



General Assembly

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General Committee

Summary record of the 1st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 13 September 2017, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Lajčák (President of the General Assembly) (Slovakia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Organization of the seventy-second regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/72/1)

II. Organization of the session

1. **The Chair**, drawing attention to paragraph 6 of chapter II of the memorandum, said he trusted that he would shortly receive from each of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly a letter concerning the designation of a liaison person for the duration of the session. He also drew attention to paragraph 30 concerning holidays and observances on which United Nations bodies were invited to avoid holding meetings, and informed the Committee of the dates in question.

2. *The Committee took note of all the information contained in chapter II and decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to that information and to recommend to the Assembly that it should take action on all the proposals made in chapter II. It also decided to draw the attention of the Assembly in particular to paragraph 35, recommending that the general debate should continue on Saturday, 23 September 2017; to paragraph 67 concerning the timely submission of draft proposals for review of their programme budget implications; to paragraph 74 concerning the views of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the use of the phrase “within available resources” or “within existing resources” and the report in which it emphasized the responsibility of the Secretariat to inform the Assembly thoroughly and accurately about whether there were enough resources to implement a new activity.*

III. Adoption of the agenda

3. **The Chair** informed the Committee that, in accordance with paragraph 2 (a) of the annex to General Assembly resolution [58/316](#), the draft agenda was organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization as contained in every medium-term plan, or in the strategic framework, with an additional heading for “Organizational, administrative and other matters”.

4. Since the draft agenda was organized under nine headings, the Committee might wish to consider the inclusion of items under each heading as a whole. However, it might wish to take separate decisions on certain items, where it was deemed appropriate, including in some cases the placement of items under appropriate headings.

5. The draft agenda contained fifteen new items, namely item 17 (e) and (f) and item 19 (j) under heading A, item 52 (b) and item 67 under heading B, item 84 under heading F, sub-item 101 (ii) under heading G, and items 133, 134, 167 and items 172 to 176 under heading I.

Paragraphs 84 to 86

6. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 84 to 86 relating to the standard practice of the General Assembly.*

Paragraph 88

7. **The Chair** drew attention to paragraph 88 listing items to be included in the agenda. Items 1 to 8 were not under any heading. The General Assembly had already dealt with items 1 and 2. Items 3 to 8 related to organizational matters.

8. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of items 1 to 8.*

Heading A. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences

9. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading A, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 17 (e) and (f) and item 19 (j).*

Heading B. Maintenance of international peace and security

Item 41. Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte

10. **The Chair** recalled that the General Assembly, at the ninety-sixth plenary meeting of its seventy-first session, had decided to include item 41 in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session.

11. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 41 under heading B, on the understanding that there would be no consideration of the item until further notice.*

Item 52 (b). Joint panel discussion of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to space security and sustainability

12. **The Chair** recalled that recalled that item 52 (b) had been included in the provisional agenda pursuant to resolution [71/90](#), tentatively under heading B.

13. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 52 (b) under heading B.*

Item 63. Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India

14. **The Chair** recalled that the General Assembly, at the second plenary meeting of its seventy-first session, had decided to include item 63 in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session.

15. **Mr. Hilale** (Morocco) proposed, on the basis of consultations held by the delegations of France and Madagascar, that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of item 63 should be deferred to its seventy-third session and that the item should be included in the provisional agenda of that session, without prejudice to the position of either Madagascar or France.

16. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of item 63 should be deferred to its seventy-third session and that the item should be included in the provisional agenda of that session.*

Item 67. Complete withdrawal of foreign military forces from the territory of the Republic of Moldova

17. **The Chair** recalled that inclusion of item 67 had been proposed by the Republic of Moldova in document [A/72/193](#). He understood that there was agreement among the concerned delegations to postpone the consideration of the inclusion of the item.

