



General Assembly

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Summary record of the 2nd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 23 October 2017, at 3 p.m.

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

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Organization of the seventy-second regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (continued)

Request for the inclusion of an item submitted by the Republic of Moldova (A/72/193)

1. **The Chair** recalled that, at its previous meeting, the General Committee had decided to postpone its consideration of the question of the inclusion of the item entitled "Complete withdrawal of foreign military forces from the territory of the Republic of Moldova" to the following meeting of the General Committee. He drew attention to a letter addressed to him from the concerned delegation containing a request to postpone consideration of the question of the inclusion of the item to one of the subsequent meetings of the General Committee. Based on that request, he took it that the Committee wished to postpone consideration of the question of the inclusion of the item to one of its subsequent meetings.

2. *It was so decided.*

Request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item submitted by the Secretary-General (A/72/231)

3. **The Chair** drew attention to the request submitted by the Secretary-General for the inclusion in the agenda of the seventy-second session of an additional sub-item entitled "Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee" under agenda item 115, entitled "Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments" (A/72/231).

4. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the seventy-second session of an additional sub-item entitled "Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee" under agenda item 115, entitled "Appointment to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments".*

5. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the additional sub-item should be allocated to the Fifth Committee.*

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia (A/72/232)

6. **The Chair** drew attention to the request submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia for the inclusion in the agenda of the seventy-second session of an additional item entitled "Observer Status for the Fund

for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean in the General Assembly" (A/72/232).

7. **Mr. Miranda Rivero** (Plurinational State of Bolivia), speaking on behalf of the 22 States Members of the United Nations that were members of the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, said that he welcomed the consideration of the request made by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to include the item in the agenda of the seventy-second session. The international organization, established at the second Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, aimed to support the processes of self-development and promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples and their communities and organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean. The governing bodies of the Fund were based on parity relations between the States and indigenous peoples.

8. In 2006, the Heads of State and Government had decided to commit to the consolidation of the Fund as the only international organization specialized in promoting development with identity and focused on the good living (living well) of indigenous peoples and on the recognition of their individual and collective rights. The organization already had observer status with two other bodies.

9. The Fund had implemented important activities and programmes in three areas: dialogue and agreement; economic development with identity; and education for equality; those efforts helped to address the challenges of the international agenda. Considering that the purposes and principles of the Fund were consistent with those of the United Nations; that the mission and vision of the international organization dovetailed with the comprehensive focus and overall objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and especially that the daily endeavours of the Fund were geared towards the effective implementation of all the international commitments and instruments in favour of indigenous rights, he called on all Member States to support the request for observer status for the Fund.

10. **Mr. Ramírez Carreño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) firmly supported the request submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia because, in all regards, the Fund met the conditions for the granting of observer status. It had contributed over the years to efforts aimed at protecting the rights of a vulnerable population. The States of the region owed it an historic debt for promoting the interests of developing countries and the North-South dialogue. Observer status for the Fund would help to enhance its projects and intra- and extra-regional dialogue processes, and would open up

information and participation forums for multiple actors from indigenous communities and implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region. He called on States to support the request.

11. **The Chair** recalled that, in accordance with resolution 54/195, any request for the granting of observer status in the General Assembly would be considered by the Sixth Committee.

12. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the seventy-second session of an additional item entitled "Observer Status for the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean in the General Assembly".*

13. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the additional item should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Côte d'Ivoire (A/72/233)

14. **The Chair** drew attention to the request submitted by Côte d'Ivoire for inclusion in the agenda of the seventy-second session of an additional item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation" (A/72/233). The representative of Côte d'Ivoire had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

15. *At the invitation of the Chair, Mr. Gbrou (Côte d'Ivoire) took a place at the Committee table.*

16. **Mr. Gbrou** (Côte d'Ivoire) welcomed the consideration of the request. He orally revised the proposed title of the agenda item to read "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation".

17. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the seventy-second session of an additional item, as orally revised, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation".*

18. *The Committee decided that the item, as orally revised, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation", should be considered directly in plenary meeting.*

19. *Mr. Gbrou (Côte d'Ivoire) withdrew.*

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Mexico (A/72/234)

20. **The Chair** drew attention to the request by Mexico for inclusion in the agenda of the seventy-second session of an additional item entitled "Impact of the exponential technological change on sustainable development and peace" (A/72/234). The representative of Mexico had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

21. *At the invitation of the Chair, Mr. Gómez Camacho (Mexico) took a place at the Committee table.*

22. **Mr. Gómez Camacho** (Mexico) said that multi-purpose technologies, applicable in an ever-broader range of fields, had an impact on many areas of life. Currently, the Internet, nanotechnology, renewable technologies, computing and information technology were highly interconnected technologies that had generated synergies and produced both new goods and services and solutions to challenges and problems. The change they had ushered in was exponential because of their interconnected nature and the pace of their development.

23. Technology was neither good nor bad; its application determined whether its social, economic, cultural and political impact, which affected every walk of life, was positive or negative. The United Nations had to consider such change because it was not clear what its effects would be: forecasts of the impact on employment, for example, varied greatly from billions of new jobs to billions fewer.

24. In planning the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations and Governments had adopted their traditional linear approach. However, in the light of the positive disruptive impact of technological change on every aspect of life, the subject had to be addressed holistically, in plenary, and immediately, so that work could begin. Mechanisms such as the Technology Facilitation Mechanism already existed to support that work.

25. Consideration of the item would not involve the regulation or limitation of technology or the interruption of development. The intention was to understand and learn how to make an intelligent transition to the world of the future.

26. **Mr. Simonoff** (United States of America) said that the United States was not in a position to support adding the agenda item. There had not been sufficient time to consider the proposal on what was a very broad and ambiguous issue that lacked clear definition. The

opportunity to further consider the matter in the future would be welcome.

27. **Mr. Ramírez Carreño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela supported the proposal. In developing the 2030 Agenda, Heads of State and Government had acknowledged the huge possibilities for human progress, the closing of the digital gap and the development of knowledge societies offered by the expansion of information and communications technologies and global interconnectedness. The Technology Facilitation Mechanism had promoted collaborative processes and partnerships among multiple interested parties and the importance of further exchanges had been stressed in the Second Committee.

28. Cooperation at the regional and global levels was important to promote national capacities and the development of overall strategies. Developing countries in particular were extremely interested in the subject being discussed, because it would contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The proposal was pertinent at that moment and the item should be included in the agenda of the seventy-second session.

29. **Mr. Castañeda Solares** (Guatemala) expressed sincere support for the proposal of Mexico. He felt that, owing to its great social impact, it was of enormous importance and he supported inclusion of the item on the agenda of the seventy-second session.

30. **Mr. Shava** (Zimbabwe) supported inclusion of the item. Exponential technological change currently was a key feature of the world which had been discussed in a number of United Nations forums. The joint Second Committee and Economic and Social Council meetings held in 2017 and 2016 had addressed, inter alia, artificial intelligence and the future of things, and exponential growth.

31. Despite the opportunities and risks posed by such change, the growth of technology could not be halted. Therefore, it was important to include the subject in discussions at the United Nations to ensure that exponential change did not threaten the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, but promoted and accelerated it. Zimbabwe supported inclusion of the item on the agenda.

32. **Mr. Gómez Camacho** (Mexico), in response to the point raised by the representative of the United States, said that related matters were already being discussed within the Organization, but in a fragmented manner. The issue was, by its nature, broad, global and general, and making it less so was not possible. The

purpose of the item was to have a discussion and foster understanding and education on the topic, in the most open, transparent and inclusive way. A core group had already been established and it intended to work very seriously on the matter. It was his wish that the item should be added to the agenda at that moment to enable collective work to begin.

33. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the seventy-second session entitled "Impact of the exponential technological change on sustainable development and peace".*

34. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the additional item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.*

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.