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Chairman: Mr. Costa P. CARANICAS (Greece).

Election of the Vice-Chairman

1. Mr. LACKO (Czechoslovakia) nominated Mr. Houshang Amirmokri (Iran) as Vice-Chairman.
2. Mr. DUBEY (India) seconded the nomination.

Mr. Amirmokri (Iran) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

Election of the Rapporteur

3. Mr. CHRISTIANSEN (Norway) nominated Mr. Mohamed Warsama (Somalia) as Rapporteur.
4. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) and Mr. Chtourou (Tunisia) supported the nomination.

Mr. Warsama (Somalia) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

*Organization of the Committee's work (A/C.2/245;
A/C.2/L.1056)*

5. The CHAIRMAN said he would refrain from making the customary formal statement. He stressed the need to adhere scrupulously to the meetings time-table and suggested that the representatives, when addressing the Committee, should refrain so far as possible from the customary exchanges of courtesies. There were two documents dealing with the organization of work: a letter from the President of the General Assembly concerning the items allocated to the Second Committee (A/C.2/245) and a note by the Chairman (A/C.2/L.1056) on the organization of work. If the members of the Committee agreed, consultations on the matter might be held between now and 6 October with a view to allocating the agenda items. The debate on the organization of work could begin following the statement to be made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs on 6 October. The week beginning 14 October could be devoted to general statements, during which time items 12 (Reports of the Economic and Social Council) and 40 (Second United Nations Development Decade: report of the Preparatory Committee for the

Second United Nations Development Decade) could also be considered. It should be borne in mind that, at the previous session, a number of delegations, particularly that of Canada, had proposed that the general debate should be shortened or even forgone altogether.

6. Mr. RANKIN (Canada) said that, although the general debate took up much time each year, it could hardly be dispensed with entirely, because some delegations could not take part in the detailed discussion of the agenda items. The representatives of those delegations which were present at all meetings could perhaps refrain from making general statements during the general debate and confine their remarks to agenda items 12 and 40.

7. Mr. CHTOUROU (Tunisia) thought that the note by the Chairman (A/C.2/L.1056) was a useful document which took into account the views expressed at the previous session. Items 12 and 40 could be considered during the general debate, by which time the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade would be available. The note was an acceptable document, which could be suitably amended as the work progressed.

8. Mr. BILLNER (Sweden) said that agenda item 40 (Second United Nations Development Decade) dealt with an extremely important topic. According to the time-table in paragraph 13 of the note by the Chairman (A/C.2/L.1056), the period 20 to 22 October seemed to be open. If the Committee had completed its consideration of item 40 by 20 October, that period might well be spent in discussing the problems of the human environment (item 21), a subject which it would be as well to consider as early as possible since the Third Committee would have to discuss it also.

9. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) thought that document A/C.2/L.1056 was acceptable. It was suggested, in paragraph 33, that the general debate might be focused upon one or two major issues of vital importance, which he took to mean items 12 and 40. On the other hand, paragraph 3 presented to nine subjects referred to the Committee as separate items, in particular, the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade (item 40). He wondered whether the general debate would cover those nine subjects, which would take up too much time, or whether it would be confined to the more important topics dealt with in the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/7603), such as the Second United Nations Development Decade, human environment and tourism.

10. The CHAIRMAN said that, of the subjects mentioned in paragraph 3 of his note, only item 40 would be dealt

with during the general debate; the others would be considered separately.

11. Mr. DECASTIAUX (Belgium) wondered why the resumed forty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Council was to be in three parts instead of the scheduled one.

12. The CHAIRMAN said that the Economic and Social Council's meeting of 13 October was unavoidable, since the Council had to approve the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade before the Second Committee could consider that item during its general debate (item 40). The Council would have to meet again on 27 October to consider a number of items of prime importance, and again in November for the reasons stated in paragraph 7 of his note (A/C.2/L.1056).

13. Mr. ALI (Iraq) wondered whether it would be possible to forgo the general debate and consider items 12 and 40 separately.

14. Mr. KELSO (Australia) also thought that the general debate could be forgone.

15. Mr. SKATARETIKO (Yugoslavia) said that document A/C.2/L.1056, although very useful, could not be regarded as final. The general debate might aim at defining the Second United Nations Development Decade (item 40), about which there were two schools of thought: some felt that it should stress industrial and agricultural development, improvement of the human environment, etc., while others viewed it as covering the entire work of United Nations bodies in the economic and social field. Item 40 was of the highest importance and should be considered as a matter of priority.

16. Mr. BAKOTO (Cameroon) said that it was immaterial whether the Second United Nations Development Decade was discussed during the general debate or separately. The question of the Decade covered, in fact, all the items on the Second Committee's agenda.

17. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom), referring to paragraph 14 of the Chairman's note on the organization of work

(A/C.2/L.1056), said he hoped that the agreed time-table would be adhered to, unlike the previous year.

18. Mr. KHALIL (United Arab Republic) said that a general debate on the Second United Nations Development Decade (item 40) was required as a follow-up to the Preparatory Committee's deliberations. The debate could be followed by a substantive discussion.

19. The Swedish representative's proposal to hold discussions on the problems of the human environment (item 21) from 20 to 22 October might curtail the general debate on agenda item 40, which should not be interrupted.

20. Mr. GETMANETS (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) proposed that the general statements on the Second United Nations Development Decade should be followed by consideration of item 43 (the role of the United Nations in training national technical personnel for the accelerated industrialization of the developing countries) which was a closely allied topic.

21. Mr. KASSUM (Secretary of the Committee) explained a number of points relating to the time-table. Some dates had been fixed because the topics in question had to be considered by the Economic and Social Council, or because the executive heads of certain United Nations programmes had to speak on them in the Committee. Consultations would have to be held in order to set the date for discussing the subjects mentioned in paragraph 14 of the Chairman's note (A/C.2/L.1056).

22. The discussion of item 12 should not cover those parts of the Economic and Social Council's report which dealt with matters on the Second Committee's agenda, but it could include consideration of those parts which dealt with science and technology, on the one hand, and land reform, on the other for which there were progress reports.

23. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the representatives would have time, up to 6 October, in which to consult the Committee officers in order to decide whether the Second United Nations Development Decade should be the subject of general statements or only of a substantive discussion.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.