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MEETING**

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**Chairman:** Mr. Moraiwid M. TELL (Jordan).

Statement by the Chairman

1. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Committee for the great honour it had done him and his country by electing him Chairman, and welcomed the representative of Guyana, who was participating in the Committee's work for the first time, and the representative of Indonesia, which had resumed its seat in the United Nations.

Election of the Vice-Chairman

2. Mr. MURGESCU (Romania) nominated Mr. Anatoli A. Boiko (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic).

3. Mr. KADRY (Iraq), Mr. PIÑERA (Chile), Mr. MWALUKO (United Republic of Tanzania) and Mr. VARELA (Panama) supported the nomination.

*Mr. Boiko (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.*

Election of the Rapporteur

4. Mr. RAMAHOLIMIHASO (Madagascar) nominated Mr. Georg Reisch (Austria).

5. Mr. KADLEC (Czechoslovakia) and Mr. LUBBERS (Netherlands) supported the nomination.

*Mr. Reisch (Austria) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

Organization of the Committee's work (A/C.2/229,  
A/C.2/L.861)

6. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the letter from the President of the General Assembly (A/C.2/229) listing the items which the Assembly had allocated to the Second Committee. He invited the Committee's comments on the proposals for the organization of the work set forth in his note (A/C.2/L.861), which he had drafted after preliminary consultations with delegations and the Secretariat.

7. Mr. SAHLOUL (Sudan) wanted to know what approach the Chairman had adopted in his preliminary consultations. He hoped that they had not been of a

random character and that the mistakes made at the twentieth session of the General Assembly would not be repeated at the current session. He inquired whether the Chairman had contacted the African delegations.

8. The CHAIRMAN said that he had not followed any preconceived plan in his consultations, and had not adopted any particular approach. The consultations were purely preliminary, and the Committee was free to modify his proposals with regard to the organization of the work. A number of African delegations had been consulted. During the two weeks in which the Committee would hear general statements, moreover, members would still have every opportunity to make whatever changes they thought appropriate.

9. Mr. PIÑERA (Chile) suggested that the Committee should establish at least a tentative time-table for its work over the duration of the session, although he realized the difficulty of that task in view of the constantly changing circumstances. With such a time-table, the Committee would know how much time it had to discuss each of the many items on its agenda. Without establishing a rigid order of priority, the Committee could perhaps decide tentatively to consider the item on industrial development first (item 41), then the questions relating to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (item 37) and at its second session, the items on natural resources (items 45 and 94), the world campaign for universal literacy (item 47) and multilateral food aid (item 50), etc. Of course, the report of the Economic and Social Council (item 12) would have to be given high priority.

10. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) considered that the Chairman's note would facilitate an exchange of views on the organization of the work and that it took account of past experience. However, since the Economic and Social Council had yet to consider, at its resumed forty-first session, the report on the special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the report of the Committee on a United Nations Capital Development Fund, it would perhaps be difficult to draw up a plan of work covering more than one month. On the other hand, there was obviously already agreement in the Committee that priority should be given to the items relating to industrial development. He would therefore support the tentative plan of work proposed by the Chairman.

11. Mr. PARDO (Malta) said that he found the Chairman's plan generally acceptable. However, the general debate could perhaps be completed a little before 19 October and the date for concluding the work deferred until 16 December. It should be noted, in

that connexion, that at the twentieth session the Second Committee had been unable to consider all the items on its agenda.

12. It had been wise not to establish an order of priority for the discussion of the various items, that could more appropriately be done when the general debate had been concluded. Nevertheless, he supported the suggestion that the item relating to activities in the field of industrial development should be taken up first.

13. Mr. DIAKITE (Mali) said he feared that the Committee would not have sufficient time to consider the nineteen items on its agenda, and suggested that it should consider the possibility of curtailing the general debate.

14. He was happy to see that in paragraph 4 of his note, the Chairman suggested that individual agenda items should be taken up only after draft resolutions were before the Committee in all the languages; he hoped that the same would apply to all documents and that the Secretariat would endeavour to have documents circulated the same day in all the working languages.

15. Lastly, he supported the proposal of the representative of Malta that a later date should be fixed for the conclusion of the Committee's work.

