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Chairman: Mr. Hermod LANNUNG (Denmark).

Statement by the Chairman

1. The CHAIRMAN extended a cordial welcome to all representatives, and in particular to those of the nineteen new Member States who were attending the General Assembly for the first time. Representing as they did many regions and cultures, they would undoubtedly make a valuable contribution to the Committee's work.

2. He deeply appreciated the honour bestowed upon his country and himself, and would endeavour to discharge his functions as Chairman in a manner satisfactory to all.

3. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said he was sure he could speak for the Committee in expressing full confidence in the Chairman's impartiality and ability. He felt that in the Committee's proceedings humanitarian considerations, which united all members of the Committee, would prevail over conflicting ideologies and social and political differences. Under the guidance of the Chairman, the Committee would do its utmost to promote human dignity and the brotherhood of man throughout the world.

Election of the Vice-Chairman

4. Mr. SULAIMAN (Iraq) nominated Mr. Massoud-Ansari (Iran) as Vice-Chairman, an office for which Mr. Massoud-Ansari was eminently qualified by virtue of his background and experience in social and foreign affairs.

5. Mrs. LORD (United States of America), Mr. SAMY (Egypt), Mr. EPINAT (France), Mr. ASIROGLU (Turkey) and Mr. TABIBI (Afghanistan) warmly supported the nomination.

Mr. Massoud-Ansari (Iran) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

6. Mr. MASSOUD-ANSARI (Iran) thanked the Committee for the honour it had done his country and the confidence it had shown in him in electing him Vice-Chairman. He would do his best to deserve that confidence.

Election of the Rapporteur

7. Mr. JARAMILLO ARRUBLA (Colombia) nominated Mrs. Quan (Guatemala) as Rapporteur. Her

experience in social work in her own country and her service on the Committee fitted her perfectly for that task.

8. Mr. SINGH (India), Mr. ROY (Haiti), Mrs. SHOHAM-SHARON (Israel) and Mrs. ELLIOT (United Kingdom) supported the nomination.

Mrs. Quan (Guatemala) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

9. Mrs. QUAN (Guatemala), thanking the Committee on her own and her country's behalf for her election as Rapporteur, said she would endeavour to acquit herself of the task as creditably as her predecessors.

**Order of discussion of agenda items
(A/C.3/578, A/C.3/L.504)**

10. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a letter from the President of the General Assembly (A/C.3/578) listing the items allocated to the Third Committee, and to his own note (A/C.3/L.504) suggesting the order in which those items might be discussed.

11. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) agreed with the Chairman's suggestion that the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and chapter VI, section II, of the report of the Economic and Social Council, dealing with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), might be taken up first, for the practical reasons indicated in the Chairman's note. Since, however, the Committee, and the General Assembly itself, had already decided that the draft International Covenants on Human Rights should be given priority at the eleventh session, that item should be considered immediately after the first two had been disposed of. Chapters VI and VII of the Council's report should not be given priority over the draft covenants, as they contained a number of points which might give rise to lengthy discussion; he for one would take that opportunity to comment on the unwarranted postponement of the item dealing with freedom of information.

12. If the discussion of the item "Draft Convention on the Nationality of Married Women" was to be purely procedural, he would not object to consideration of that item before the Committee settled down to work on the draft covenants.

13. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) inquired how many meetings the Committee was expected to hold during the current session.

14. Mr. VAKIL (Secretary of the Committee) replied that at the tenth session the Committee had averaged seven meetings a week. If it worked at the same tempo, it might be expected to hold seventy to seventy-four meetings during the current session, thirty-three to thirty-five meetings before, and thirty-seven to thirty-nine meetings after, the Christmas recess.

15. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) said that in order to ensure a thorough and unhurried discussion of the more important items, the Committee should take up the draft covenants and the item entitled "Recommendations concerning international respect for the right of peoples and nations to self-determination" during the second part of the session, and discuss all other items during the first part.

