



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. OKEYO (Kenya)

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

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The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN welcomed all the members of the Committee, the observer delegations and the representatives of the Secretary-General and of the staff unions and associations, as well as the representatives of the specialized agencies, IAEA and other United Nations programmes and organizations.
2. The United Nations played an important and valuable role in the maintenance of international peace and the development of peoples. The role of the Fifth Committee was to oversee the administrative, budgetary and personnel aspects of the Organization and to ensure that it had the necessary tools to attain the objectives set forth in the Charter and fulfil the mandates given to it. The current session was particularly important since the United Nations was approaching the midpoint of the three-year time frame established by the General Assembly for the implementation of the reforms agreed upon in resolution 41/213. There was a need to take stock of the current situation and to take the necessary decisions to ensure the successful completion of the process that was under way.
3. There existed a diversity of views on the many and difficult questions that the Committee would be dealing with, but he was convinced that, with the co-operation of all delegations and the Bureau, satisfactory agreements could be reached.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

4. Mr. MURRAY (Trinidad and Tobago) nominated Mr. van den Hout (Netherlands) for the office of Vice-Chairman.
5. Mr. SINGH (Fiji) nominated Mr. Arastou (Islamic Republic of Iran) for the office of Vice-Chairman.
6. The CHAIRMAN said that, since there were only two nominations for the two posts of Vice-Chairman, he would take it that it was the wish of the Committee to dispense with a secret ballot.
7. Mr. van den Hout (Netherlands) and Mr. Arastou (Islamic Republic of Iran) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.
8. Mr. ABOLY-BI-KOUASSI (Côte d'Ivoire) nominated Ms. Rodríguez (Venezuela) for the office of Rapporteur.
9. The CHAIRMAN said that, since there were no further nominations, he would take it that it was the wish of the Committee to dispense with a secret ballot.
10. Ms. Rodríguez (Venezuela) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

11. Ms. OLDFELT (Sweden), speaking on behalf of Mr. Amneus, the representative of Sweden who had presided over the Committee at the previous session, congratulated the Chairman and the other members of the Bureau on their election.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/C.5/43/7; A/C.5/43/L.1)

12. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to document A/C.5/43/7, relating to the allocation of items to the Fifth Committee, and to the recommendations of the General Committee on the organization of the session contained in document A/43/250, section II. In particular, the Committee should note recommendation 3 (a) of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, which the General Committee had reproduced in its recommendations and which referred to the need to utilize fully available services, as well as the recommendations on the schedule of meetings. With regard to the provisions relating to explanations of vote and the right of reply (A/43/250, para. 12), the Chairman considered that the Committee should continue its practice of indicating in its reports to the Assembly those countries that had explained their vote. With respect to the recommendations relating to the programme budget (para. 17), he noted that a deadline of 1 December had been set for submission to the Committee of all draft resolutions with financial implications, and pointed out that if the Assembly decided to shorten the session the deadline would have to be adjusted accordingly. The Committee should consider the possibility of accepting without debate the Advisory Committee's recommendations on the financial implications of draft resolutions up to a limit of \$25,000 on any one item. The Chairman recommended that all delegations familiarize themselves with document A/43/250, section II, and with General Assembly decision 34/401, relating to the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the Assembly.

13. Lastly, he proposed that the list of speakers on an item should be closed 48 hours following its introduction, that statements should be made in the order in which delegations were inscribed, that representatives who were not present when due to speak should go to the end of the list for the day, and that the Rapporteur should be authorized to report directly to the General Assembly on all items considered, unless the Committee should decide to include a summary of the debate in its report.

14. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to proceed accordingly.

15. It was so decided.

16. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the tentative schedule of work for the current session. In the preparation of the schedule account had been taken of the availability of documentation, the availability of Committee Chairmen and the distribution of the work-load throughout the session. Note should be taken of document A/C.5/43/L.1, relating to the status of documentation of the Fifth Committee.

The Chairman

17. As was apparent from the tentative schedule of work, the Committee would have to consider a large number of items in the final days of the session. Accordingly, he urged all delegations to make their statements on agenda items as soon as possible, so that the Committee could conclude its general debate and, where necessary, proceed to informal consultations.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.