

General Assembly

Distr.: General



Fifty-fourth session

13 December 1999

Official Records

Original: English

General Committee

Summary record of the 1st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 15 September 1999, at 10.45 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Gurirab (President of the General Assembly) (Namibia)

Contents

Organization of the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General

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 DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

Organization of the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/54/1 and Add.1)

Section I: Introduction

1. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the provisions reproduced in annexes V, VI, VII and VIII of its rules of procedure. It also took note of paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Section II: Organization of the session

Paragraph 5 (General Committee)

2. *The Committee took note of the decision and resolutions referred to in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Paragraphs 6 to 10 (Rationalization of work)

3. *The Committee took note of paragraphs 6, 7, 9 and 10 and decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Paragraph 11 (Closing date of the session)

4. *The Committee noted that the General Assembly had decided in its resolution 53/239 of 8 June 1999 that the fifty-fourth session would close on Tuesday, 5 September 2000, and decided to recommend to the Assembly that it should recess not later than Tuesday, 14 December 1999, and that the First, Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth) and Sixth Committees should complete their work by Friday, 19 November, the Third Committee by Monday, 22 November, the Second Committee by Friday, 26 November and the Fifth Committee by Friday, 10 December 1999.*

Paragraphs 12 to 14 (Schedule of meetings)

5. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that morning meetings should start at 10 a.m. promptly for all plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees. The Committee also decided to recommend to the General Assembly that, as a cost-saving measure, plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees, including informal meetings, should be adjourned by 6 p.m., and that no meetings should be held on weekends, with the exception of the general debate. It*

also decided to recommend that the cost-saving measure should also apply, for the remainder of 1999, to meetings on the calendar of conferences and meetings.

6. *The Committee further decided to recommend that, in order to avoid the late start of meetings, the General Assembly should reduce from one third to one quarter the quorum requirements for plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees and should remind delegations of the utmost importance of punctuality in the interest of ensuring an effective and orderly organization of work and achieving economies for the United Nations.*

7. **The Chairman** endorsed strongly the suggestions made at previous sessions that each delegation should designate one of its members to be present at the scheduled starting time of meetings. While some progress had been reported, there was still considerable room for improvement.

Paragraphs 15 to 18 (General debate)

8. *The Committee took note of paragraph 15 specifying the dates of the general debate, drew the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 16 suggesting a voluntary guideline of 20 minutes for statements in the general debate and endorsed the suggestions contained in paragraph 17 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

9. **The Chairman** urged representatives, in view of the large number of speakers already inscribed on the list of speakers in the general debate, to take the floor in the order in which they appeared on that list. Those unable to speak at the scheduled time would be put at the end of the list for that meeting.

10. *The Committee decided to recommend that the procedure for expressing congratulations outlined in paragraph 18 of the Secretary-General's memorandum should also apply during the fifty-fourth session.*

Paragraphs 19 to 21 (Explanations of vote, right of reply, points of order and length of statements)

11. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of its decision 34/401. It further decided to recommend to the Assembly that points of order should be limited to five minutes.*

12. *The Committee further decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 22 of the annex to resolution 51/241 and to paragraph 23 of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of that resolution (A/52/855), which states that, since in plenary meetings the*

length of statements other than the general debate averaged eight minutes, the General Assembly might wish to review the recommendation of a 15-minute limit contained in paragraph 22 of the annex to resolution 51/241.

13. The Committee further decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to rules 72 and 114 of the rules of procedure and paragraph 22 of annex VI thereto for appropriate action in plenary meeting and in the Main Committees.

Paragraph 22 (Records of meetings)

14. The Committee decided to take note of paragraph 22 of the Secretary-General's memorandum and, in that connection, decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the practice of not reproducing in extenso statements made in a Main Committee should be maintained for the fifty-fourth session.

Paragraph 23 (Seating arrangements)

15. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 23 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraph 24 (Concluding statements)

16. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the need for the full implementation of paragraph 17 of General Assembly decision 34/401 whereby concluding statements could only be made by presiding officers.