16. Mr. ROY (Haiti) associated himself with the Saudi Arabian representative's remarks. Since the General Assembly in its resolution 833 (IX) had stated that the Third Committee should give priority to the draft covenants, and at its tenth session had approved¹ the Third Committee's report² to the same effect, the question had been decided, and the Committee should act accordingly. It could, of course, make an exception for purely practical reasons, in the case of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and of UNICEF, but it should not relegate the draft covenants to the second part of the session lest it find itself unable to give them the time and attention they deserved.

17. Mr. CHENG (China) thought the agenda should be arranged so that some of the items could be completed before the recess. For practical reasons, the items concerning UNICEF and the report of the High Commissioner for Refugees should be considered first. It would be wise then to take up the draft Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, as the question would arise whether the draft final articles should again be referred to the Sixth Committee, and if it was decided to do so the necessary action would have to be taken early, to enable the Sixth Committee to consider the item and refer it back to the Third Committee before the end of the session. If there was time, the Committee could deal with chapters VI and VII of the Economic and Social Council's report before the recess.

18. The second part of the session could be devoted to the item on self-determination and the three items relating specifically to human rights. If the representatives who wanted the draft covenants to be adopted as soon as possible exercised restraint in speaking on other items, the Committee would be able to devote many meetings to the drafts. It was true that the General Assembly had decided that the item should be given priority; however, priority could be construed to mean a preponderant number of meetings, rather than a high place on the agenda.

19. Mr. BRENA (Uruguay) thought the Committee could save valuable time by adhering as closely as possible to the order suggested by the President of the Assembly. While the Chairman's suggestion that the Committee should deal with the items concerning UNICEF and the High Commissioner's report first should be accepted, for practical reasons, the third item should be the draft covenants, which were the Committee's most important concern. Little progress had been made with the draft covenants at the tenth session; it was therefore only logical to devote as much time to them as possible at the current session.

20. Mr. GOMEZ ROBLEDO (Mexico) and Mr. STRATOS (Greece) supported the Uruguayan representative's views.

21. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) pointed out that her suggestion had been made on the ground that there would be more time to consider the draft covenants after the recess than before it. Her delegation had shown an active interest in the subject and in the right of self-determination for ten years, and would accordingly be the last to minimize the importance of the items in question. However, it should be borne in mind that many countries wished to accede to the draft Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, and that the Sixth Committee had refused to deal with the final articles. The Third Committee itself would therefore be obliged to take action on the matter during the current session.

22. Mrs. SHOHAM-SHARON (Israel) agreed with the Dominican representative. It was highly improbable that the Committee would be able to complete the draft covenants, and it would therefore be unwise to leave so little time for other items that they would again have to be postponed.

23. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) disagreed with the Chinese representative with regard to the question of priority; if chapters VI and VII of the Council's report were taken up before the draft covenants, debates on important matters such as freedom of information might encroach on the time available for consideration of the draft covenants.

24. Mr. CHENG (China) said that all the items on the agenda must be dealt with adequately. There appeared to be no objection to allocating one half of the Committee's meetings to the draft covenants and leaving the balance for the other items; the order of consideration should be decided from the practical point of view.

25. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said he preferred the order suggested by the representatives of Haiti and Uruguay.

26. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should decide to discuss as its first item the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and as its second item chapter VI, section II, of the report of the Economic and Social Council, which pertained to UNICEF.

It was so decided.

27. Mr. BEAUFORT (Netherlands) said that as the member of his delegation principally interested in the draft Convention on the Nationality of Married Women would be unable to be present when the session reconvened after Christmas, he would be grateful if the Committee could discuss that item immediately after the item on UNICEF, that is, as the third item on its agenda. The discussion should be short; and as the nationality of married women was an aspect of human rights, the Committee would in effect be giving priority to human rights.

28. Mrs. LIONAES (Norway) supported the Netherlands representative.

29. Mr. CHENG (China) said that his delegation had always been closely associated with the drafting of the international covenants, to which his country attached particular importance. However, the draft Convention on the Nationality of Married Women should also be given high priority, for the Commission on the Status of Women had expressed the hope that it would be adopted and opened for signature at the

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Tenth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 554th meeting.

