



General Assembly

Seventieth session

First Committee

27th meeting

Monday, 13 June 2016, 11.30 a.m.
New York

Official Records

Chair: Mr. Van Oosterom (Netherlands)

The meeting was called to order at 11.30 a.m.

Agenda item 5

Election of the officers of the Main Committees

Election of the Chair and the Bureau

The Chair: In accordance with rules 99 (a) and 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, this meeting has been convened to elect the Chair and other officers of the First Committee for the seventy-first session of the General Assembly.

First, however, let me offer condolences for the victims of the terrorist attack in Orlando, Florida, yesterday.

Before we proceed, I would like to thank, on behalf of all delegations, the other members of the Bureau of the Committee at its seventieth session: the three Vice-Chairs — Ms. Lachezara Stoeva of Bulgaria, Mr. Abiodun Richards Adejola of Nigeria and Mr. Abdulaziz Alajmi of Kuwait — and the Rapporteur, Ms. Tasha Young of Belize, for their remarkable contribution in guiding the work of the Committee to a successful conclusion.

Members will recall that, pursuant to decision 68/505 of 1 October 2013, the Chair for the seventy-first session of the Committee is to be from the Group of African States. In that regard, I have the honour to nominate the candidate of the said Group, Ambassador Sabri Boukadoum of Algeria, for the post of Chair for the seventy-first session.

Ambassador Boukadoum is an accomplished diplomat of his country who has dealt extensively with various issues relating to the broad area of disarmament and international peace and security. Prior to his appointment in December 2013 as Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations, Ambassador Boukadoum served for four years as the Director-General for the Americas in Algeria's Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Between October 2005 and August 2009, he was Algeria's Ambassador to Portugal, prior to which he served as Chief of Protocol in the Foreign Ministry.

Ambassador Boukadoum was Algeria's Ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire between November 1996 and September 2001, and the Director for Political Affairs, the United Nations and Disarmament from 1993 to 1996. Previously, he held the position of Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations between 1988 and 1992. He also served as a United Nations expert in the drafting of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty), head of the Algerian delegation for several sessions of the Preparatory Committee of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and head of a group of experts on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. From 1987 to 1988, Ambassador Boukadoum was the First Secretary in the Algerian embassy in Hungary. He is a graduate of the diplomatic section of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration.

I am therefore delighted to submit his candidature today as Chair of the First Committee for the seventy-first session.

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Since there are no other nominations from the Group of African States, may I take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and established practice, the First Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to elect by acclamation Ambassador Sabri Boukadoum of Algeria as the Chair of the Committee for the seventy-first session of the General Assembly?

It was so decided.

The Chair: On behalf of all delegations, I congratulate Ambassador Boukadoum on his election. I am certain that he will receive the support and cooperation of each and every delegation in executing his mandate to guide the work of the seventy-first session of the First Committee.

We will now proceed with the election of other officers of the First Committee at its seventy-first session, beginning with the three Vice-Chairs. It is my pleasure to present to the Committee the following nominations: for the Group of Asia-Pacific States, Mr. Kamapradipta Isnomo of Indonesia; for the Group of Eastern European States, Mr. Rene Zeleny of the Czech Republic; and for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, Ms. Maria Soledad Uruella Arenales of Guatemala.

Bearing in mind that the aforementioned candidates for the positions of Vice-Chair have been endorsed by their respective regional groups, may I take it that the Committee would wish to elect them by acclamation?

It was so decided.

The Chair: With respect to the position of Rapporteur, Mr. Darren Hansen of Australia has been nominated by the Group of Western European and Others States. May I take it that the Committee wishes to elect him by acclamation as the Rapporteur of the First Committee at its seventy-first session?

It was so decided.

I now give the floor to the Chair-elect of the First Committee for its seventy-first session, Ambassador Sabri Boukadoum of Algeria, to make a statement.

Mr. Boukadoum (Algeria): I cannot fail to begin my statement without expressing my deepest sympathy and condolences to the families and the Government of the United States after the horrendous tragedy that occurred yesterday in Orlando, Florida.

It is with feelings of honour and humility that I accept the trust conferred on me by the General Assembly. My most sincere thanks go to my faithful constituency, Africa, for its steadfast and unanimous nomination. I want to assure the General Assembly of my deep and strong commitment to making things advance in the First Committee, and I shall try to continue as hard as possible the wonderful work and dedication of our close friend, Chair Karel van Oosterom.

Nuclear-free zones and the revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament will certainly be my priorities. I believe that we in the United Nations have a special duty to work to build the necessary confidence and trust among us, the general membership, in order to advance the crucial cause of the establishment of peace, security and development among all nations. I will certainly spare no effort in working with the Bureau and the trustworthy and extremely competent members of the Secretariat, without whom nothing would be possible.

The Chair: I thank Ambassador Boukadoum for his statement.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend heartfelt thanks once again to all delegations for their support and cooperation throughout my tenure as the Chair of the First Committee at its seventieth session.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.