



General Assembly

Fifty-seventh session

Official Records

Distr.: General
25 October 2002

Original: English

General Committee

Summary record of the 1st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 11 September 2002, at 11 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Kavan (President of the General Assembly) (Czech Republic)

Contents

Organization of the fifty-seventh 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.

02-58639 (E)

*** 0258639 ***

The meeting was called to order at 11.15 a.m.

Organization of the fifty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/57/1)

Section I: Introduction

Paragraphs 3, 4 and 5

1. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the provisions contained in annexes V, VI, VII and VIII to its rules of procedure. It took note of paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Section II: Organization of the session

Paragraphs 6 and 7 (General Committee)

2. *The Committee took note of the decision and resolutions referred to in paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's memorandum. It also took note of paragraph 7.*

Paragraphs 8 to 15 (Rationalization of work)

3. *The Committee took note of paragraphs 8 to 13, regarding measures to revitalize and reform the work of the General Assembly, the Secretariat and the United Nations, and decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraphs 14 and 15 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Paragraphs 17 and 18 (Opening and closing dates of the session)

4. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should recess not later than Wednesday, 11 December 2002, and close on Monday, 8 September 2003. The Committee also decided to recommend to the Assembly that the First Committee should complete its work by Friday, 1 November, the Sixth Committee by Thursday, 7 November, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) by Friday, 8 November, the Third Committee by Friday, 22 November, and the Second and Fifth Committees by Friday, 6 December 2002.*

5. *The Committee further decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to its resolution 55/282,*

regarding the date of observance of the International Day of Peace.

Paragraph 19 (Seating arrangements)

6. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 19 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraphs 20 to 22 (Schedule of meetings)

7. *The Committee took note of paragraph 20 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, regarding meeting hours at Headquarters, and decided to recommend that, in order to avoid the late start of meetings, the General Assembly should waive 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.*

8. **The Chairman** strongly endorsed 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. He therefore urged all delegations to cooperate.

Paragraphs 23 to 25 (General debate)

9. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the provisions of its resolution 51/241 reproduced in paragraph 23 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

10. **The Chairman** said that the dates of the general debate were indicated in paragraph 24 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

11. *The Committee decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly at the opening of the general debate to the provisions outlined in paragraph 25 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, concerning the expression of congratulations in the General Assembly Hall.*

Paragraph 26 (Election of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Chairmen of the Main Committees and other officers of the Main Committees of the General Assembly)

12. *The Committee decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to rules 30, 31 and 99 (a) of its rules of procedure, as amended by its resolution 56/509.*

Paragraphs 27 to 32 (Conduct of meetings, length of statements, explanations of vote, rights of reply, points of order and concluding statements)

13. *The Committee decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the rules of procedure referred to in paragraph 27 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

14. *The Committee decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of its decision 34/401, dealing with explanations of vote and the right of reply. It decided to recommend to the Assembly that points of order should be limited to five minutes.*

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

16. *The Committee further decided to draw the Assembly's attention to paragraph 17 of its decision 34/401, whereby concluding statements could be made only by presiding officers.*

Paragraphs 33 and 34 (Records of meetings)

17. *The Committee endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraphs 33 and 34 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, inter alia, that the practice of not reproducing in extenso statements made in a Main Committee should be maintained for the fifty-seventh session.*

Paragraphs 35 to 37 (Resolutions)

18. *The Committee decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 32 of its decision 34/401, 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, and to paragraph 1 of the annex to its resolution 45/45.*

Paragraphs 38 to 46 (Documentation)

19. *The Committee decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 28 of its decision 34/401 and, in that connection, to the annex to its decision 55/488. It also decided to draw the Assembly's attention to paragraph 6 of its resolution 48/264 and to paragraph 2 of section III of resolution 56/242, in which the Assembly reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that documentation was available in accordance with the six-week rule for simultaneous distribution in the six official languages of the General Assembly.*