² *Ibid.*, *Annexes*, agenda item 28 (Part I), document A/3077.

eleventh session of the General Assembly. The discussion of the draft Convention on the Nationality of Married Women would be mainly procedural: the Committee had merely to decide whether or not to refer it back to the Sixth Committee. The whole question could be disposed of very rapidly, and when that had been done, the Committee would be able to decide on the order in which it wished to take up the other items.

30. Mrs. ELLIOT (United Kingdom) supported the Netherlands proposal. The draft Convention on the Nationality of Married Women had already been referred to the Sixth Committee, so the Third Committee must now deal with it. There would be great disappointment if it was not opened for signature by the end of the current session. The discussion on the draft convention should not take very long and the Committee could then go on to consider the draft covenants.

31. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) strongly supported the Netherlands proposal. The draft Convention on the Nationality of Married Women was a very important item, involving serious questions of human rights. As the substantive articles had already been considered by the Committee, the debate would be short and would not delay the consideration of the draft covenants for very long. Furthermore, if the draft convention was taken up early in the session, delegations would have time to consult their Governments and perhaps to announce their accession to the convention before the end of the session. If the Netherlands proposal was accepted, the Committee might then consider the advisability of devoting the second half of its session entirely to the consideration of the draft covenants.

32. Mr. BRENA (Uruguay) said that the draft International Covenants on Human Rights were the Committee's most vital concern. At the present time, when the eyes of the world were fixed on the General Assembly, it would be unfortunate if the Committee were to give the impression that it was not assigning the highest priority to such an important item. If, by the end of the session, the Committee had dealt with at least one of the two draft covenants, it would have done its duty in the eyes of the world; otherwise, it would have failed signally, and such a failure would inevitably breed scepticism as to the importance the General Assembly attached to one of its principal tasks. There was no doubt that the draft Convention on the Nationality of Married Women was extremely important also, but the draft covenants should take precedence over all other items. He therefore proposed that they should be taken up immediately after the report of UNICEF, as the third item on the Committee's agenda.

33. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said that while the Committee would probably not be able to complete its work on the draft covenants at the current session, it should certainly give them priority. Furthermore,

he was not convinced that the discussion on the draft Convention on the Nationality of Married Women would be brief. That would only be so if the Committee decided to refer the final articles back to the Sixth Committee; if it went into the substance of those articles, there might be a long debate. Accordingly, it was absolutely essential that priority should be given to the draft covenants. The Committee should decide immediately what number of meetings it intended to devote to the consideration of the draft covenants and should decide to give them priority. That done, it could devote one meeting to the consideration of the procedural motion to refer the final articles of the draft convention to the Sixth Committee, on the understanding that there should be no substantive discussion at that stage. If the Committee decided to consider the final articles itself, it could do so after terminating its debate on the draft covenants.

34. Mr. MENDOZA FLEURY (Venezuela) thought that it might be well to give equal priority to the draft covenants and the draft convention by devoting alternate meetings to those two items.

35. Mr. ROY (Haiti) supported the Uruguayan representative, and proposed that the Committee should adopt agenda items 2 to 6 in the order in which they appeared in document A/C.3/578, on the understanding that a brief discussion should be held, before the debate on the draft covenants was opened, on a procedural motion to refer the final articles of the draft convention back to the Sixth Committee.

36. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) said that as the Sixth Committee had already referred the final articles of the draft convention back to the Third Committee, it was out of the question for the Third Committee to refer them to the Sixth Committee again. It should consider them in substance, and give them priority.

37. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Netherlands proposal that the Committee should consider the draft Convention on the Nationality of Married Women as the third item on its agenda.

The proposal was adopted by 43 votes to 10, with 13 abstentions.

38. The CHAIRMAN suggested that items 2, 3, 5 and 6 (A/C.3/578) should be taken up in that order and renumbered 4, 5, 6 and 7.

It was so decided.

39. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the Deputy United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees wished to have more time to prepare his statement to the Committee.

40. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) suggested that, in that case, the Committee might consider the item concerning UNICEF first.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.