



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ABDALLA (Sudan)

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

CONTENTS

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

AGENDA ITEM 18: APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

(a) APPOINTMENT OF FIVE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

* 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 A-3550, 866 United Nations Plaza (Alcoa Building), 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.5/36/SR.2
16 October 1981
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Fifth Committee had begun its work for the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly. He welcomed Vanuatu and expressed satisfaction at its admission to membership in the United Nations. He thanked the Committee for the honour bestowed on his country, the great African continent and himself in electing him Chairman. He promised to try to discharge his many responsibilities with understanding and efficiency and asked for the co-operation of Committee members in performing them as well as possible. He also paid tribute to his predecessor, Ambassador Enrique Buj Flores of Mexico, whose performance he would draw on for guidance and inspiration.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

2. Mr. EL-HOUDERI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) nominated Mr. Brotodiningrat (Indonesia) for the office of one of the Committee's Vice-Chairmen.

3. Mr. Brotodiningrat (Indonesia) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

4. The CHAIRMAN said that additional consultations would have to take place regarding the other post of Vice-Chairman; the appointment would accordingly be deferred until the following meeting.

5. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) nominated Mr. Martorell (Peru) for the office of Rapporteur.

6. Mr. Martorell (Peru) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

7. The CHAIRMAN introduced some of the Secretariat officials who would be working with the Committee. He reminded members of the provisions of rule 110 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which he asked all delegations strictly to observe.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/36/250 and A/C.5/36/8)

8. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the letter from the President of the General Assembly listing the items allocated to the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/36/8) and in particular to its final paragraph, referring to the recommendations on the organization of the session contained in section II of document A/36/250.

9. One of those recommendations was that contained in General Assembly decision 34/401, paragraph 3, concerning the times at which meetings should begin. At the previous session, the Fifth Committee had wasted the least time of all the Committees through late starting (5 hours and 40 minutes), and he urged all delegations to do their utmost to match or improve on the record of the previous year.

10. With regard to decision 34/401, paragraph 7, according to which delegations should, as far as possible, explain their votes only once - either in the Committee

/...

or in the plenary meeting of the Assembly - he pointed out the desirability of continuing the practice of indicating, in the Fifth Committee's reports to the plenary, which delegations had already explained their votes in the Committee.

11. Paragraphs 12, 13 and 28 of decision 34/401, which were referred to in document A/36/250, sections I and J, were of particular importance for the work of the Fifth Committee. He likewise drew the Committee's attention to paragraphs 14, 16 and 21 of the decision.

12. Finally, he suggested that the Committee should continue to observe the following well-established procedures: (a) the list of speakers on each main agenda item would be closed no later than 48 hours after the introduction of the item; (b) delegations would speak in the order in which they were inscribed on the speakers' list and, if a speaker was not present when called on to speak, he would be put at the bottom of the list; (c) the Rapporteur would be authorized to report directly to the General Assembly on all items considered, unless the Committee decided to include a summary of the debate in its report.

13. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to approve the suggestions he had put forward regarding the organization of work.

14. It was so decided.

15. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the tentative programme of work set out in a schedule which had been prepared by the Committee Secretary and circulated to delegations. In accordance with that tentative programme, the Committee would next meet on the following Monday, 28 September, to begin its consideration of agenda item 98 (Financial reports and accounts, and reports of the Board of Auditors). All the reports had been issued already, and delegations would have the remainder of the week to study them.

16. Similarly, delegations should begin to study other reports which the Committee would soon have to take up, notably the report of the Committee on Contributions and, naturally, those submitted by the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for 1982-1983.

17. As at previous sessions, the Secretariat would be asked to provide the Committee, by its meeting on Monday, 28 September, with a complete list of the documentation which the Secretary-General or subsidiary United Nations bodies would be submitting to the Committee during the current session, indicating in each case the anticipated date of publication.

18. Finally, while the list of speakers on each agenda item would be officially opened only after the introduction of the item in the Committee, it would be most helpful if delegations could inform the Committee Secretary as early as possible, even if only informally, of their intention to put their names on the lists of speakers for the various agenda items.

19. Mr. BROTDININGRAT (Indonesia) commented that, according to the schedule circulated by the Secretariat, the Committee would have a great deal of work in

/...

(Mr. Brotodiningrat, Indonesia)

November, particularly as by then it would have to be discussing the administrative and financial implications of resolutions adopted by other Committees. His delegation therefore suggested that, whenever the documentation situation permitted, the Committee should get as far ahead as possible in its consideration of some agenda items. One such case was item 105, Pattern of conferences, discussion of which was scheduled to begin in the third week of November but which could be brought forward, provided that the report of the Committee on Conferences were available, to the third or fourth week of October.

20. His delegation suggested that, if the documentation situation would not permit measures of that kind, maximum use should be made of the time available during October to get ahead in discussing and approving the programme budget.

21. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland) said that, under the tentative work programme set out in the schedule circulated by the Secretariat, consideration of the various sections of the proposed programme budget would commence in the week beginning 26 October, while the general debate on the budget would start in the week beginning 12 October. His delegation felt that the general debate on the budget and the discussion of individual sections should take place simultaneously when the documentation situation would permit it. Poland therefore proposed that the discussion of individual budget sections should commence before the date of 26 October originally envisaged.