18. *The Committee decided to postpone its consideration of the inclusion of the item.*

19. *The Committee further decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of all the items listed under heading B, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 41, 52 (b), 63 and 67.*

Heading C. Development of Africa

20. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading C.*

Heading D. Promotion of human rights

21. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items under heading D.*

Heading E. Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts

22. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading E.*

Heading F. Promotion of justice and international law

Item 84. Expulsion of aliens

23. **The Chair** recalled that item 84 had been included in the provisional agenda pursuant to General Assembly resolution [69/119](#), tentatively under heading F.

24. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 84 under heading F.*

25. *The Committee further decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of all the items listed under heading F, taking into account the decision regarding item 84.*

Heading G. Disarmament

Item 101 (ii). Nuclear disarmament verification

26. **The Chair** recalled that item 101 (ii) had been included in the provisional agenda pursuant to General Assembly resolution [71/67](#), tentatively under heading G.

27. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 101 (ii) under heading G.*

28. *The Committee further decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of all the items listed under heading G, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 101 (ii).*

Heading H. Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

29. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading H.*

Heading I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

Item 133. Sexual exploitation and abuse: implementing a zero tolerance policy

30. **The Chair** recalled that item 133 had been included in the provisional agenda pursuant to General Assembly resolution [71/278](#), tentatively under heading I.

31. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 133 under heading I.*

Item 134. The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity

32. **The Chair** said that the inclusion of item 134 had been requested by Australia and Ghana (A/72/192), tentatively under heading I.

33. **Mr. Ramírez Carreño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the issue of the responsibility to protect should not be included as an agenda item at the seventy-second session of the General Assembly. Informal debate on the subject should continue, and the decision regarding its inclusion on the agenda should be deferred to the following General Assembly session.

34. **Ms. Pobee** (Ghana) said that in 2009, the first report on the responsibility to protect had been presented by the then Secretary-General, followed by the General Assembly's first and only debate on the subject. Despite having resolved to do so, the General Assembly had not considered the responsibility to protect since. While the annual informal interactive dialogue on the matter had an important role to play, the General Assembly should fulfil the role set out for it in the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the subsequent General Assembly resolution. The current Secretary-General's 2017 report on the responsibility to protect had included a call to Member States to consider placing a specific item on the principle on the formal agenda of the General Assembly.

35. As the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, the General Assembly provided a unique forum for discussion of international issues and standard-setting and codification of international law. It was against that backdrop that Australia and Ghana had requested the inclusion of an item on the agenda of the forthcoming General Assembly session. The initiative to have a formal, strictly thematic debate on the responsibility to protect without adopting resolutions or focusing on country situations had been intended to advance dialogue in a format that allowed for views to be recorded and taken on board. Sincere, transparent and constructive dialogue would enable Member States to find more common ground on how best to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity and ultimately come to some agreement on the concept.

36. **Mr. Ramírez Carreño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), reiterating his delegation's view that

informal dialogue constituted the appropriate venue to consider the subject of the responsibility to protect, said that the lack of definitions of the scope and meaning of the concept resulted in serious differences of opinion among Member States and a general lack of consensus. Moreover, several countries were concerned by double standards and the traumatic experiences caused by the decision to intervene militarily in some situations but not others. Given that the manner in which the concept of responsibility to protect should be applied remained unclear, it was preferable to continue discussing it in an informal context.

37. While his Government was firmly committed to preventing and combating crimes against humanity, war, genocide and ethnic cleansing, it believed that it should be possible to do so within the framework of the mechanisms and principles established pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations. Resolution or no resolution, the danger of including the responsibility to protect as a General Assembly agenda item lay in the potential for its use against any country. In the continued absence of consensus noted, he hoped that delegations would accept his proposal to defer the inclusion of the item to the seventy-third session of the General Assembly.

