

# United Nations GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

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SECOND COMMITTEE, 1108th  
MEETING

Friday, 29 September 1967,  
at 3.15 p.m.

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*Chairman:* Mr. Jorge Pablo FERNANDINI  
(Peru).

### Organization of the Committee's work (continued) (A/C.2/234, A/C.2/L.952)

1. Mr. MARAMIS (Indonesia) said that all members of the Committee were in agreement that questions relating to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) should be given priority at the current session. In drawing up the plan of work, it was necessary to take into account the ministerial meeting of the group of seventy-seven developing countries that would be meeting at Algiers in October and the resumed forty-third session of the Economic and Social Council. He proposed that the general debate should be held during the first week of October and that the order in which the other questions would be considered should be established through informal consultations.

2. Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) supported the Indonesian representative's proposal, but observed that one week was not enough for the general debate.

3. Mr. DEL ROSARIO CEBALLOS (Dominican Republic) said he hoped that, at the current session, the Committee would adopt practical resolutions that would serve the interests of the developing countries. The Chairman should be given a free hand in organizing the Committee's work, and his note (A/C.2/L.952) was perfectly acceptable.

4. Mr. BOIKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) expressed regret that, in a departure from the arrangements made at previous sessions, only one week had been set aside for general statements. Some delegations felt that a general debate was unnecessary because they had been able to state the views of their Governments in other bodies, but that was not so in the case of all the developing countries. Much more time should therefore be allocated to the general debate. After that debate was completed, the Chairman should contemplate organizing the work in three stages: general comments and submission of draft resolutions; discussion of draft resolutions; and decisions. The Chairman should submit a detailed plan of work for each stage.

5. Mr. DELGADO (Senegal) said that his delegation would like the general debate to be postponed until a later stage. It would be advisable, as the representa-

tive of Chile had proposed at the 1107th meeting, to divide the work into two parts, considering operational questions first and then major questions of general economic policy, with the report of the Trade and Development Board (item 38) as the principal document. Since a number of important economic and social conferences would be meeting shortly and would inevitably affect the Committee's discussions, the general debate should be held during the second phase.

6. His delegation was prepared to accept the compromise which seemed to be emerging, namely, that the proceedings should begin with a short general debate, based on statements by delegations, and that the real problems of substance should be taken up after the economic conferences had met.

7. In view of the magnitude of UNCTAD's activities, consideration of the report of the Trade and Development Board could not be limited to the week of 6-10 November.

8. Mr. SKATARETIKO (Yugoslavia) observed that the problem of the organization of work arose at each session, partly because the Second Committee continued to devote much of its time to considering the activities of other bodies. The Committee's methods of work should perhaps be reviewed, bearing in mind the need for it to function as an organ responsible primarily for establishing guide-lines. As a practical approach, for example, it could base its work on a consideration of the reports of the main United Nations economic bodies and could also study some major economic problems of a general nature. The Secretariat could make a useful contribution in that connexion by submitting specific proposals.

9. Mr. DIAKITE (Mali) said he was glad to note that the time set aside for general statements showed a tendency to diminish over the years.

10. The major economic meeting of the seventy-seven developing countries to be held at Algiers in October could serve as a useful dividing line for the Committee's work, for its results, when known, could form the subject of an extremely interesting and constructive debate.

11. Mr. OULD SIDI (Mauritania) thought that only a limited amount of time should be devoted to general statements before the opening of the Algiers meeting. A number of other items could be considered in the meantime, and a committee might be set up to prepare a list of them.

12. Mr. OLUMIDE (Nigeria) felt that the week of 2-6 October was a good choice for the hearing of general statements. There was no reason why the Committee should not revert to that stage of its work after the Algiers meeting.

13. His delegation agreed with the organization of work proposed in document A/C.2/L.952, as a whole, but had reservations regarding the dates suggested for consideration of the report of the Trade and Development Board, which it believed should be postponed so that the results of the meetings of the International Monetary Fund and other bodies could be taken into account.

14. Mr. BEAULIEU (Haiti) said that, in his view, the Second Committee should begin its work with a general debate.

15. Mr. PIÑERA (Chile) thought that the Committee's work could be divided into three main stages: first, a general debate, the length of which would depend on the number of delegations wishing to participate; secondly, consideration of problems relating to the activities of such bodies as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (item 39) the United Nations Capital Development Fund (item 40) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (item 45); and the questions on the development of natural resources (item 43), the food situation (item 47)—a priority question—and co-ordination; thirdly, evaluation of the role of UNCTAD (item 38) and consideration of the external financing of economic development of the developing countries (item 42).

16. With regard to the third stage, it should be noted that not only the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, but also the main financing institutions established by the United Nations, would be represented at the resumed forty-third session of the Economic and Social Council. It would be useful to have the reports of these institutions before taking up the question of UNCTAD's activities and the question of financing. The officers of the Committee, with the assistance of the appropriate units of the Secretariat, could submit a plan of work to the Committee as soon as possible, taking account of the fact that the work would be divided into three main sections.

17. The CHAIRMAN said it seemed to be agreed that there should be a general debate, lasting at least one week. After that, the Committee should obviously take up agenda item 39, relating to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization; for the organization of the International Symposium on Industrial Development called for speedy decisions. The officers of the Committee might be given a few days to pre-

pare a new plan of work based on whatever suggestions were approved by the Committee.

18. Mr. AKWEI (Ghana) expressed regret that some delegations had seen fit to inform the Committee of their personal views on the organization of work, which should be the subject of consultations among the regional groups. It would be wise to decide forthwith to hold a general debate from 2 to 6 October and to entrust the preparation of a detailed plan of work to the representatives of the various groups. The suggestion that agenda item 39 should be considered immediately after the general debate did not seem to be in accordance with the wishes of all delegations.

19. Mr. AITKEN (Jamaica) thought that it would be dangerous to make the Second Committee a mere echo-chamber for other forums. Without underestimating the potential contribution of certain bodies, particularly UNCTAD, it must be recognized that the Committee's work could exert a far from negligible influence on the conclusions of the Algiers meeting. In any case, the general debate should not be restricted to a consideration of UNCTAD's activities, no matter how important they were, or postponed simply in order to await the decisions of other bodies.

20. Mr. ABE (Japan) supported the proposals in the note by the Chairman on the plan of work (A/C.2/L.952). If the plan of work was to be changed, it must be changed early enough to enable delegations to take an active part in the debate.

21. Mr. HOGENDORP (Netherlands) said that he was ready to proceed on the basis of the proposals in document A/C.2/L.952. He observed that a member of the Netherlands Government planned to address the Committee on or about 20 October, and expressed the hope that the plan of work would make it possible for him to speak.

22. The CHAIRMAN noted that the Committee agreed in principle with the proposals set out in his note (A/C.2/L.952), subject to any changes that might be made after the regional groups had been consulted. The general debate would therefore be held from 2 to 6 October. However, delegations wishing to make their statements after the Algiers meeting would be able to do so.

*The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.*