

*United Nations*  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

**FORTY-SECOND SESSION**

*Official Records\**



**FIFTH COMMITTEE**  
2nd meeting  
held on  
Wednesday, 23 September 1987  
at 10 a.m.  
New York

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING**

Chairman: Mr. AMNEUS (Sweden)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative  
and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSSILE

**CONTENTS**

**STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

\*This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned within one week of the date of publication to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

**Distr. GENERAL**  
**A/C.5/42/SR.2**  
**25 September 1987**

**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN extended a welcome to new and old Committee members, to observer delegations and to representatives of the Secretariat and the staff unions and associations. He also welcomed the presence of representatives of the specialized agencies, since many of the Committee's decisions had system-wide implications.
2. The Committee's task was to ensure that the Organization had adequate resources to carry out its programmes and that the Secretariat and Member States worked together in harmony. To do so under normal circumstances would have been no mean feat. To do so at a time when the Organization's intergovernmental machinery was under review, when the Secretariat was in transition, a revised budgetary process was being worked out and funding was still uncertain, would be a challenge indeed. The Committee must seek a common ground among its members through debate and consultations, and make appropriate decisions on that basis. As Chairman, his goal was to represent the entire Committee and to help identify that common ground in close co-operation with the Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

3. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to rule 103 of the rules of procedure, relating to the election of officers.
4. Mr. VAHER (Canada) nominated Mr. Murray (Trinidad and Tobago) for the office of Vice-Chairman.
5. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon) nominated Mr. Singh (Fiji) for the office of Vice-Chairman.
6. The CHAIRMAN said that since there were only two nominations for the two posts of Vice-Chairman, he would take it that the Committee wished to dispense with secret ballots.
7. Mr. Murray (Trinidad and Tobago) and Mr. Singh (Fiji) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.
8. Mr. PRODJOWARSITO (Indonesia) nominated Mr. Aboly-Bi-Kouassi (Côte d'Ivoire) for the office of Rapporteur.
9. The CHAIRMAN said that since there were no other nominations, he would take it that the Committee wished to dispense with the secret ballot.
10. Mr. Aboly-Bi-Kouassi (Côte d'Ivoire) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.
11. Mr. FONTAINE-ORTIZ (Cuba) speaking as the previous Chairman of the Committee under rule 110 of the rules of procedure, expressed sincere congratulations, on

(Mr. Fontaine-Ortiz, Cuba)

behalf of all delegations, to the Chairman and other officers on their election. He also extended a welcome to the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management and the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance and Controller, who would be working with the Committee for the first time since being appointed to those positions, and to the new Committee Secretary. The work of the Committee during the forty-second session, particularly on agenda items 41, 43, 115, 116, 121 and 122, would be of great importance; he assured the Committee's officers that this delegation would provide them with every support.

12. The CHAIRMAN thanked the representative of Cuba and appealed to all delegations to observe rule 110 in order to make the most efficient use of the Committee's time.

#### Introduction of officials

13. The CHAIRMAN introduced all the Secretariat officials, press officers and conference servicing staff who would be assisting the Committee in its work throughout the session.

#### ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/C.5/42/6; A/C.5/42/L.1)

14. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to document A/C.5/42/6 on the allocation of agenda items to the Fifth Committee, and to certain recommendations of the General Committee contained in section II of document A/42/250. He wished to highlight recommendation 3 (a) of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (Group of 18) on the full utilization of available services. He also intended to adhere closely to the recommendations on the schedule of meetings (paras. 7 and 8). In that spirit, he appealed to all delegations to be punctual for meetings. The meeting record of the Committee had improved by 75 per cent at the forty-first session. The Committee would certainly wish to maintain, or improve, that record at the current session.

15. Referring to the provisions on explanations of vote and right of reply (para. 12), he said that the Committee should continue its practice of indicating in its reports to the plenary the names of delegations which had explained their votes in the Committee. With regard to questions related to the programme budget (para. 17), he emphasized the mandatory deadline of 1 December for the submission to the Fifth Committee of all draft resolutions with financial implications. If the General Assembly decided to shorten the session, the deadline would be adjusted accordingly. The Fifth Committee should consider accepting without debate the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the financial implications of draft resolutions up to a prescribed limit of \$25,000 on any one item. He also drew the Committee's attention to General Assembly decision 34/401, on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly, and to paragraphs 13, 14, 16 and 21 in particular.