Paragraphs 25 to 28 (Resolutions)

17. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 32 of its decision 34/401 and to recommendation 3 (f) of the Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, to paragraph 5 of its resolution 48/264 and to paragraphs 1 and 10 of the annex to its resolution 45/45.

Paragraphs 29 to 31 (Documentation)

18. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 28 of its decision 34/401, to paragraph 6 of its resolution 48/264 and to paragraph 3 of its resolution 53/208 B emphasizing the six-week in advance rule governing distribution of documents.

19. The Committee also decided to draw the Assembly's attention to paragraph 32 of the annex to resolution 51/241 appealing for restraint in requesting new reports.

Paragraphs 32 to 36 (Questions related to the programme budget)

20. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the provisions contained in paragraphs 32 and 33 and to the observations contained in paragraphs 34, 35 and 36 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraphs 37 and 38 (Observances and commemorative meetings)

21. The Committee endorsed the suggestions contained in paragraphs 37 and 38 of the Secretary-General's memorandum including a 15-minute limit on statements.

Paragraphs 39 and 40 (Special conferences)

22. The Committee decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the recommendations referred to in paragraphs 39 and 40 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraph 41 (Meetings of subsidiary organs)

23. **The Chairman** drew attention to a letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences dated 2 September 1999 (A/54/313) informing him that the Committee had recommended, on the strict understanding that meetings would have to be accommodated within available facilities and services, that a number of subsidiary organs should be authorized to meet during the main part of the fifty-fourth session. Authorization was sought for the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

24. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should authorize the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to meet during the main part of the fifty-fourth session.

Section III. Observations on the organization of future sessions of the General Assembly

Paragraphs 42 to 44

25. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the recommendation referred to in paragraphs 43 and 44 of the Secretary-General's memorandum concerning the opening and closing dates of future sessions.*

Section IV. Adoption of the agenda (A/54/150)

Paragraphs 45 and 46

26. **The Chairman** said that, in accordance with rule 40 of the rules of procedure, the Committee would not consider the substance of any item except insofar as it bore on the question of whether or not to recommend the inclusion of that item in the agenda.

27. *The Committee took note of the suggestions made in paragraph 46 of the Secretary-General's memorandum and decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraphs 23 to 26 of the annex to resolution 51/241.*

Paragraph 47 (Inclusion of items)

Items 1 to 6

28. **The Chairman** said that since items 1 to 6 had already been dealt with, he took it that there were no comments on their inclusion in the agenda.

29. *It was so agreed.*

Items 7 to 95

30. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of items 7 to 95 in the agenda of the fifty-fourth session.*

Item 96

31. **Mr. Morel** (Seychelles) said that, following consultations with Madagascar and France, his delegation wished to propose that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of the item entitled "Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India" should be deferred to the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, without prejudice to the positions of those two countries on the issue.

32. **Mr. Boisson** (Monaco) said that his delegation supported that proposal.

33. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of the item should be deferred to the fifty-fifth session and that it should be included in the provisional agenda of that session.*

Item 97

34. **Mr. Wirasamban** (Thailand) said that, as delegations were aware, important developments were taking place in East Timor, in accordance with the agreements signed on 5 May 1999 by the Governments of Indonesia and Portugal, under the auspices of the United Nations. Those agreements came within the framework of the search for a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the situation. After consultations with the parties concerned, his delegation proposed that the Committee should recommend that the General Assembly, in plenary meeting, should resume consideration of the issue.

35. **Mr. Alabrune** (France) said that his delegation supported that proposal. Following consultations with the parties concerned, agreement had been reached on the proposal that item 97 should be considered directly in plenary meeting. The parties concerned had expressed the hope that the debate would be held at the beginning of December, and agreed that the recommendation to allocate the item for consideration in plenary meeting should be made on the understanding that the bodies and individuals concerned would be heard by the Fourth Committee in conjunction with the consideration of the item at the plenary session.

36. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 97 in the agenda of the fifty-fourth session.*

Items 98 to 165

37. *The Committee decided to recommend the inclusion of items 98 to 165 in the agenda of the fifty-fourth session.*

Item 166

38. **Mr. Norström** (Sweden) said that in 1999 the international community would commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The anniversary provided a special opportunity to assess progress in the ratification and implementation of the Convention and was an occasion to reaffirm commitments to achieving the universal realization of the rights of the child.