38. **The Chair** said that the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic had asked to participate in the discussion in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

39. *At the invitation of the Chair, Mr. Al Arsan (Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic) took a place at the Committee table.*

40. **Mr. Al Arsan** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation was deeply concerned by the Australian and Ghanaian delegations' insistence on breaching the understanding reached by Member States, namely, that the responsibility to protect should be discussed in informal dialogue sessions. To date, those sessions reflected fundamental differences on the concept and its three pillars and on the guarantees against its misuse by certain States as a pretext for military aggression and political intervention in other States. In that connection, he commended the Secretary-General's courageous recent acknowledgement of the concerns of some Member States regarding the imposition of international approaches that might impinge on national sovereignty. However, it was regrettable that the Secretary-General had failed to include that acknowledgement in his report on the responsibility to protect (A/71/1016-S/2017/556), and that the summary of the informal interactive dialogue

session of 6 September 2017 did not reflect those concerns either.

41. That failure confirmed the tendency by certain States, in coordination with United Nations officials, to take an approach that was neither democratic nor transparent. As the request to include the responsibility to protect as an item on the agenda of the General Assembly constituted a unilateral act that would deepen disagreement and imperil the consensus reached in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, his delegation called upon the Committee to oppose the request in order to give the informal interactive dialogue a chance to fill the gaps and enable consensus to be reached, thereby ensuring that the concept would not be used for political purposes that contravened the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

42. **Mr. Zagaynov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation also considered the proposed inclusion of a new General Assembly agenda item on the responsibility to protect to be premature and mistaken.

43. The concept of the responsibility to protect had not yet fully taken shape. As events over the past decade had shown, previous such approaches had been unworkable. It was therefore legitimate to question whether the concept should be seriously rethought.

44. In that context, enhancing the status of the discussions and formalizing the process would only exacerbate disagreements and ultimately destroy the hard-won consensus achieved in 2005.

45. Delegations had deliberately selected the format of an informal interactive dialogue in 2009 owing to the fact that the concept had not been sufficiently fleshed out and because a number of States had disagreed about its broad interpretation and content. Those disagreements had only increased in the intervening years, as clearly shown during the recent discussion of the latest report on that topic, which contained highly contentious and far-reaching evaluations and approaches.

46. The current format for considering that topic was therefore entirely sufficient and appropriate and was in accordance with the mandate of General Assembly resolution [63/308](#). There was no justification for reconsidering that format.

47. **Mr. Jürgenson** (Estonia) said that his delegation found the initiative particularly timely, given the importance of the responsibility to protect, and therefore strongly supported the inclusion of an agenda item on the subject.

48. **Mr. Sparber** (Liechtenstein) said that the decision to include the responsibility to protect as an item on the General Assembly's agenda was a long overdue procedural measure to account for the regularity with which the issue was discussed in the General Assembly. The Committee could thereby contribute to ending an anachronism, given the adoption of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, of which the responsibility to protect was an integral part. The substantive concerns expressed by delegations clearly illustrated the need to discuss the responsibility to protect in a regular and formal setting.

49. **Mr. Miranda Rivero** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that while the proposal made by the Australian and Ghanaian delegations was a constructive one, there remained many gaps and inconsistencies in the related concepts and mechanisms, hence the lack of consensus on the matter in the General Assembly. His delegation therefore supported the proposal made by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to defer considering the inclusion of the agenda item to the following General Assembly session.

50. **Mr. Shava** (Zimbabwe) said that his delegation supported the proposal to defer considering the inclusion of the item. Since the 2005 World Summit, which mandated Member States to hold further discussions on the responsibility to protect, actions taken invoking the concept had given it a bad name. The use of the responsibility to protect as a tool for regime change had left the people supposedly being helped worse off than they had been before such actions were taken. Before rushing into divisive and non-consensual negotiations, Member States should ensure agreement on such fundamental matters as the conceptual framework and principles underpinning the responsibility to protect, the practical application of the concept, and the definition of a strategy, mandate and legal framework for action taken to protect. Zimbabwe therefore called for more informal dialogue aimed at achieving broad consensus, thereby allaying doubts and scepticism regarding the potential abuse of the principle of the responsibility to protect.