20. *The Committee further decided to draw the Assembly's attention to paragraph 5 of its resolution 48/264; to paragraph 32 of the annex to its resolution 51/241, appealing to all bodies to exercise restraint in requesting new reports and to consider integrating, biennializing or triennializing the presentation of reports; to paragraph 15 of the annex to its resolution 55/285, on the need for Member States to take concrete action to implement paragraph 32 of the annex to resolution 51/241, including by requesting more integrated reports; to paragraph 10 of the annex to its resolution 45/45, stating that resolutions should request observations from States or reports by the Secretary-General insofar as they were likely to facilitate the implementation of the resolutions or the continued examination of the question; and to paragraph 17 of the annex to its resolution 55/285, whereby Member States and entities of the United Nations system should submit their replies and inputs to requests for information or views pursuant to resolutions of the General Assembly within the prescribed deadlines.*

Paragraphs 47 to 52 (Questions related to the programme budget)

21. *The Committee decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the provisions referred to in*

paragraphs 47 to 51 and paragraph 52 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraphs 53 and 54 (Observances and commemorative meetings)

22. *The Committee endorsed the suggestions contained in paragraphs 53 and 54 of the Secretary-General's memorandum regarding the format and timing of observances and commemorative meetings and the length of statements.*

Paragraphs 55 and 56 (Special conferences)

23. *The Committee decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the recommendations referred to in paragraphs 55 and 56 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Section III: Observations on the organization of the work of the General Assembly

Paragraphs 57 and 58

24. *The Committee decided to take note of paragraph 57. It also decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should fix a date for the opening and the duration of the general debate.*

Paragraph 59

25. *The Committee decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the observations contained in paragraph 59 of the Secretary-General's memorandum regarding observances and commemorative meetings.*

Paragraphs 60 and 61

26. *The Committee decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the observations contained in paragraphs 60 and 61 of the Secretary-General's memorandum regarding the programme budget implications of draft resolutions.*

Paragraphs 62 and 63

27. *The Committee decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the observations contained in paragraphs 62 and 63 of the Secretary-General's memorandum regarding the implementation of rule 78 of its rules of procedure.*

Section IV: Adoption of the agenda (A/57/150 and 200)

Paragraphs 64 and 65

28. **The Chairman** said that, in accordance with rule 40 with 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.

Paragraphs 66 to 70

29. *The Committee took note of paragraph 66 and decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraphs 23 to 26 of the annex to its resolution 51/241. It also decided to take note of the provisions referred to in paragraphs 68 and 69 of the Secretary-General's memorandum. It further decided to take note of General Assembly decision 56/455, whereby the item entitled "Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion" would be included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly and would continue to be considered at odd-numbered sessions.*

Paragraph 71

30. *The Committee took note of paragraph 71 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, in which attention was drawn to General Assembly decision 49/426, whereby the Assembly had decided that the granting of observer status should in future be confined to States and to those intergovernmental organizations whose activities covered matters of interest to the Assembly.*

31. **The Chairman** noted that decision 49/426 would be of relevance for the consideration of the inclusion of items 167 and 168.

Paragraph 72 (inclusion of items)

Items 1 to 3

32. **The Chairman** said that, since items 1 to 3 had already been dealt with by the Assembly, he would take it that there were no comments on their inclusion in the agenda and that the items would be retained.

33. *It was so decided.*

Items 4 to 6

34. **The Chairman** recalled that, in accordance with its resolution 56/509, the General Assembly should elect at its fifty-seventh session the President, the Vice-Presidents and the Chairman of the Main Committees of the General Assembly for the fifty-eighth session. He noted that the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteurs of the Main Committees for the fifty-seventh session had yet to be elected. He therefore took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of items 4 to 6 in the agenda.

35. *It was so decided.*

Items 7 to 38

36. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of items 7 to 38 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Item 39

37. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 39 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Items 40 to 46

38. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 40 to 46 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Item 47

39. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 47 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Item 48

40. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 48 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Item 49

41. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 49 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Item 50

42. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 50 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Item 51

43. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 51 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Item 52

44. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 52 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Items 53 and 54

45. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 53 and 54 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Item 55

46. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 55 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Item 56

47. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 56 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Item 57

48. **The Chairman** said that the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had asked to participate in the discussion of item 57. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

49. *It was so decided.*

50. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Kim Chang Guk (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) took a place at the Committee table.*