39. The representatives of Canada, Egypt, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan and Sweden had therefore proposed, in a letter to the Secretary-General contained in document A/54/141, that an item entitled “Commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child” should be included in the agenda of the fifty-fourth session. They proposed further that the item should be taken up in the plenary meeting, and that, although the actual date of the anniversary was 20 November, consideration of the item should be scheduled for the preceding week, preferably 15 November.

40. **Mr. Fulci** (Italy) said that the Convention on the Rights of the Child was a magnificent achievement of inter-State cooperation, and had gained almost universal acceptance. It laid down the fundamental principle that in all actions concerning children, the best interests of the child must be the primary consideration. The statute of the International Criminal Court, adopted in Rome in 1998, represented further progress in international law on children’s rights issues. His delegation strongly supported the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda of the fifty-fourth session.

41. **Mr. Boisson** (Monaco) said that the Security Council debate on children and armed conflict, on 25 August 1999, had made it clear that the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child left much to be desired, and not only in periods of armed conflict. His delegation supported the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda since that would provide an opportunity to reflect on the obstacles to the full implementation of the Convention.

42. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda of the fifty-fourth session.*

Items 167 to 169

43. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of items 167 to 169 in the agenda of the fifty-fourth session.*

Item 170

44. **Mr. Norström** (Sweden) said that, on behalf of the member States of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), he wished to draw attention to the letter to the Secretary-General contained in document A/54/193, in which those States proposed that an item entitled “Observer status for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in the General Assembly” should be included

in the agenda of the fifty-fourth session. Currently, 17 States from different parts of the world were members of International IDEA; in addition, five international non-governmental organizations participated in the activities of the Institute as associate members.

45. International IDEA was an intergovernmental organization that met the criteria for obtaining observer status as provided in General Assembly decision 49/426. It was based on an international agreement between Governments to which only the member States could be parties, and was also listed as an intergovernmental organization in the Yearbook of International Organizations. Its work was directly relevant to that of the United Nations: it promoted and advanced sustainable democracy and improved electoral processes worldwide, and was engaged in standard-setting activities and cooperation with countries in the building of democratic institutions. In all its activities, it adopted a non-prescriptive approach to the promotion of democracy and assistance in democratization.

46. International IDEA cooperated with the United Nations on several projects, including activities with the Electoral Assistance Division and with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. It would continue to focus its work on several key themes, such as democracy and conflict prevention and the relationship between democratization, sustainable development and poverty eradication. In view of the importance of consolidating and strengthening the links with the United Nations, pursuant to a decision taken by the Institute’s Council and Board of Directors, the member States of International IDEA were requesting that it be granted observer status in the General Assembly.

47. **Mr. Gatilov** (Russian Federation) said that International IDEA was an organization that did useful work. However, it was not a purely intergovernmental organization, because some non-governmental organizations were associate members, and as such, were represented on the Board of Directors and had the right to vote. If the Institute was granted observer status in the General Assembly, there could be undesirable consequences, and there was a real risk of a proliferation of non-governmental organizations seeking observer status in the General Assembly which would create an undesirable precedent for the future. The Committee needed to make a careful analysis of all the possible consequences of such a decision, and should not force a decision on the inclusion of a related item in the agenda.

48. **Mr. Dausa** (Cuba) said that while, in principle, his delegation had no objection to the work of International IDEA, it had some doubts about the intergovernmental nature of the Institute. Recalling that the General Assembly had decided, in decision 49/426, that the granting of observer status in the General Assembly should be confined to States and intergovernmental organizations, he pointed out that the statutes of the Institute included some provisions which were not appropriate for an intergovernmental body. The Committee needed more information, and should not take a decision at that stage.