51. **Mr. Wu Haitao** (China) said that China agreed that the responsibility to protect should not be included as an item on the agenda of the General Assembly for the current session, as that course of action would sow division among Member States, which held divergent views on the subject, and undermine constructive discussion on the issue. The General Assembly should instead continue to hold informal discussions on the responsibility to protect.

52. **Mr. Hilale** (Morocco) said that his delegation supported the initiative to include the responsibility to protect on the agenda as an item for debate on which no resolutions would be adopted. His country's principled position on the responsibility to protect dated back to the first time the issue had been raised at the United Nations. Despite the legitimate arguments against including the agenda item, the time had come to do so after years of informal discussions. Further debate in that vein would neither lead to a consensus on the concept nor prevent its potential misuse or exploitation. Including the responsibility to protect on the agenda would enable Member States to work together to protect against such exploitation and its consequences by putting in place safeguards that could not be misinterpreted and that would protect against regime change.

53. **Mr. Sauer** (Finland) said that although several delegations had asked for consensus on the responsibility to protect as a precondition for including the item, many items already on the agenda had not been accepted by consensus. Given the strong link between the responsibility to protect and the Secretary-General's agenda on conflict prevention, his delegation supported its inclusion on the agenda for the seventy-second session. Member States should offer their full support to the Secretary-General's vision of a shift in the Organization's focus towards prevention, and the responsibility to protect had a clear role to play in that shift. In the light of the distressing polarization on the responsibility to protect, a general discussion in the General Assembly was preferable to negotiating a resolution. The recent informal dialogue on the subject indicated that there was strong support from Member States to discuss the responsibility to protect at the seventy-second session.

54. **Mr. Simonoff** (United States of America) said that his Government was in favour of including the responsibility to protect as an agenda item of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly and welcomed the suggestion that no outcome document or resolution would be adopted on the item. To date, the Committee had taken a permissive approach to including items on the agenda. The purpose of debating that important topic would be to air the differences already being expressed in the General Assembly, a decidedly healthy development. The lack of consensus should not hinder the inclusion of an item on the agenda, given that there were other items on which consensus had been reached regarding inclusion on the agenda, if not on the substance of the issues. His delegation therefore hoped that a consensus on

including the responsibility to protect as an agenda item could be reached.

55. **Mr. Skinner-Klée** (Guatemala), taking note of the concerns expressed by some delegations about selectivity and politicization of the responsibility to protect, said that Guatemala had always supported discussion of the topic and endorsed its inclusion, having witnessed the serious abuses committed when the United Nations failed to protect people. Including the responsibility to protect as an agenda item could help bridge diverging positions through dialogue, promote understanding of different viewpoints and depoliticize a topic that was fundamentally humanitarian in nature and linked to protecting human life and preventing abuses. The Organization was set apart by its willingness to have serious debates on such contentious issues as terrorism, on which consensus remained elusive.

56. **Mr. Ramírez Carreño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that in 2009, it had been established that the responsibility to protect would be the subject of informal debates in the General Assembly. The means of deciding that it should become a formal topic of debate remained unclear to him, as did the question of who would decide that informal discussion had exhausted its possibilities. He expressed particular concern at the prospect of the Committee deciding the matter on behalf of the entire General Assembly. The various positions expressed by Member States supported the argument that the existing interpretation of the responsibility to protect was very broad and that the concept itself had yet to be defined satisfactorily. Under those circumstances, Member States should not have a formal discussion on a matter with such important consequences for the United Nations system. While the rules of procedure of the General Assembly might grant the Committee the authority to include the responsibility to protect as a formal agenda item, there should be a more inclusive procedure for doing so, given the substantive importance of the topic for the Organization. Moreover, despite assurances that no resolution would be adopted, he underscored the trend of United Nations organs usurping the mandates of other organs. Ultimately, the underlying issue was the fact that international peace and security and the United Nations system as a whole hinged on a separation of powers between different United Nations organs.

