a delegation was not in the room when its turn came, it would automatically be moved to the end of the list, unless it had made arrangements to change places with another delegation.

4. Recalling that the General Assembly had decided to maintain the current time limits of seven minutes for individual Member States and 10 minutes for delegations speaking on behalf of a group of States during the general debate (five minutes and seven minutes, respectively, during debates on individual agenda items), he urged speakers to confine themselves to the salient points of their statements and to provide copies of their statements to the conference officers for purposes of electronic circulation through PaperSmart. Introductions by Secretariat officials should be limited to 10 minutes and representatives of all agencies, funds and programmes should focus on selected issues of concern to them and provide copies of their statements to the conference officers for purposes of electronic circulation through PaperSmart.

### **Organization of work (A/C.2/69/L.1)**

5. **The Chair** invited the Committee to consider the draft programme of work as contained in document [A/C.2/69/L.1](#) and recalled some of the 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, delegations should do their utmost to facilitate the

adoption of draft proposals by the recommended deadlines. The Bureau would keep multiple mandatory deadlines for the submission of draft resolutions; no late submissions would be accepted. However, requests for extensions made prior to the expiration of the deadline would be considered on a case-by-case basis. As noted in the guidelines for the submission of draft resolutions, 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.

6. Pursuant to General Assembly decision 65/530, draft resolutions should be more concise and action-oriented. Preambular paragraphs should be kept to a minimum and, where possible, references to the sources of the relevant language should be included. As informal "informal" consultations would be held early in the session, the appointment of facilitators must be completed promptly; he urged delegations to submit draft resolutions well in advance of the deadlines.

7. Time had been set aside for six special events. The Bureau proposed that four of those events should focus on the following: e-Government for sustainable development in small island developing States; investment promotion regime for foreign direct investment in least developed countries; promoting accountability at all levels: Monitoring the post-2015 development agenda; and social market economy and new instruments of social finance. Interpretation services for the special events would be provided on an "as available" basis.

8. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/202, the Committee would hold a joint meeting with the Economic and Social Council on 14 October 2014 to consider the lessons learned from the debt crises and the ongoing work on sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanisms.

9. The Bureau also planned to organize two additional meetings of the Council and the Committee: a joint meeting in collaboration with Project LINK, a non-governmental international economic research consortium; and a joint meeting on the topic "A renewed global partnership for development".

10. The general debate starting on 7 October would be preceded by a keynote address by Professor Janet

Gornick, Professor of Political Science and Sociology at the City University of New York Graduate Center.

11. The target date for the conclusion of the Committee's work was 26 November. It was essential that the Committee complete its work by that date as the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries would be held from 3 to 5 November and that would affect the availability of Committee members. Furthermore, 26 November was the last date that would allow time for the reports of the Second Committee to be processed and issued in time for consideration by the General Assembly before its December recess. All draft proposals with financial implications should be submitted to the Fifth Committee no later than 1 December.

12. **The Chair** said he took it that the Committee wished to approve the draft programme of work contained in document [A/C.2/69/L.1](#).

13. *It was so decided.*

14. **The Chair** drew attention to document [A/C.2/69/L.1/Add.1](#), which provided information on the status of documentation. In light of the comments made by some members in 2013 regarding the need to abide by General Assembly decision 65/530 on improving the working methods of the Committee and the non-paper of the sixty-eighth session on the working methods of the Committee, the Bureau had arranged for the Committee to devote some time to discussing the issue. The discussion would be in line with General Assembly resolution 68/307 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

15. **Mr. Gustafik** (Deputy Secretary of the Committee) said that, as in previous years, the Committee would have at its disposal "QuickPlace", a secure online shared workspace. Detailed instructions on the use of the tool, along with a registration form, had been circulated.

*The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.*