49. **Mr. González** (Chile) said that discussion of observer status for International IDEA seemed beside the point, as that Institute was clearly intergovernmental in nature and thus met the legal criteria for such status. The Institute's fundamental objective was consistent and compatible with the objectives implicit in the Charter of the United Nations; far from awakening doubts or fears, the idea of promoting sustainable democracy the world over should be shared by all Member States. As that idea was a primary objective of Chile's internal and external policies, he wished to reiterate his country's unqualified support for the granting of observer status to the Institute at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

50. **Mr. Qin Huasun** (China) said that his delegation, having noted the Institute's useful cooperation with United Nations bodies, nevertheless noted that it was unique in that its membership included States and non-governmental organizations — as associate members — with identical rights and obligations. On the other hand, General Assembly resolution 49/426 had confined the status of observer to States and those intergovernmental organizations whose activities covered matters of interest to the General Assembly. It was therefore difficult to determine whether the Institute fulfilled the criteria for observer status set out in that resolution. Accordingly, he requested that members of the Committee should be given more time to study the matter.

51. **Mr. Al-Humaimidi** (Iraq) said that while his delegation had no objection to the Institute's praiseworthy aim of promoting democracy, the participation of non-governmental organizations in the Institute's activities raised concerns. Observer status should not be granted to organizations of such an ambiguous nature, and his delegation therefore preferred that the Institute should not be granted observer status in the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

52. **Mr. Baali** (Algeria) said that the problem presented by the proposal to grant observer status to the Institute was

not related to the Institute's objectives, which were positive, but was rather related to the Institute's legal status, specifically, whether it could properly be considered an intergovernmental organization as defined in General Assembly resolution 49/426. A reading of the Institute's statutes seemed to indicate that it was not purely an intergovernmental organization, but rather a hybrid comprising States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. There was a need to examine the legal aspects of that status in order to avoid setting a precedent, and he suggested that the experts of the Sixth Committee could be asked to rule on the matter.

53. *The Committee decided to defer consideration of the inclusion of item 170 to a later date.*

Item 171

54. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Senegal had asked to address the Committee in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

55. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Ka (Senegal) took place at the Committee table.*

56. **Mr. Ka** (Senegal) said that during the 28 years that the Republic of China on Taiwan had been excluded from the United Nations, it had not ceased to exist as a free, democratic and sovereign State. Moreover, it had existed as a State and not as a province, because no other country had jurisdiction over the geographical and physical entity that it represented. It existed on its own, in a well-defined territory of 36,000 square kilometres in which 22 million human beings lived under the authority of a legally and democratically constituted Government.

57. Consequently, the Republic of China indisputably possessed a territory and a population over which it exercised State power, and, last but not least, the power to conclude international agreements and treaties.

58. It was on the basis of the aforementioned objective factors that Senegal had made a sovereign and completely independent decision to re-establish diplomatic relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan in January 1996. Since that time, cooperation between Senegal and the Republic of China had grown through diverse agreements in areas ranging from economy to culture.

59. Some 30 other sovereign States in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Europe currently maintained diplomatic ties with the Republic of China. Moreover, nearly two thirds of the Member States of the United Nations openly maintained trade, economic and

other relations with that country, the fourteenth-largest trading nation in the world.

60. The purpose of his delegation's remarks was solely to correct the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) adopted on 25 October 1971. They were not directed at any other Member State of the United Nations. Senegal's action was based purely on the realities outlined above, and on the need to take account of the changes in the international situation since the end of the ideological confrontation of the Cold War. It was also founded on Senegal's adherence to the principles of universality, democratization and openness espoused by the United Nations. Finally, its action was legitimized by a desire to redress an historical injustice and to take due account of the historical, political, legislative and economic reality of the Republic of China on Taiwan. Having contributed to the creation of the United Nations system in 1945, the Republic should now regain its place within the Organization and the specialized agencies.

61. Senegal's initiative was not intended to have the Republic of China replace any other Member State. Rather, it was based on the tradition and recent history that had enabled and continued to enable divided States simultaneously to occupy parallel seats in the United Nations, pending the political and legislative conditions that would allow their peaceful reunification.

62. The United Nations had a particularly important role to play in resolving the status of Taiwan, especially since the General Assembly, a principal organ of the United Nations, had been responsible for depriving a State of its legitimate right of representation in that body. Similarly, the United Nations could not be excluded from the process of settling the question of Taiwan, any more than it could have been excluded from the settlement of the question of Palestine in 1947.