16. Mr. DJOUDI (Algeria) associated himself with the Sudanese representative's observations concerning the Chairman's preliminary consultations with certain delegations.

17. He believed that the general debate was important because it offered an opportunity for highlighting certain parts of the agenda and expediting the discussion of other items; consequently, he felt that two weeks would not be sufficient for the purpose.

18. He supported the Chairman's position on the issue of supplying texts of draft resolutions in all the languages, but felt that the rule should not be applied too rigidly; the discussion of an item could perfectly well be started before all the relevant documents were ready in all the languages, and the documents could then be produced according to the development of the discussion.

19. Mr. VAZQUEZ ALFARO (Mexico) said that the general debate, while important, should be shorter, and the statements of the general positions of delegations should be more concentrated. Two weeks should be amply sufficient.

20. The items concerning industrial development and operational activities for development were important to both the developed and the developing countries. The Committee should follow a logical order in its work, proceeding from the simplest to the most complex items, and from those on which general agreement already existed to those which were still in dispute. He also stressed the seriousness for all countries of the problems of inflation and economic development; he awaited with interest the Secretary-General's report on that subject (item 42), as well as his report on the results obtained so far under the United Nations Development Decade (item 39), results which should be candidly assessed. Agenda items 38 (Establishment of a United Nations capital

development fund), 45 (Permanent sovereignty over natural resources), and 46 (Population growth and economic development) were also very important.

21. He hoped that the Second Committee would proceed with its work more energetically and seek to achieve specific objectives.

22. Mr. MWALUKO (United Republic of Tanzania), referring to agenda items 43 (Decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations) and 52 (General review of the programmes and activities in the economic, social, technical co-operation and related fields of the United Nations, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Children's Fund and all other institutions and agencies related to the United Nations System), said that the Committee should take up certain aspects which fell within its competence of the second report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies (item 80).

23. Mr. KARMARKAR (India) said that he was generally satisfied with the Chairman's suggestions, but felt that the general debate should end before 19 October. The Committee's main task was to draw the attention of the world to the most important economic problems, particularly those of the developing countries.

24. It was quite right to give priority to activities in the field of industrial development, but problems such as the one covered by item 46 should not be neglected: population growth threatened to reduce to nothing the economic progress being made by the developing countries. His delegation attached great importance to the discussion of that problem, on which it had submitted a draft resolution at the twentieth session. It was quite proper, moreover, for the Committee to give priority to questions on which it had been unable to conclude discussion at the preceding session.

25. Lastly, he proposed that the question of the progressive development of the law of international trade (item 88) should be considered by the Second Committee and not the Sixth Committee.

26. Mr. FERNANDINI (Peru) endorsed the Chairman's suggestion that immediately after the general debate the Committee should take up item 41 on industrial development (A/C.2/L.861, para. 5). Since a final time-table could not be drawn up before the resumption of the forty-first session of the Economic and Social Council, the order of discussion of the other items could be decided later, depending on the circumstances.

27. Since the note by the Chairman was in fact simply a tentative plan for the organization of work, he did not think it required lengthy discussion. He therefore proposed that the Chairman's note, since it was provisional in nature, should be approved immediately, and that the general debate should start at the following meeting.

28. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) thought it would be difficult to complete the general debate in two weeks; he therefore suggested that the Committee should simply decide to begin the consideration of the agenda items

on 19 or 20 October, subject to the possibility of the general debate continuing beyond those dates. The general statements would be especially useful if they dealt with the most important items on the agenda, thus obviating the need for a subsequent debate on those items.

29. In addition, it would be useful for the Chairman to fix, for each of the items of the agenda, a time-limit for the submission of draft resolutions, which should be three or four days before the start of the discussion on each of the items; that would provide and opportunity for informal discussions which would then save debating time.

30. Mr. GEORGE (France) observed that his delegation had always been opposed to adding further general debates to the debate which was continuously in progress in the plenary meetings of the Assembly. He would abide by the wishes of the Committee, but wished to point out that if it was decided to have a general debate, it might be a very long one.