51. **Mr. Kim Chang Guk** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the holding of the North-South Joint Meeting in Pyongyang in June 2000 and the adoption of a joint declaration had had historic significance for the maintenance of peace and security

on the Korean peninsula and the attainment of national reunification by the Korean people, and had been warmly welcomed by all Member States at the Millennium Summit. Despite the difficulties encountered subsequently, steps for the implementation of the joint declaration had been agreed and were being put into effect, and the North-South ministerial talks had resumed, as had contacts in various fields. The expression by Member States of encouragement for the implementation of the joint declaration and support for the process of national reunification would make a significant contribution to ensuring peace and security, not only on the Korean peninsula, but in the rest of the world. North and South had therefore agreed to the inclusion of the item in the agenda and had sent a joint letter to that effect to the Secretary-General.

52. *Mr. Kim Chang Guk (Democratic People's Republic of Korea withdrew.*

53. **The Chairman** said that the representative of the Republic of Korea had asked to participate in the discussion of item 57. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

54. *It was so decided.*

55. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Ha Chan-ho (Republic of Korea) took a place at the Committee table.*

56. **Mr. Ha Chan-ho** (Republic of Korea) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It was to be hoped that the contacts to which the latter had referred would continue in the future and that the provisions of the joint declaration would be fully implemented.

57. *Mr. Ha Chan-ho (Republic of Korea) withdrew.*

58. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 57 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Items 58 to 74

59. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 58 to 74 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Items 75 to 84

60. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 75 to 84 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Item 85

61. **Mr. Kpotsra** (Togo) said that, following consultations with the delegations of Madagascar and France, his delegation wished to propose that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of item 106, entitled "Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India", should be deferred to the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, without prejudice to the positions of those two countries on the issue.

62. **Mr. Fins-do-Lago** (Portugal) said that his delegation supported the proposal made by the representative of Togo.

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

Items 86 to 98

64. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 86 to 98 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Items 99 to 111

65. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 99 to 111 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Items 112 to 153

66. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 112 to 153 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.

Items 154 to 164

67. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 154 to 164 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Item 165

68. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 165 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Item 166

69. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 166 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Item 167

70. **Mr. Wang Yingfan** (China) said that his delegation supported the application for observer status for the Asian Development Bank in the General Assembly. The Bank had made a significant contribution to the development of the Asian region, and granting it observer status would promote its cooperation with the United Nations.

71. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 167 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Item 168

72. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 168 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.*

Item 169

73. **The Chairman** said that the inclusion of item 169, entitled "Question of the representation of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in the United Nations", had been proposed by a number of Member States in document A/57/191 and Add.1. The representative of the Gambia had asked to address the Committee on the matter under rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

74. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Grey-Johnson (Gambia) took a place at the Committee table.*

75. **Mr. Grey-Johnson** (Gambia), speaking on behalf of Burkina Faso, Chad, El Salvador, Grenada, the Marshall Islands, Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Solomon Islands and Swaziland, requested the inclusion of item 169 in the agenda. Pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, he drew attention to document A/57/191 and Add.1, which contained an

explanatory memorandum (annex I) and a draft resolution (annex II).

76. The explanatory memorandum sought to justify why the world should not pretend that a political, economic, social and cultural entity — the Republic of China on Taiwan — did not exist. When it served their interests to do so, States were quick to recognize the existence of that entity: they traded with it, maintained transport and communications links, invested capital in its industry, did business with its financial markets, benefited from its highly advanced scientific research and development activities, and acknowledged it as a leader in information and communications technology. The whole world interacted directly or indirectly with the Republic of China on Taiwan as an entity that existed in every sphere except one: the political and diplomatic sphere. Yet the world could benefit from the many good things Taiwan offered in that area as well: its democratic political system and form of government, its respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, its ability to create political conditions conducive to invention and innovation and its ability to maintain cordial relations with partner nations.

77. The failure of the United Nations to recognize the Republic of China on Taiwan and to bring it into full membership of the Organization was a grave anomaly, and the time had come to correct it. The Republic of China on Taiwan had been the only country in the world barred from participation in the recent World Summit on Sustainable Development and from other recent major conferences on food, children and development financing, areas in which most nations could benefit from its experience.