63. There was not a shadow of a doubt that the Republic of China on Taiwan was an active entity from the point of view of international law. A democratic and peace-loving State, it was a member of 14 intergovernmental organizations, including the Asian Development Bank. It also enjoyed observer status in the World Trade Organization, having fulfilled all the conditions for full membership.

64. The re-admission of the Republic of China to the United Nations would greatly facilitate the integration of the Taiwan Strait into the security system of the Organization, while at the same time providing an added guarantee of stability and peace in South-east Asia. It would also enhance the Organization's universality, which

had recently been confirmed by the proposal to admit the Kingdom of Tonga, the Republic of Nauru and the Republic of Kiribati as Members.

65. For those reasons, his delegation joined many others in calling for the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the item entitled "Need to examine the exceptional international situation pertaining to the Republic of China on Taiwan, to ensure that the fundamental right of its 22 million people to participate in the work and activities of the United Nations is fully respected".

66. *Mr. Ka (Senegal) withdrew.*

67. **Mr. Qin Huasun** (China) said that after repeated failure over the past six years, a small number of countries had once again raised the so-called question of "Taiwan's representation at the United Nations" in an attempt to create "two Chinas" in the Organization. Such an illegal act was an open challenge to the "one China" principle widely recognized by the international community and a gross violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It seriously infringed upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and interfered in China's internal affairs. The Chinese Government expressed its deepest indignation and strong condemnation of that initiative.

68. China strongly opposed the inclusion of item 171 in the agenda of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly. It hoped that the General Committee would continue to uphold justice, safeguard the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) and norms of international law, and support the position of the Chinese delegation.

69. It was general knowledge that there was only one China in the world and that Taiwan had been an inseparable part of China since ancient times. Numerous international instruments, including the 1943 Cairo Declaration and the 1945 Potsdam Proclamation had reaffirmed time and again China's sovereignty over Taiwan. According to international law, a change in the government of a country did not change the composition of its territory or citizens. The founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 had terminated the history of the Government of the Republic of China, and the Government of the People's Republic of China had been the sole legal Government representing the whole of China ever since.

70. The Government of the People's Republic of China, having inherited all Chinese territories under the jurisdiction of the previous government of the Republic of China, now exercised sovereignty over the whole of China, including Taiwan province, and had become the sole legal representative of China in the international community. To date, more than 160 countries in the world had diplomatic relations with China. They all acknowledged that there was only one China in the world, that Taiwan was a part of China, and that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the sole legal Government representing the whole of China. Although the two sides of the Taiwan Strait were currently in a state of separation, the status of Taiwan as a part of China was unchanged, as was China's sovereignty over Taiwan. The two sides of the Strait were by no means two countries. Thus it was hardly strange that the minute it was uttered Lee Tenghui's "special state-to-state relationship" theory had met with the unanimous opposition of and condemnation by all Chinese within and outside of China, as well as wide criticism by the international community. Indeed, many countries had reaffirmed their commitment to the "one China" principle.

71. In 1971, the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly adopted, by an overwhelming majority, the historically significant resolution 2758 (XXVI). Nevertheless, a handful of countries had gone so far as to willfully distort the meaning of that resolution and to claim that it had not addressed the issue of Taiwan's "representation at the United Nations". It was worth pointing out that, according to principles of international law, the sovereignty of a State was indivisible. Consequently, the representation of a State in an international organization composed of sovereign States was also indivisible.

72. In the 22 years preceding the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), owing to the Cold War, the Government of the People's Republic of China had been excluded from the United Nations and China's seat in the Organization had been illegally occupied by the Taiwan authorities. The resolution had corrected that historical Cold War error by recognizing clearly and unequivocally that "the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations are the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations and that the People's Republic of China is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council". It had further decided to restore all legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations and to expel the representatives of Taiwan, who were claiming to

represent China, "from the place which they unlawfully occupy at the United Nations and in all the organizations related to it".