57. **Mr. Barros Melet** (Chile) said that after years of informal debate, it was time to include the responsibility to protect as a formal item on the agenda of the General Assembly. He saw no reason for that subject, of vital importance for his country, to be the

exception among many topics on the agenda in respect of which consensus had not been reached.

58. **Mr. Saikal** (Afghanistan) said that the issue of the responsibility to protect was particularly relevant to events unfolding in a number of Member States. As his delegation found no sign of politicization or abuse of the concept in the proposal to include the topic on the agenda, a debate within that framework should pose no problem. The time had come for Member States to have a formal discussion on the responsibility to protect, exchange views and learn about one another's positions on the matter.

59. **Ms. Bird** (Australia) said that the request to include the responsibility to protect on the agenda had come in response to the call by States for a General Assembly debate on the subject, and in support of the recommendation for that debate by the Secretary-General, whose prevention agenda prominently featured the responsibility to protect. The only goal of the initiative had been to foster dialogue and help build consensus on what the United Nations and Member States must do to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. It was striking that the General Assembly had not held a single debate on the responsibility to protect since 2009, even as the concept had informed over 80 United Nations resolutions. Her delegation had hoped that Member States could find common ground in a General Assembly debate in spite of their diverging views. It had also hoped that all Member States could support having a conversation on prevention, which the Secretary-General had recommended.

60. Together with Ghana, her delegation had worked hard to reach consensus, consulting widely on the initiative and making every effort to accommodate concerns. Both delegations had made it clear that the proposal would provide for a thematic debate during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly only, not a resolution or consideration of any specific country situation. In order to accommodate sensitivities around pillar 3 of the responsibility to protect, the proposed agenda item title contained a specific reference to prevention. Despite disappointment over the objections of a small number of States to having a conversation about the responsibility to protect and prevention, her delegation would not want to see those objections block an initiative that enjoyed overwhelming support and gave States an avenue to act on their oft-expressed aspiration to do more to prevent atrocities. While Australia valued consensus, the stakes were too high to hold out for consensus for its own sake. A genuine debate in the General Assembly would not affect the

ongoing informal dialogue, and it would allow all Member States to have their views heard and recorded. Her delegation was committed to work with all Member States to further dialogue on the issue.

61. **The Chair** said that the representatives of the Sudan and Algeria had asked to participate in the discussion in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

62. *At the invitation of the Chair, Mr. Elsadig Ali Sayed Ahmed (Observer for the Sudan) and Mr. Remaoun (Observer for Algeria) took a place at the Committee table.*

63. **Mr. Elsadig Ali Sayed Ahmed** (Observer for the Sudan) said that while the idea of protecting civilians was a noble one, it should be undertaken by the State, which had the primary responsibility to protect its own citizens. The concept of the responsibility to protect should not be used as a tool to advance narrow interests, turn civilian suffering into a bargaining chip or legitimize practices contrary to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Including the responsibility to protect as an agenda item was premature, given the unresolved concerns about its definition, scope and implementation. Moreover, his delegation was sceptical of the manner in which its own views had not been reflected in the summary of the last interactive dialogue. All Member States, especially those sponsoring the initiative, must be transparent, fair and flexible in taking the concerns of all Member States on board and must refrain from taking action without consensus. His delegation was therefore unable to support the proposal to include the item on the General Assembly's agenda at its forthcoming session.

64. **Mr. Remaoun** (Observer for Algeria) said that delegations were aware that the concept of the responsibility to protect was a highly divisive one. The lack of accepted definitions of various elements of the concept, which was fundamentally a legal one, posed problems for many countries, especially developing countries. Furthermore, on legal matters, the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly never voted on items under its consideration. For instance, at the previous session, numerous delegations from different regional groups had submitted a major report on the agenda item on the responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts, with a view to negotiating a new treaty on State responsibility on the basis of the International Law Commission articles. However, owing to the reservations expressed by some 10 delegations, the Sixth Committee had decided to defer consideration of the matter to its next session.