78. The principle of universality was fundamental to the mission of the United Nations. No nation could be left out of the global system of governance or avoid being held to certain standards of international behaviour and practice. Each year for many years, rational arguments for taking the legitimate question of the Republic of China on Taiwan to the General Assembly had been presented, but each year, arguments based solely on political considerations were used to counter that effort. He appealed for pragmatism in recognizing that the 23 million people of Taiwan were part of the world, and he urged that that nation should be allowed to make its rightful contribution to peace, security, stability and development by taking the seat reserved for it at the United Nations.

79. *Mr. Grey-Johnson (Gambia) withdrew.*

80. **The Chairman** said that a number of non-member sponsors had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure. In addition, there were a number of non-member non-sponsors who had asked to participate. As he saw no objection, he took it that members agreed to waive rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

81. *It was so decided.*

82. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Farhadi (Afghanistan), Mr. Cappagli (Argentina), Ms. Korneliouk (Belarus), Ms. Coye-Felson (Belize), Mr. Santiago (Brazil), Mr. Kafando (Burkina Faso), Mr. Ntahuga (Burundi), Ms. Thong (Cambodia), Mr. Laotegguelnodji (Chad), Mr. Acuña (Chile), Mr. Wang Yingfan (China), Mr. Djangone-Bi (Côte d'Ivoire), Mr. Requeijo Gual (Cuba), Mr. Christofides (Cyprus), Mr. Iлека (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Mr. Jon Yong Ryong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), Mr. Yahya (Djibouti), Mr. Gregoire (Dominica), Mr. Félix (Dominican Republic), Mr. Meléndez-Barahona (El Salvador), Mr. Florent (France), Mr. Briz Gutiérrez (Guatemala), Ms. Elliott (Guyana), Mr. Flores (Honduras), Mr. Prandler (Hungary), Mr. Widodo (Indonesia), Mr. Molla Hosseini (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr. Al-Awdi (Kuwait), Mr. Vixay (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Mr. Yahya (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Mr. Balzan (Malta), Mr. Capelle (Marshall Islands), Mr. Gokool (Mauritius), Mr. Gansukh (Mongolia), Mr. Arrouchi (Morocco), Mr. Tomás (Mozambique), Mr. Swe (Myanmar), Mr. Theron (Namibia), Mr. Ndekhekhe (Nigeria), Mr. Silas (Palau), Ms. Morgan-Moss (Panama), Mr. Buffa (Paraguay), Mr. Lacanilao (Philippines), Mr. Gatilov (Russian Federation), Mr. Richard (Saint Kitts and Nevis), Ms. Joseph (Saint Lucia), Ms. Ferrari (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Mr. Ferreira (Sao Tome and Principe), Mr. Fall (Senegal), Mr. Davies (Sierra Leone), Mr. Jino (Solomon Islands), Mr. Mahendran (Sri Lanka), Mr. Erwa (Sudan), Mr. Mamba (Swaziland), Mr. Nakkari (Syrian Arab Republic), Mr. Kpotsra (Togo), Mr. Sopoaga (Tuvalu) and Ms. Cedeño Reyes (Venezuela) took places at the Committee table.*

83. **Mr. Wang Yingfan (China)** said that once again the Gambia and a few other countries had raised the so-called issue of the representation of Taiwan in the United Nations, with the aim of creating two Chinas or

“one China, one Taiwan” in the Organization. He strongly condemned that unlawful act, which encroached upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and flagrantly violated the purposes and principles of the Charter. His delegation was resolutely opposed to the inclusion of item 169 in the agenda of the General Assembly.

84. It was an indisputable legal and objective fact that Taiwan had been an inseparable part of China's territory since ancient times. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), adopted by an overwhelming majority in 1971, had settled once and for all the issue of China's representation in the United Nations. The essence of that resolution was the universally recognized “one-China” principle. However, encouraged by the Taiwan authorities, the Gambia and a few other countries were distorting the resolution and openly challenging that principle. Sooner or later they would realize that such actions were wrong and harmful.

85. The Chinese Government had always stood for peaceful reunification of the country through dialogue between the parties on both sides of the Taiwan Strait on an equal footing and in accordance with the “one-China” principle. The Taiwan authorities, however, obstinately clinging to their position on Taiwan's independence, had stated publicly that the future status of Taiwan would be decided by referendum. The proposal submitted by the Gambia would only add fuel to the fire of separatism and undermine Chinese reunification.

