



Chairman: Mr. Walter GUEVARA ARZE (Bolivia).

Election of the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur

1. Mr. AMIRMOKRI (Iran) nominated Mr. S. Edward Peal (Liberia) for the post of Vice-Chairman.

2. Mr. TOURE (Guinea), Mr. RUTTEN (Netherlands), Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) and Mr. LOUYA (Democratic Republic of the Congo) supported the nomination.

Mr. Peal (Liberia) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

3. Mr. MARAMIS (Indonesia) nominated Mr. Leandro I. Verceles (Philippines) for the post of Rapporteur.

4. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) and Mr. KASPRZYK (Poland) supported the nomination.

Mr. Verceles (Philippines) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

5. Mr. CAMEJO ARGUDÍN (Cuba) said his delegation did not associate itself with the vote which had led to the election of the Chairman. The nomination had been forwarded by a regional group which had been convened without the Cuban delegation although it represented the region to which Cuba belonged. That reservation did not apply to the Chairman personally and was no reflection on his individual qualities. Neither, of course, did it include the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur to whom his delegation extended its sincere congratulations.

Organization of the Committee's work

6. The CHAIRMAN said he would refrain from making the customary formal statement and urged members of the Committee to make every effort to adhere to the meetings' time-table. Since he had received no formal communication from the President of the General Assembly concerning the agenda items allocated to the Second Committee, the Committee could not yet discuss the organization of its work for the whole session. He intended to submit a paper on that matter to the Committee the following week. The Committee could, however, take a decision with regard to one item. The Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1556 A (XLIX) had recommended that the General Assembly should arrange for the Second Committee to begin its work in the first week of the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly and that the Committee should take up the subject of an international development strategy from the beginning of its meetings as the only priority item, in

order to reach final agreement on a draft in time for the strategy to be adopted and the Second United Nations Development Decade to be launched at the commemorative meeting of the General Assembly on 24 October 1970.

7. Furthermore, in its first report to the General Assembly, the General Committee had recommended that priority should be given in the plenary and in the Main Committees to the consideration of those items for which documents had to be prepared for adoption at the commemorative session.¹ The only item in respect of which the Second Committee had to prepare such a document was that on the Second United Nations Development Decade (agenda item 42). In the absence of any comments, he would take it that the Committee agreed to commence its work with the consideration of that item, which would be introduced by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs on 21 September 1970.

It was so decided.

8. With regard to the procedure for considering the item, he observed that a large number of delegations felt that general statements on the item should be dispensed with. On the other hand, there were some delegations which wished to make general statements with particular reference to the Second United Nations Development Decade. The best solution would be for the Committee to adopt a flexible attitude and provide an opportunity for those members of the Committee who wished to make general statements to do so. In principle, the general debate would commence immediately after the statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. He suggested that the list of speakers wishing to make general statements should be closed on 21 September, at 6 p.m.

9. The Committee had also to consider how it wished to conduct its negotiations on an international strategy with a view to reaching agreement on a document to be recommended for adoption by the General Assembly. The Committee for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations had recommended that the twenty-fifth anniversary commemorative session of the General Assembly should be held from 14 to 24 October and that the documents to be adopted at the final meeting of the commemorative session should be given consideration by the plenary prior to the opening of that session. Thus, the Committee would have to finalize its recommendations concerning a draft international development strategy by 12 October, so that the plenary could consider the Committee's report on 13 October. Since that time-table left the

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 8, document A/8100, para. 5.

Committee only sixteen working days in which to reach agreement on the strategy, he urged the Committee to decide as soon as possible on the manner in which the negotiations should proceed.

10. Mr. DUBEY (India) said that the Group of Seventy-seven developing countries had decided that, in view of the delicate negotiations which would be required for the Committee to reach agreement on a draft development strategy, and of the short time available for that task, they would not make statements in the general debate. They believed that, apart from a small number of formal meetings to hear the statements of those delegations who wished to take part in the general debate or to place their view on record, the Committee should meet informally, the precise nature of the meetings to be decided upon by the Chairman and the Secretariat on the basis of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

11. Mr. PIÑERA (Chile) said that although he agreed in general with the views of the Group of Seventy-seven as expressed by the representative of India, he believed that it would be unwise to restrict the general debate in any formal way, since delegations referred to in the statements of other delegations might wish to exercise the right of reply. He was therefore not in favour of closing the list of speakers for that debate at 6 p.m. on 21 September, as suggested by the Chairman.

12. He agreed that informal meetings should be held, but felt that a certain measure of formality could be introduced into them by providing for secretariat services, with interpretation and, if necessary, minutes, so that the views of delegations could be recorded.

13. The CHAIRMAN said that he in no way intended to prevent members of the Committee from speaking in the general debate, and agreed that a measure of flexibility could be introduced into the list of speakers, as suggested by the representative of Chile.

14. Mr. ZAKHAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, although it wondered whether such a procedure might not contradict the wishes of many delegations who had often expressed their desire to publicize the Second United Nations Development Decade, his delegation had no objection to the holding of informal meetings, on the understanding that they would be held in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and in particular with rules 62 and 63. The only difference between them and normal meetings of the Committee should be that the press and public would not be admitted, and there would be no summary records.