The annual informal dialogue on the responsibility to protect provided a good forum for delegations to interact on the subject. His delegation saw no added value in and therefore opposed the addition of a supplementary item on the responsibility to protect to the General Assembly agenda.

65. **Ms. Dickson** (United Kingdom) said that as a strong supporter of the responsibility to protect, the United Kingdom welcomed the opportunity to have a formal debate on the subject, which had been discussed in an informal setting for many years. A lack of consensus on the responsibility to protect should not stop Member States from debating the concept formally in the General Assembly, given that there were several other items on its agenda on which consensus did not exist.

66. **Mr. Tevi** (Vanuatu) said that his delegation appreciated and supported the important initiative taken by the Australian and Ghanaian delegations. Vanuatu hoped that the divergent views on the responsibility to protect could be discussed in formal debate at the seventy-second session of the General Assembly. Moreover, the responsibility to protect was part of the Secretary-General's vision.

67. **Ms. Gasri** (France) said that her delegation supported the inclusion of the item on the responsibility to protect on the agenda of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly. The current debate indicated the interest of Member States in the issue. A formal debate with recorded positions, translation and verbatim records would enable Member States to move forward on the topic.

68. **The Chair** said that the representatives of Cuba and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had asked to participate in the discussion. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to that request.

69. *It was so decided.*

70. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Ri Song Chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) and Ms. Guardia (Cuba) took places at the Committee table.*

71. **Mr. Ri Song Chol** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the responsibility to protect civilians was entirely a matter of each country's sovereignty. Member States did not agree on the controversial concept and since it first was mooted, it had been abused to unlawfully interfere in developing countries. Timely and decisive collective action, the third pillar of the concept, under the pretext of protecting civilians, had taken the form of military

intervention in Iraq, Libya and Syria that had resulted in the fall of Governments, massacres of civilians, destruction of infrastructure, refugee crises and terrorism. The true intention of such action had become clear in developing countries. The application of the responsibility to protect was dangerous without consensus and informal discussions should continue until full agreement was reached on the principles.

72. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea supported the proposal of Venezuela and opposed the inclusion of the item in the agenda of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly.

73. **Ms. Guardia** (Cuba) reiterated her country's willingness to combat crimes against humanity. However, the General Assembly should not debate the responsibility to protect because the subject continued to raise concerns among small and developing countries. There was not even a consensus regarding its scope and implications that could overcome the differences of interpretation by Member States. Inclusion in the agenda would not accelerate the achievement of consensus, as demonstrated by the consideration of other agenda items. Cuba supported the proposal made by Venezuela and did not believe that the item should be included in the agenda of the seventy-second session.

74. *Mr. Ri Song Chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) and Ms. Guardia (Cuba) withdrew.*

75. **Mr. Zagaynov** (Russian Federation), speaking on a point of order, said that the First Committee had presented the delegate of Liechtenstein as its deputy chair when Mr. Saleh, from Iraq, could not attend the meeting. He asked what were the rules and practice for such situations in the light of how a Committee's views affected the proceedings of the General Committee.

76. *The meeting was suspended at 11.25 a.m. and resumed at 11.50 a.m.*

77. **The Secretary** said that under rule 39 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the vice-chair from Liechtenstein had a right to vote.

78. **The Chair** acknowledged the different views expressed by many delegations and said that those views would be reflected in the official records of the meeting.

79. **Mr. Ramírez Carreño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) reiterated his delegation's opposition to inclusion of item 137 on the agenda and, in accordance with the rules of procedure, called for a recorded vote on the matter.

80. *At the request of the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, a recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Chile, Estonia, Finland, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Iceland, Israel, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Morocco, Singapore, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu.