31. With regard to the circulation of draft resolutions in the working languages, he shared the view of the representative of Mali but agreed with the representative of Algeria that the Committee would not thereby paralyse its work; it is difficult for the delegations to submit amendments to a draft which had not been issued in their language, and for that reason the Secretariat should make a special effort to see that drafts were circulated promptly in all languages.

32. With regard to the Tanzanian representative's remark about the importance of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies for the Second Committee, he pointed out that the General Committee, which was after all representative of the Assembly, had, after a full discussion, thought it preferable to assign the consideration of that report to the Fifth Committee. He felt it premature to ask for the report in question to be referred to the Second Committee.

33. His delegation endorsed in principle the note by the Chairman and had been glad to hear the assurances which the latter had given the Sudanese representative concerning his informal consultations with certain delegations.

34. Mr. AHMED (Pakistan) was in favour of starting the Committee's work with a general debate, and thought that the two weeks suggested for that purpose in the Chairman's note would be adequate. He also agreed with the date fixed for the conclusion of work, on the understanding that the Committee would be able to continue if necessary for a few extra days.

35. The suggestion made in paragraph 4 of the Chairman's note seemed an excellent one, especially as it was to be hoped that after the general debate a full debate on each item of the agenda would not be necessary.

36. The prior circulation of draft resolutions in all languages should not be regarded as a rigid principle. When the Committee took up item 41, it would in any case have before it the draft resolution of the Ad Hoc Committee on the United Nations Organiza-

tion for Industrial Development and a draft resolution on the International Symposium, which would allow time for the other drafts to be circulated in all languages.

37. With regard to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, he agreed with the French representative but thought that the report could be referred to the Committee when it took up agenda item 52; it could then also, if the Fifth Committee had already studied the experts' report, study that Committee's conclusions on it.

38. Mr. FORSHELL (Sweden) supported the Chairman's suggestion that immediately after the general debate the Committee should consider item 41. He shared the interest expressed by the delegations of Mexico and India in regard to agenda item 46 and hoped that the question, which had had to be postponed at the preceding session, could be fully studied at the current session.

39. Mr. SVENNEVIG (Norway) endorsed the suggestions contained in the Chairman's note but thought the period of time allocated to the general debate somewhat long. While a general debate offered the advantage of enabling attention to be concentrated on specific proposals when each agenda item was considered, it should not in any circumstances extend beyond 19 October.

40. U THET TUN (Burma) said it was a matter of simple arithmetic that after thirteen days of general debate each delegation—if all wanted to participate in the discussion—would have only five minutes' speaking time for each item of the agenda. Thus, the Committee would have difficulty in completing its work unless it strictly followed the Chairman's suggestions, in other words, unless the general debate covered a large number of items which would not later be discussed individually.

41. He agreed with the suggestion that the Committee should start by considering the item on industrial development, but, unlike the representative of Mexico, he thought that the controversial items should be considered as early as possible, so as to enable delegations to consult their Governments.

42. Mr. VARELA (Panama), referring to paragraph 2 of the Chairman's note, said he felt the Chairman should submit to the Committee at its next meeting a definite programme of work for the first month of the proceedings, so that the Committee could take a decision with full knowledge of the facts.

43. The general debate was, of course, of some value, but it was unlikely to give rise to practical decisions and should not in any event extend over more than two weeks.

44. With regard to the distribution of draft resolutions in all the working languages, he fully supported the Chairman's suggestion, for as he had said at the last session of the Economic and Social Council, he had often been inconvenienced by the delay in the distribution of documents in Spanish.

45. He also agreed with the suggestion that questions relating to industrial development should be con-

sidered directly after the general debate, for under resolution 2089 (XX), adopted at its previous session, the General Assembly was required to make a decision as soon as possible on the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the United Nations Organization for Industrial Development.

46. Finally, with regard to the conclusion of the Committee's work, it would be preferable, if there was any doubt whether the work could be completed by 13 December, to set the date for 16 September.