15. He agreed with the views expressed by the representative of Chile with regard to the general debate.

16. Mr. KELSO (Australia) said he took it that, if the list of speakers was closed on 21 September, delegations would still be able to exercise the right of reply if necessary.

17. The CHAIRMAN confirmed that that would be the case, and suggested that delegations which felt they might wish to speak in the general debate should enter their names on the list of speakers; they could then speak or not at their own discretion.

18. Mr. FARZAO (Brazil) said that the decision of the Group of Seventy-seven had been motivated by the belief that everything which needed to be said about the Second United Nations Development Decade had already been said at length, and that a general debate was therefore hardly necessary. The remaining gaps in the draft international development strategy (see A/7982, para. 16) could not be filled with general statements, and, in view of the shortage of time available, he appealed to the members of the Committee to address themselves with a sense of urgency to the task before them, that of completing the draft international development strategy for the 1970s. If no action was taken at the current session of the General Assembly, the reservations already felt in many parts of the world with regard to the political activities of the United Nations might also become apparent with regard to its economic and social activities.

19. Mr. ZAKHAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed concern that the statement by the representative of Brazil might reconsider a decision taken by the Committee, namely, that after the statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, all the delegations wishing to do so would be able to make general statements at any time. It was his delegation's understanding that the Committee would organize its work in accordance with that decision.

20. The CHAIRMAN confirmed that view. The Committee was now concerned with organizing its work in such a way as to achieve, in the sixteen days available to it, results which it had not been possible to achieve in the preceding two years. The representative of India had proposed that the Committee's proceedings should be divided into formal meetings, which would be open to the press and public and with summary records, and informal meetings in which substantive negotiations could take place.

21. Mr. GOBA (United Arab Republic) supported the Indian representative's proposal (see para. 10 above). Many members of the Group of Seventy-seven had wished to make general statements but had agreed to refrain from doing so in view of the shortage of time. The Group had also decided to issue an appeal to members of other groups to do likewise.

22. Mr. RUTTEN (Netherlands) thought that, as the Committee had decided to take the question of the Second United Nations Development Decade as its first and only priority item, any general statements made must be confined to that item. He also hoped that informal meetings would be held as soon as possible and that the Committee would have to wait only until the first list of speakers wishing to make general statements was exhausted.

23. The CHAIRMAN replied that general statements would obviously have to relate to the strategy for the Second Development Decade but that the Chair would have to allow statements referring to world economic problems as a whole. He did not think that the list of speakers wishing to make general statements should be open indefinitely: if any member felt that his country might be referred to by another speaker, he could register his name on 21 September, when the list would be closed.

24. Mr. JACKMAN (Barbados) suggested that, after hearing the address by the Under-Secretary-General on 21 September, the Committee should adjourn and meet informally. It could later be ascertained how many members wished to make general statements, and the number of formal and informal meetings could be allocated accordingly.

25. The CHAIRMAN felt that any decision to meet informally immediately after the address by the Under-Secretary-General on 21 September might be premature. He suggested that, from that date onwards, the Committee should meet formally or informally, as the occasion required.

It was so decided.

26. Mr. BELFRAGE (Sweden) recalled the circumstances in which his delegation had, at the 187th meeting of the General Committee, agreed to withdraw its request (A/8041) for the inclusion of a supplementary item entitled "Second United Nations Development Decade: social policy and planning in national development", as proposed in Economic and Social Council resolution 1494 (XLVIII). It had done so in the light of the comprehensive formulation of agenda item 43* (Second United Nations Development Decade) as incorporated in the revised provisional agenda,² in which Economic and Social Council resolution 1494 (XLVIII) was specifically mentioned, and in order to help to streamline the Committee's heavy agenda and thereby facilitate the finalization of the draft international development strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, to which his Government attached the greatest importance.

27. However, the request had been withdrawn on the understanding that, when provisional agenda item 43* was

* Subsequently adopted by the General Assembly as item 42 of its agenda.

² *Ibid.*, document A/8000/Rev.1.

discussed, his delegation would have an opportunity of suggesting certain changes in the draft strategy concerning policy measures in the social field. In his delegation's view, the draft strategy should give greater emphasis to the need for structural reforms and social changes such as land reform, income distribution, regional policy and popular participation. Those questions should be included under a separate heading and should be given greater prominence in accordance with the recommendation made in resolution 5 (XXI) of the Commission for Social Development.³

28. His delegation intended to propose that, in accordance with Council resolution 1494 (XLVIII), the role of the Commission for Social Development, which was widely recognized as the primary advisory body to the Economic and Social Council on the whole range of social policies, as well as the legislative body responsible for specific sectoral activities in the social field, should be duly mentioned in the text to be adopted by the Committee on the question of review and appraisal. His delegation also intended to propose that the paragraphs on population policy in the draft international development strategy (see A/7982, para. 16) should be brought more into line with Economic and Social Council resolution 1483 (XLVIII).

29. Finally, his delegation hoped that the Committee would be given an opportunity, within the context of its work on the Second United Nations Development Decade, to consider the report of the meeting of experts on social policy and planning in national development,⁴ held at Stockholm from 1-10 September 1969, and to adopt a resolution on its main findings, which had been endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1494 (XLVIII). That report, he understood, would appear in the list of documents before the Committee.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7*, chap. XIII.

⁴ E/CN.5/445 and Corr.1 (mimeographed).