73. Restoring the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China at the United Nations and expelling the Taiwan authorities from the Organization were two inseparable aspects of the single issue of China's representation at the United Nations. The resolution confirmed the "one China" principle and resolved the issue of China's representation at the United Nations in a just, thorough and comprehensive manner. Its adoption also defeated the attempts of a handful of countries to create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" at the United Nations. It was in conformity with the historical trend of the times and accorded with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. As of the day when the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China were restored at the United Nations, the Government of the People's Republic had rightfully represented all Chinese, including the Taiwan compatriots, in the United Nations and all organizations related to it. Thus, there was simply no such issue as the so-called question of "Taiwan's representation at the United Nations".

74. The United Nations was an international, intergovernmental organization composed of sovereign States. Its Charter clearly stipulated that membership in the United Nations was open only to such States. As a province of China, Taiwan was in no position to participate in the work or activities of the Organization or its specialized agencies. The Taiwan issue was fundamentally different from those of Germany and Korea and could not be treated parallelly. The German and Korean issues had resulted from a series of international agreements reached during and after World War II, while the issue of Taiwan had been left over from China's civil war. Therefore, the principle of parallel representation did not apply to Taiwan at all.

75. The General Committees at successive sessions of the General Assembly since 1993 had flatly refused to include the issue of Taiwan's so-called "participation" in the United Nations in the agenda of the General Assembly, thus fully demonstrating the determination of the vast majority of Member States to safeguard the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law and reflecting their strong will to preserve the solemnity of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Although the current proposal by a small number of countries was the result of elaborate and meticulous repackaging, it would inevitably come to the same end as that of all those that preceded it.

76. The issue of Taiwan was purely a Chinese affair internal for the Chinese themselves to resolve. It brooked no foreign interference. No one in the world cared more about the future and interests of their 22 million Taiwan compatriots than the Chinese Government and people. To resolve the question of Taiwan and realize the reunification of the motherland, the late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping had come up with the creative concept of “peaceful reunification and one country, two systems”, which later became and still remained a fundamental State policy. President Jiang Zemin had put forward an eight-point proposal for developing cross-Straits relations and promoting peaceful reunification of the motherland.

77. All those policies and proposals had taken into account the paramount goal of national development and the long-term interests of the entire Chinese population. They had also accommodated and helped protect the fundamental interest of the Taiwan compatriots and Taiwan’s need for development. They were warmly supported by all Chinese, including Taiwan compatriots, and had been well received by the international community.

78. The smooth return of Hong Kong in 1997 and the return of Macao by the end of 1999 had proved that the policy of “one country, two systems” was a great success. To achieve peaceful reunification of the motherland in accordance with the principle of “one country, two systems” was the aspiration of all Chinese, including Taiwan compatriots. In keeping with their long-term interest, it would also contribute to peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

79. As a matter of fact, the Chinese Government had taken a series of measures in recent years to promote dialogue, personnel exchange, economic relations and trade between the two sides of the Strait. However, the separatist remarks by Lee Tenghui and the Taiwan authorities’ attempts to create “two Chinas” in the international arena had severely damaged cross-Strait relations, built up tension in the area and endangered peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. The present initiative by a handful of countries would only encourage Taiwan’s separatist activities and hinder China’s peaceful reunification.

80. China attached importance to its relations with all Member States of the United Nations and was willing to develop friendly relations and cooperation with all countries in the world based on the principles of mutual respect for State sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other’s

internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.

81. China had done no harm to the interests of the small group of countries whose actions on the issue of Taiwan were undermining China’s fundamental State interests and injuring the feelings of the Chinese people. China hoped that those countries would arrive at a clear understanding of the situation and accept the historical trend, that they would abide by the Charter of the United Nations and relevant General Assembly resolutions, join the vast majority of Member States of the United Nations in their unanimous position on the issue, and cease to be deceived and taken advantage of by the Taiwan authorities. It hoped that those countries would stop supporting the Taiwan authorities’ separatist attempts to create “two Chinas”.

82. To realize the complete reunification of the motherland was the lofty mission of all 1.2 billion Chinese people. The Chinese Government’s determination to safeguard China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity had won the support of the majority of the countries of the world. The Chinese Government and people expressed thanks and paid tribute to those justice-supporting countries. They were confident that, as in previous years, the General Committee of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly would refuse to inscribe the so-called question of Taiwan’s “participation” in the United Nations in the agenda of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.