(The Chairman)

16. Finally, he suggested that the Rapporteur should be authorized to report directly to the General Assembly on all items considered, unless, in a specific instance, the Committee decided to include a summary of the debate in its report.

17. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to proceed accordingly.

18. It was so decided.

19. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the tentative programme of work for the current session, which had been distributed informally. In preparing the programme, account had been taken of the availability of documentation, the availability of the Chairmen of subsidiary organs and the distribution of the work-load throughout the session. He also invited the Committee to consider document A/C.5/42/L.1, concerning the status of documentation of the Fifth Committee. A large volume of work was anticipated since 1987, while being a budget year, was also in a sense a "personnel year". It was to be hoped that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination would, during its current resumed session, make recommendations which would facilitate the work of the Fifth Committee.

20. The General Assembly had decided that agenda items 41 and 43 should be referred to the Fifth Committee "on the understanding that the consideration of the items would be held concurrently" (A/42/250, para. 29). That decision appeared to be consistent with the approach taken by delegations at the regular and resumed twenty-seventh sessions of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, and with the treatment of the two items by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in document A/42/7.

21. Mr. HARAN (Israeli) asked, in view of the expected heavy work-load, why it was necessary to wait until 2 October before convening the next meeting of the Committee.

22. The CHAIRMAN explained that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination would be meeting until 25 September, while the Advisory Committee was still dealing with some issues likely to arise early in the session. Since the documentation on the three items first to be addressed by the Committee was, for the most part, already available, delegations should have ample time to study and absorb the relevant documents following the conclusion of meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. If so, it should be possible to begin the debate immediately after introduction of those items.

23. ODUYEMI (Nigeria) inquired as to the implications of the statement in document A/C.5/42/6 that agenda items 41 and 43 had been allocated to the Fifth Committee "on the understanding that such a decision should in no way prejudice the arrangements to be made for the future consideration" of those items.

24. Mr. LADJOUËI (Algeria), while endorsing the tentative programme of work, drew attention to the need to avoid scheduling concurrent meetings of working groups, in view of the problems faced by certain delegations in attending more than one such meeting at a time.

25. The CHAIRMAN assured the representative of Algeria that every effort would be made to meet his delegation's wishes.
26. Mr. MUDHO (Kenya) inquired as to the implications of the word "reforms", used as an abbreviated title for agenda item 41 in the tentative programme of work, and the words "reform and renewal" as used in the title of document A/42/234 on the same agenda item.
27. The CHAIRMAN, replying to the representative of Nigeria, said that the understandings relating to consideration of agenda items 41 and 43 were stated in paragraphs 29 and 38 of document A/42/250. He had already attempted to interpret the decision concerning concurrent consideration in the course of his introductory remarks. With respect to the understanding that "such a decision should in no way prejudice the arrangements to be made for the future consideration of the items", he said that he would request further clarification from the President of the General Assembly.
28. He appreciated the concerns expressed by the representative of Kenya. The word "reforms", as included in the tentative programme of work, was intended to serve as a catchword covering a number of concepts. As for "reform and renewal", the origin was to be found in the heading formulated by the Secretary-General in his progress report on implementation of resolution 41/213 (A/42/234). The word "reform" there was probably intended as a catchword to cover implementation of that resolution, and should not be taken too literally. For official purposes, the Committee would always abide by the title of the agenda item as it appeared in official documents.
29. Mr. MUDHO (Kenya) said that, while understanding the explanation provided by the Chairman, he felt that it was important to remain as faithful as possible to the title of the agenda item. Experience had shown that invention of new terms often led to confusion. With respect to the question raised by the representative of Nigeria, it was his delegation's understanding that agenda items 41 and 43 had been referred to the Committee in the same way as any other item - subject to any clarification that might be provided by the President of the General Assembly and they could therefore be discussed under the terms of the Committee's mandate without restriction.
30. The CHAIRMAN said that he personally concurred with that interpretation. He believed the President of the General Assembly would confirm that the understanding related only to the consideration of the items after they had been discussed by the Fifth Committee.
31. Mr. KAZAMBE (Zambia) said that the Chairman's introduction of all the individuals involved in the work of the Committee had been both unique and encouraging. With reference to the concerns expressed by the representative of Kenya on agenda item 41, he felt that the word "reforms" should be omitted from the tentative programme of work, whereas it was clear with respect to document A/42/234 that the words "reform and renewal" were intended to be taken in the context of implementation of resolution 41/213.

32. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the word "reforms" should be eliminated from the abbreviated title of agenda item 41 used in the tentative programme of work.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.