22. His delegation hoped that, as at previous sessions, the Secretariat would circulate the programme of work in writing, indicating the reports that the Committee would have to discuss and their anticipated publication dates. His delegation would be able to make more concrete observations when that document became available.

23. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) said that to avoid, as far as possible, a major build-up of work at the end of the session, it would be advantageous to begin discussing certain items as soon as the documentation situation would allow. For that reason, his delegation supported the suggestions and proposals by Indonesia and Poland.

24. Mr. DUQUE (Secretary of the Committee), referring to the question raised by the representative of Indonesia, said that it would be possible to schedule agenda item 105 (Pattern of conferences) for an earlier date and that he would inform either the Chairman or the Committee, whichever was convenient, of the date on which the report of the Committee on Conferences would be available.

25. With respect to the question raised by the representative of Poland, he said that the programme of work was modelled on the Committee's usual procedure of taking up individual sections one by one following the general debate on the proposed programme budget. However, it was for the Committee to decide whether it wished to consider both aspects of the item simultaneously. It would certainly be possible to schedule consideration of sections which past experience had shown to be less controversial at an earlier date than that proposed.

26. He stressed that the programme of work as circulated was tentative in nature and had been prepared on the basis of the latest information on the availability of documents. The officers of the Committee would consider all the proposals and suggestions made and would take them into account when drawing up a more definite programme.

/...

27. Mr. PAL (India) said that, in accordance with the tentative programme of work, the Committee was to take up the item on financial reports and accounts, and reports of the Board of Auditors (item 98) during the week of 28 September to 2 October. At its thirty-fourth session, the General Assembly had requested several reports on the organization and professional practices of the Board of Auditors (decision 34/403). The report of the Board of Auditors and of the Panel of External Auditors had been issued; he wondered whether the reports of the Secretary-General and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had also been issued, or whether they would be available in time for consideration of the item on the dates proposed.

28. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) noted that the ACABQ report on the various reports of the Board of Auditors had been sent for reproduction at the beginning of September and said that the Secretariat should explain the delay in publishing that document. With regard to the reports on the organization and professional practices of the Board of Auditors requested under General Assembly decision 34/403, the reports by the Board of Auditors and by the Panel of External Auditors had been issued. Although he had seen a provisional text of the Secretary-General's report, the Advisory Committee was awaiting the official text of that report in order to fulfil its mandate to submit to the General Assembly views and recommendations on those three reports.

29. If the Advisory Committee's report on the financial reports and accounts was not issued during the week, problems might arise for the scheduled consideration of that agenda item in the week of 28 September to 2 October. On the other hand, the delay of the Committee's report prepared in pursuance of General Assembly decision 34/403 should not be an obstacle to consideration of the financial reports and accounts and the reports of the Board on the scheduled dates, since the question of the organization and professional practices of the Board could be tackled later, when ACABQ had considered the related three reports and formulated its own views and recommendations to the General Assembly.

30. Mr. DUQUE (Secretary of the Committee) said that it had been planned to issue the report of the Advisory Committee on the various financial reports and accounts at the end of the previous week; in any case, it would be available to members of the Fifth Committee during the current week. He therefore anticipated no problem in taking up that agenda item on the dates scheduled. As for consideration of the sub item relating to the organization and professional practices of the Board of Auditors, that would have to wait until the report of the Secretary-General, scheduled for the current week, and the report of the Advisory Committee became available; it could be dealt with after the consideration of the financial reports and accounts.

31. Mrs. DORSET (Trinidad and Tobago), referring to the exchange of courtesies which normally marked the commencement of the Committee's work, congratulated the Chairman and officers, expressed her confidence in them and her willingness to co-operate fully in the Committee's work. She called on some other delegation, on behalf of the members of the Committee, to support her statement so that an

/...

(Mrs. Dorset, Trinidad and Tobago)

expression of congratulations and confidence could be placed on record and from then on omitted in order to stretch the time available for substantive issues.

32. Ms. de HEDERVARY (Belgium) expressed her delegation's support for the suggestion made by the representative of Trinidad and Tobago.

AGENDA ITEM 18: APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS (A/36/161/Add.1 and A/C.5/36/5).

(a) APPOINTMENT OF FIVE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

33. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that in document A/36/161/Add.1 the Secretary-General had reported that he had received notification of the resignation of Mr. George F. Saddler (United States of America) from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. In document A/C.5/36/5, the Secretary-General had informed the Fifth Committee of the nominee of the Government of the United States of America to fill that vacancy. He suggested that the matter should be taken up at the meeting to be held on the following Monday.

34. Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan) suggested that the Committee should deal with the matter at the current meeting in order to advance its work.

35. The CHAIRMAN, noting that there were no objections, accepted the suggestion of the representative of Pakistan and said that he took it that the Committee did not consider it necessary to hold a secret ballot.

36. It was so decided.

37. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend by acclamation the appointment of Mrs. Virginia Housholder of the United States of America to fill a vacancy on the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a term of office to commence on the date that the General Assembly approved the appointment and to expire on 31 December 1981.

38. It was so decided.

39. The CHAIRMAN requested the Rapporteur to report directly to the General Assembly on the recommendation adopted.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.