Against:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of) China, Russian Federation, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Gabon, Indonesia.

81. *The Committee decided, by 19 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions, to recommend to the General Assembly that the item entitled “The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity” should be included in the agenda of the seventy-second session.*

82. **Mr. Ramírez Carreño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the Committee had tried to find consensus on an issue that could have enormous implications for the future of the United Nations. The issue undermined the principles of the Charter, such as those related to the respect for the sovereignty of nations. Such an important item should be considered in a spirit of consensus and not be decided upon by a vote. However, Venezuela would respect the rules and the guidance of the Chair.

Item 167. Financing of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti

83. **The Chair** said that the inclusion of item 167 had been requested by the Secretary-General (A/72/143).

84. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 167 under heading I.*

Item 172. Observer status for the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan in the General Assembly

85. **The Chair** said that the inclusion of item 172 had been requested by China (A/72/141).

86. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 172 under heading I.*

Item 173. Observer status for the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office in the General Assembly

87. **The Chair** said that the inclusion of item 173 had been requested by China and Singapore (A/72/142).

88. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 173 under heading I.*

Item 174. Observer status for the Eurasian Group on combating money laundering and financing of terrorism in the General Assembly

89. **The Chair** said that the inclusion of item 174 had been requested by Belarus, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (A/72/191).

90. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 174 under heading I.*

Item 175. Observer status for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in the General Assembly

91. **The Chair** said that the inclusion of item 175 had been requested by Uruguay (A/72/194). The representative of Uruguay had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

92. *At the invitation of the Chair, Ms. Carrión (Uruguay) took a place at the Committee table.*

93. **Ms. Carrión** (Uruguay) said that Uruguay, the current chair of the standing committee of the Ramsar secretariat, requested inclusion of the supplementary item entitled “Observer status for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in the General Assembly” on behalf of Australia, Kenya, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America, members of the standing committee. The Ramsar Convention promoted the rational use of wetlands and the work of the secretariat was tied to matters of interest to the United Nations. The work of the Ramsar secretariat to protect vulnerable wetlands from the effects of climate change would help to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

94. The secretariat advised and coordinated with contracting parties and engaged in specific activities, on a regional basis. It had signed cooperation agreements with Governments and intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental bodies and private sector enterprises. It administered funding for programmes in support of the Convention, implemented the strategic

plan and maintained the list of wetlands at ecological risk.

95. The secretariat's authority and activities were those of a body with an international legal personality, accountable to the contracting parties and led by a group of States to assist in the implementation of the instrument, and therefore the secretariat could be considered to be an intergovernmental organization. It had been recognized as an international organization in various forums.

96. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 175 under heading I.*

97. *Ms. Carrión (Uruguay) withdrew.*

Item 176. Observer status for the Global Environment Facility in the General Assembly

98. **The Chair** said that the inclusion of item 176 had been requested by Uruguay (A/72/195).

99. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 176 under heading I.*

100. *The Committee further decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of all the items listed under heading I, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 133, 134, 167 and 172 to 176.*

IV. Allocation of items

Paragraphs 89 to 91

101. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 89 to 91 of the memorandum.*

Paragraphs 92 to 102

102. **The Chair** said that paragraph 92 of the memorandum listed the items of the draft agenda which had not been considered previously by the General Assembly. Paragraphs 93 to 101 contained suggestions regarding the allocation of those items.

Item 17 (e) Financial inclusion for sustainable development

Item 17 (f). Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows in order to foster sustainable development

Item 19 (j). Combating dust storms

103. *The Committee decided, owing to the nature of the items, to recommend to the General Assembly that*

items 17 (e) and (f) and 19 (j) should be allocated to the Second Committee.

