



General Assembly

Fifty-first session

First Committee

1st Meeting

Tuesday, 17 September 1996, 4 p.m.
New York

Official Records

Temporary Chairman: Mr. Razali Ismail (Malaysia, President of the General Assembly)

The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m.

Election of the Chairman of the First Committee

The Temporary Chairman: Rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that each Main Committee shall elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. These officers shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence. The elections shall be held by secret ballot unless the Committee decides otherwise in an election where only one candidate is standing. The nomination of each candidate shall be limited to one speaker, after which the Committee shall immediately proceed to the election.

Furthermore, rule 110 of the rules of procedure provides that congratulations to the officers of a Main Committee shall not be expressed except by the Chairman of the previous session — or, in his absence, by a member of his delegation — after all the officers of the Committee have been elected.

This meeting has been convened for the election of the Chairman of the First Committee. Are there any nominations?

Mr. Enkhsaikhan (Mongolia): I would like to begin, Sir, by expressing my pleasure at seeing you in the Chair of the General Assembly. The Head of my delegation will have an opportunity to congratulate you formally upon your well-deserved election to the presidency of the Assembly. I am confident that under your able guidance the current session of the General Assembly, which will have a heavily

loaded agenda including the continuation and finalization of the work of working groups on the financial situation of the United Nations, on the strengthening of the United Nations system, on Security Council reform and on other matters, will add further to the record of the Assembly's contributions to world peace, security and cooperation.

It is my pleasure to present, on behalf of Ambassador Erdenechuluun, the candidacy of Ambassador Alyaksandr Sychou, Permanent Representative of Belarus, for the chairmanship of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee).

Ambassador Alyaksandr Sychou is a seasoned politician and an experienced diplomat. He joined his country's foreign service in 1979 and has served since then in various capacities in the Foreign Ministry of Belarus. From 1984 to 1990, Mr. Sychou worked at his country's Permanent Mission to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva. During his diplomatic service Mr. Sychou represented his country at several sessions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Labour Organization and other specialized agencies. From 1988 to 1990, he was a member of the Bureau and also Chairman of the Session Committee of the ECE. From 1991 to 1992, he was Head of the Foreign Economic Relations Department of the Foreign Ministry of Belarus. Prior to the assumption of his present office, he was Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of his country.

Mr. Sychou acquired his professional training in the Moscow State Institute of International Relations. The Mongolia delegation has full confidence that Ambassador Sychou will successfully carry out the functions of the First Committee thanks to his broad experience in foreign service and United Nations practice. I believe that the First Committee will want to elect him by acclamation.

The Temporary Chairman: His Excellency Mr. Alyaksandr Sychou of Belarus has been nominated by the representative of Mongolia. Since only one candidate has

been nominated, I propose that under rule 103 the Committee decide not to hold a secret ballot.

It was so decided.

The Temporary Chairman: I therefore declare His Excellency Mr. Alyaksandr Sychou of Belarus elected Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The meeting rose at 4:05 p.m.