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Chair: Mr. Amorín..... (Uruguay)

Contents

Statement by the Chair

Organization of work

Agenda item 135: Programme planning

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Statement by the Chair

1. **The Chair** said that the list of items allocated to the Committee had been issued as document [A/C.2/78/1](#), and informed the Committee that the members of the Bureau had agreed on a division of responsibility for the agenda items, which was reflected on the e-Delegate portal.

2. He drew attention to the guidance of the General Assembly regarding the work of the Main Committees set out in the report of the General Committee ([A/78/250](#)). All meetings would start and end on time. Delegations were reminded that the General Assembly had decided to continue its practice of waiving the requirement that at least one quarter of Committee members should be present in order to declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed.

3. The list of speakers was open for both the Committee's general debate and the agenda items allocated to it. Delegations were requested to inscribe their names on the list as soon as possible, using the e-Delegate portal. The list of speakers for the following day would be posted on the portal on the business day before the general debate or discussion, based on the inscriptions received by 1 p.m. on that day.

4. In accordance with General Assembly decision 65/530, the time limits for the general debate would be 10 minutes for delegations speaking on behalf of a group of States and seven minutes for individual Member States; seven minutes for the general discussion of individual agenda items by delegations speaking on behalf of a group of States, and five minutes for individual Member States. Introductions of Secretariat reports should be limited to seven minutes.

5. In accordance with previous decisions of the General Assembly and the Committee's established practice, explanations of vote would be limited to five minutes, delegations would be entitled to two rights of reply per agenda item, first of five and then of three minutes, and points of order would be limited to three minutes. He took it that the Committee wished to approve those time limits for statements in explanation of vote, rights of reply and points of order.

6. *It was so decided.*

Organization of work ([A/C.2/78/L.1](#) and [A/C.2/78/L.1/Add.1](#))

7. **The Chair** drew the Committee's attention to the organization of work, as contained in document [A/C.2/78/L.1](#). Recalling the guidelines adopted by the

General Assembly in its decision 65/530 on improving the working methods of the Committee, he said that the Bureau would keep multiple mandatory deadlines for the submission of draft resolutions, to which the Committee would need to adhere strictly. Requests for extensions made prior to the expiration of a deadline would be considered on a case-by-case basis, bearing in mind that the Secretariat required a minimum of 96 hours to process and issue documents in all languages before their scheduled consideration. For completely new draft resolutions, a longer time would be required.

8. The process of the appointment of facilitators was complete, and he would hold a coordination meeting for facilitators following the current meeting. As had been done at previous sessions and in the interests of planning and predictability, the Bureau would take a coordinated approach to the convening of "informal" informal consultations on draft resolutions. Delegations were urged to do their utmost to conclude negotiations in time in order for action on draft resolutions to be taken on the scheduled dates.

9. Delegations were encouraged to engage in an active debate with Ms. Jayati Ghosh, Professor from the Department of Economic at the University of Massachusetts, who would deliver the keynote address prior to the opening of the general debate on 2 October. The theme for the general debate was "Building a sustainable recovery for all".

10. The Committee's joint meeting with the Economic and Social Council would be held on 10 October on the theme "Leveraging commodities for sustainable economic development". The annual dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of regional commissions would be held on 12 October, for which a concept note would be circulated in advance. Furthermore, on 12 October, there would be a side event on the topic "New perspectives on development in the twenty-first century", for which interpretation services would be provided on an "as available" basis.

11. In accordance with the organization of work of the Committee, the general debate was scheduled to begin on the morning of 2 October and conclude on the afternoon of 3 October. The target date for the conclusion of the Committee's work was 22 November, in order to allow time for the Committee's reports to be processed and issued in time for consideration by the General Assembly before its scheduled recess.