Item 52 (b). Joint panel discussion of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to space security and sustainability

104. *The Committee decided, owing to the nature of the item, to recommend to the General Assembly that item 52 (b) should be allocated jointly to the First Committee and to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).*

Item 84. Expulsion of aliens

Item 172. Observer status for the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan in the General Assembly

Item 173. Observer status for the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office in the General Assembly

Item 174. Observer status for the Eurasian Group on combating money laundering and financing of terrorism in the General Assembly

Item 175. Observer status for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in the General Assembly

Item 176. Observer status for the Global Environment Facility in the General Assembly

105. **The Chair** recalled that, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 54/195, any request by an organization for the granting of observer status in the General Assembly would be considered in plenary meeting after consideration of the issue by the Sixth Committee.

106. *The Committee decided, owing to the nature of the item, to recommend to the General Assembly that item 84 should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

107. *The Committee further decided to recommend that items 172 to 176 should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

Item 101 (ii). Nuclear disarmament verification

108. *The Committee decided, owing to the nature of the item, to recommend to the General Assembly that item 101 (ii) should be allocated to the First Committee.*

Item 133. Sexual exploitation and abuse: implementing a zero-tolerance policy

Item 134. The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity

109. The Committee decided, owing to the nature of the item, to recommend to the General Assembly that item 133 should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

110. The Committee further decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 134 should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

Item 167. Financing of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti

111. The Committee decided, owing to the nature of the item, that item 167 should be allocated to the Fifth Committee.

Paragraph 103

Item 9. Report of the Economic and Social Council

112. The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 103 and decided to recommend that the General Assembly, when considering item 9 in its entirety in plenary meeting, should take note of the clarification that, in implementing resolution 58/316, the relevant parts of chapter I of the report of the Economic and Social Council would be considered by the Main Committees concerned, under agenda items already allocated to them, for final action by the Assembly.

Paragraphs 104 to 107

Item 14. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.

Item 119. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Item 69. Report of the Human Rights Council

Item 72. Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

113. The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 104 to 107.

Paragraph 108

Item 101. General and complete disarmament

114. The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 108 and decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the relevant paragraphs of the

report of the International Atomic Energy Agency dealing with the subject matter of item 101 should be drawn to the attention of the First Committee in connection with its consideration of item 101.

Paragraph 109

Item 109. Crime prevention and criminal justice

115. The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 109.

Paragraph 110

Item 112. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

116. The Committee took note of the information provided in paragraph 93.

Paragraph 111

Item 123. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

117. The Committee took note of the information provided in paragraph 111 and decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 123 should be allocated to all the Main Committees for the purpose of discussing their working methods, as well as considering and taking action on their respective tentative programmes of work.

Paragraphs 112 and 113

Item 139. Programme planning

118. The Committee took note of the information provided in paragraphs 112 and 113 and decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 139 should be allocated to all the Main Committees and to the plenary Assembly to enhance discussion of evaluation, planning, budgeting and monitoring reports.

Paragraph 114

Item 148. Administration of justice at the United Nations

119. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 148 should be allocated to the Fifth Committee for consideration of the administrative and budgetary aspects and to the Sixth Committee for the purpose of considering the legal aspects of the comprehensive report to be submitted by the Secretary-General.

Paragraph 115

Plenary Assembly

120. *The Committee, taking note of paragraph 115, decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items to the plenary Assembly, taking into account the decisions the Committee had taken regarding items 9, 109, 123, 133, 134 and 139.*

First Committee

121. *The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items to the First Committee, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 52 (b), 91, 101 (ii), 123 and 139.*

*Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee)*

122. *The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 52 (b) and 139.*

Second Committee

123. *The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items to the Second Committee, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 17 (e) and (f), 19 (j), 123 and 139.*

Third Committee

124. *The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items to the Third Committee, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 123 and 139.*

Fifth Committee

125. *The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items to the Fifth Committee, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 123, 139, 148 and 167.*

Sixth Committee

126. *The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items to the Sixth Committee, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 84, 123, 139, 148, 172, 173, 174, 175 and 176.*

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.