47. Mr. NEDIVI (Israel) referring to the observations made by the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania and France, and leaving aside the question of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, wished to express his regret that chapter I of the Economic and Social Council's report (A/6303), dealing with the work programme of the United Nations in the economic and social fields and its budgetary requirements, was to be submitted to the Second Committee for comment only. The question was one of extreme importance for the future of United Nations activities in the economic and social fields, and he thought that the Committee might perhaps discuss the first chapter of the Council's report under item 52 of the agenda.

48. Whatever was decided on that point, he thought that the question of the functional presentation of the budget for the economic and social fields should be placed before the Committee, perhaps in the form of an authoritative statement by the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs. To be able to pass on to the Fifth Committee its comments on chapter I of the Economic and Social Council's report, the Second Committee would have to know to what extent the current examination of budgetary procedures did, or did not envisage the establishment of a separate chapter of the budget for economic and social affairs, or some other form of functional presentation of the budget for those questions.

49. Mr. DELGADO (Senegal) said that the real general debate took place in the General Assembly. For this part, he would have preferred that the various delegations should confine themselves to making general comments, for example on item 37 of the agenda, and should give priority to problems requiring immediate solution.

50. He supported the Chairman's suggestion that the Committee should begin with item 41 of the agenda. He thought that priority should be given to questions which had not been settled at the twentieth session. Moreover, some items, such as item 53 (International tourist year) related to activities with a fixed time-limit, and it would be unfortunate to have to put them off until the twenty-second session.

51. He endorsed the comments of the representatives of France and Mali concerning the translation of documents into all working languages.

52. Mr. WILMOT (Ghana) was in general agreement with the suggestions made in document A/C.2/L.861. The conclusion of the general debate could be provisionally set for 17 October, the list of speakers being finally closed on Wednesday, 5 October. It

would be a good idea, as the representative of Chile had proposed, to formulate a work programme for the whole session.

53. In that connexion, it would be useful to group together some items on the agenda dealing with related fields, for example items 43, 51 (Review and reappraisal of the role and functions of the Economic and Social Council) and 52, and items 45 and 94. It had not proved possible to conclude consideration of the question of permanent sovereignty over natural resources at the twentieth session, and he considered that that item and the other questions which had been carried over to the present session should be dealt with immediately after the closure of the general debate.

54. In conclusion, he was in favour of including the question of the progressive development of the law of international trade in the agenda of the Second Committee.

55. Mr. ABE (Japan) felt that a work programme for the last week of October should be drafted immediately.

56. Mr. Mohamed EL-ATRASH (Syria) also supported the formulation of a provisional work programme for the whole of October, unless the Chairman was convinced that the consideration of the problems relating to industrial development would take up the remainder of the month. The general debate should be brief, to allow the Committee to spend more time on the various questions before it, some of which had already featured on the agenda of the twentieth session. Tendencies hostile to the economic advancement of the developing countries had emerged in recent years, and should be effectively combated.

57. He agreed with the representative of Sudan that the Chairman's consultations would gain by being as broad as possible.

58. Mr. OLUMIDE (Nigeria) said that, since the consideration of item 39 embraced most facets of the other items allocated to the Second Committee, it should be discussed earlier, preferably after the examination of item 41, so as to avoid needly repetitions.

59. Mrs. SOLOMON (Trinidad and Tobago) supported the proposal that item 41 should be considered first, and also considered that the Committee should give priority to questions carried over from the twentieth session. She thought that the report of the Economic and Social Council and the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies should be considered under item 52.

60. Mr. PIÑERA (Chile) supported the Indian representative's proposal that the question of the progressive development of the law of international trade should be considered by the Committee, and agreed with the representative of Ghana that the list of speakers should be closed as soon as possible.

61. The CHAIRMAN noted that the Committee accepted the suggestions contained in document A/C.2/L.861 and, in particular, agreed that 19 October should be the date for the conclusion of the general debate, which would be much briefer than in the past. Dele-

gations should keep in touch with the secretariat of the Committee, and inform it of the dates on which they intended to make statements. They should also submit to the secretariat, as soon as possible, the names of the representatives assigned to the Committee. The Committee could perhaps agree that the date for closing the list of speakers should be

5 October. The General Committee was counting on the co-operation of representatives to ensure consideration of all items on the agenda, and he would endeavour to submit a provisional work plan as soon as possible.

*The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.*

