

United Nations GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SIXTEENTH SESSION

Official Records



GENERAL COMMITTEE, 145th
MEETING

Friday, 16 February 1962,
at 10.30 a.m.

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Chairman: Mr. Mongi SLIM (Tunisia).

Organization of the sixteenth session of the General Assembly (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN recalled that at its last meeting the General Committee had agreed to postpone a decision on the closing date of the sixteenth session of the General Assembly. Since then the First Committee had concluded its work and the Fourth Committee had only two more items on its agenda to consider.

2. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) reported that since the General Committee's last meeting the Fourth Committee had concluded its general debate on the question of the future of Ruanda-Urundi and was now considering a draft resolution on the subject. The Fourth Committee still had to consider the item on information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in particular two draft resolutions on that item.

3. The CHAIRMAN recalled that at the General Committee's last meeting the Chairman of the Fourth Committee had suggested 23 February as the closing date for the sixteenth session. Without prejudice to any decision which the General Assembly might take concerning the reconvening of the session to consider the question of the future of Ruanda-Urundi, the General Committee might adopt that date for the closure of the current session.

4. Mr. QUAISON-SACKKEY (Ghana) said that he had no objection to that date but felt that the General Committee should maintain a flexible attitude to the question of reconvening the General Assembly for the purpose of discussion the question of the future of Ruanda-Urundi. It might perhaps be better to allow the Fourth Committee and the General Assembly to decide on that question.

5. Mr. PLIMPTON (United States of America) said that the date of 23 February for the closure of the sixteenth session was satisfactory to his delegation. It would be preferable to leave the possibility of reconvening the General Assembly to consider the question of the future of Ruanda-Urundi to the discretion of the President of the General Assembly rather than to set a fixed date.

6. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) said that most of the sponsors of the draft resolution now before the Fourth Committee felt that a definite date should be set for the resumed session of the General Assembly which would discuss the question of the future of Ruanda-Urundi.

7. Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that the target date of 23 February was somewhat optimistic; he would prefer 26 February as being more practical but would make no formal proposal to that effect.

8. Mr. CROWE (United Kingdom) supported 23 February as the closing date; if too remote a date were set, discussions in the Fourth Committee might be unduly prolonged.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that the general consensus of opinion seemed to be that the closing date of the sixteenth session should be 23 February. He suggested that the General Committee should recommend that date, without prejudice to any decision by the General Assembly to reconvene in order to discuss the question of the future of Ruanda-Urundi.

It was so decided.

10. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, if it were decided to reconvene the General Assembly to discuss the question of the future of Ruanda-Urundi, a closing date as well as an opening date should be agreed upon.

11. Mr. QUAISON-SACKKEY (Ghana) asked the Chairman whether he was suggesting to the sponsors of the draft resolution now before the Fourth Committee that they should amend it in order to set a definite time-limit for the resumed session of the General Assembly which would discuss Ruanda-Urundi.

12. The CHAIRMAN wished to make it clear that he was in no way trying to apply pressure to the Fourth Committee or to suggest amendments to any draft resolution. He was merely suggesting that it would be advisable to specify an exact duration for the resumed session of the General Assembly which would deal with the question of the future of Ruanda-Urundi.

13. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) said that she had brought the question raised by the Chairman to the attention of the sponsors of the draft resolution before the Fourth Committee.

14. Mr. CASTAÑEDA (Mexico) asked whether the financial implications of holding a resumed session of the General Assembly in June 1962 had been considered.

15. The CHAIRMAN said that a report on such financial implications would be submitted.

16. Mr. ROSSIDES (Cyprus) felt that the General Committee should refrain from setting an exact date for the reconvening of the General Assembly.

17. The CHAIRMAN agreed that it was not for the General Committee to decide that question; it should be left to the Fourth Committee and of course any decision which that Committee took would have to be approved by the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.