12. He wished to draw the Committee's attention to two paragraphs contained in chapter II of the report of the General Committee ([A/78/250](#)), in which the General Assembly provided guidance regarding the work of the Main Committees. In paragraph 5 of the

report, the Assembly had requested the General Committee, while exercising its functions under rule 40 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, and within its mandate, to also consider discussing gaps, overlaps and duplication and to make recommendations to Member States for consideration. In paragraph 14 of the same report, the Assembly had urged Member States, when considering establishing new mandates for meetings of the Assembly, to be mindful of existing mandated meetings, and in that regard had requested the Secretariat to advise the Member States of any existing mandated meetings that overlapped in date or theme, with the aim of minimizing the overall number of high-level, thematic and commemorative meetings.

13. With regard to the programme budget, he drew the Committee's attention to paragraphs 69 to 84 of the report of the General Committee (A/78/250), and in particular to paragraph 74, in which the General Committee had drawn attention to paragraph 12 of decision 34/401, in which the General Assembly had indicated that the Main Committees must allow sufficient time for the preparation of the estimate of expenditures by the Secretariat and for its consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee. With regard to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and paragraph 13 (d) of decision 34/401, the General Committee had drawn the attention of the Assembly to the fact that, in most cases, more than 48 hours were required for the Secretary-General to review the programme budget implications of proposals before the Assembly. Furthermore, all draft resolutions with financial implications should be submitted to the Fifth Committee no later than 1 December.

14. He took it that the Committee wished to approve its organization of work as contained in document A/C.2/78/L.1, with the understanding that further adjustments would be made, if necessary, as the session progressed.

15. *It was so decided.*

16. **The Chair** drew the Committee's attention to the status of documentation for the Committee, contained in document A/C.2/78/L.1/Add.1. Almost all the Secretariat reports had been issued. If any reports were not going to be ready in time for the relevant general discussion, he would request the Secretariat to circulate an unedited version in advance.

17. He suggested a deviation from the standard practice whereby only reports or notes of the Secretary-General, which were issued in all six official languages, were introduced in meetings of the Committee, in order to comply with the General Assembly's request to be

updated, through two publications of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), on the implementation of the Assembly's resolutions 77/154 and 77/155, respectively entitled "Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development" and "Promoting investments for sustainable development". Since UNCTAD did not issue its publications in all United Nations languages, he suggested that the Committee invite representatives of UNCTAD to introduce the pertinent sections of the *Sustainable Development Goals Pulse* report and the *World Investment Report 2023* under agenda item 16, on macroeconomic policy questions and its sub-items, on 5 October.

18. *It was so decided.*

19. **The Chair** also suggested that, on an exceptional basis owing to a delay in submission during the previous session, the Committee should consider the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Ensuring effective implementation of the functions of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States" (A/77/984) at its current session.

20. *It was so decided.*

21. **The Chair** said that he took it that the Committee wished to take note of the status of documentation for the session as contained in document A/C.2/78/L.1/Add.1.

22. *It was so decided.*

23. **The Chair** said that delegations had been advised to implement the changes introduced in the Committee's working methods pursuant to the mandates contained in the two most recent General Assembly decisions on revitalization, namely decisions 74/537 B and 75/547 B, which both contained agreed measures to improve the Committee's working methods. Delegations were encouraged to make resolutions more streamlined, concise, focused and action-oriented, include a clear link to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and consider including provisions to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, to increase interaction on the reports of the Secretary-General, the Secretariat had circulated on the e-Delegate portal informal papers with key messages from the reports in advance of their consideration by the Committee.

Agenda item 135: Programme planning

24. **The Chair** said that, in accordance with paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 77/254, entitled

“Programme planning”, the Committee should consider the open programmes of the proposed programme budget for those mandates for which the Committee was responsible under the agenda item also entitled “Programme planning”. He therefore took it that the Committee would convene an informal meeting on 17 October to consider those open programmes and that, following the discussion, and in consultation with the Bureau, he should prepare a summary, including any conclusions and recommendations, for transmission to the Fifth Committee.

25. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.