86. Sponsors of similar proposals in recent years had often referred to the so-called democracy, freedom and economic achievement of Taiwan. Such statements, however, had no place in the review of the procedural matters before the General Committee, and were merely an attempt by the Taiwan authorities to use the Committee as a forum for carrying out separatist activities.

87. He wished to express his delegation's appreciation to the vast number of Committee members which had upheld justice by opposing the inclusion of that item in the agenda.

88. **Mr. Ferreira (Sao Tome and Principe)** said that the Republic of China on Taiwan was an independent sovereign State. Its 23 million people — a population larger than that of 69 per cent of all Member States — were not, nor had they ever been, governed by the

People's Republic of China. No one represented the people of Taiwan other than the Government they freely elected. Those were realities that could not be denied without dishonouring the principles and spirit of the Charter and distorting the history of the Organization, for the Republic of China was not only a founding Member of the United Nations but one of the four Powers that had met at Dumbarton Oaks to plan it. When in 1971 the General Assembly had adopted resolution 2758 (XXVI) denying the Republic of China membership, it had stripped generations of that country's citizens of their right to international representation, in total contravention of the principle of universality enshrined in the Charter.

89. The people of Taiwan overwhelmingly supported their flourishing democracy and enjoyed the benefits of their strong economy. The Republic of China daily demonstrated its good international citizenship through the diplomatic and commercial ties it maintained with most States Members of the United Nations and its membership in the World Trade Organization. Moreover, the Government and non-governmental organizations in Taiwan provided humanitarian aid and educational and technical assistance around the world.

90. **Mr. Cappagli** (Argentina) said that the resolution adopted more than three decades earlier had restored the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China to representation in the United Nations and the Security Council. Argentina had recognized that Government as the only legal Government of China. The request to include item 169 in the agenda would undermine the principle of territorial integrity as enshrined in the Charter. Argentina firmly upheld that substantive legal provision, and therefore did not support the inclusion of the item.

91. **Mr. Félix** (Dominican Republic) said that his delegation supported the request to include the question of the Republic of China on Taiwan in the agenda of the General Assembly. A global organization could not continue to practice exclusion, and it had a duty to implement the Charter principle of universality, according to which all peace-loving nations, including Taiwan, should be allowed membership in the Organization. Taiwan's marginalization in the United Nations since 1971 demonstrated that the conflict between the two Chinas had not been resolved but instead prolonged by that action.

92. **Mr. Erwa** (Sudan) said that the annual attempts to include the question of Taiwan in the agenda of the General Assembly showed a lack of respect for the resolutions of the General Assembly. His Government maintained its position that there was only one China, of which Taiwan was an integral and indivisible part.

93. **Mr. Laotegguelnodji** (Chad) said that the fact that the question of Taiwan's representation had come up for discussion on a regular basis since 1971 proved that a great injustice had been done to the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan. In the understanding of his delegation, the readmission of that country would in no way imply that another State should be excluded. He hoped that a consensus could be reached that would allow the item to be included in the agenda, and that a frank and sincere dialogue between the two parties, based on mutual respect, could be facilitated.

94. **Mr. Mamba** (Swaziland) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of the Gambia and supported the objective of universality. Since 1912, the Republic of China on Taiwan had been a sovereign State; it had democratic institutions and a major economy. The 1971 decision was flawed in that it had decided only the matter of Taiwan's representation in the United Nations, not its status.

95. **Ms. Elliott** (Guyana) said that her delegation opposed inclusion of the item. Taiwan was an integral part of China, and any consideration of that matter should be seen as a challenge to the authority of the General Assembly.

96. **Mr. Richard** (Saint Kitts and Nevis) said that the current debate was about exclusion, while the United Nations was about inclusion. Many States had joined the Organization since the end of the cold war, yet Taiwan remained on the fringes. The world had changed since 1971, and the United Nations would become outdated unless it could keep pace with those changes. The debate on the representation of the Republic of China should be focused on the possibility of dialogue and peaceful resolution of that question.

97. **Mr. Mahendran** (Sri Lanka) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) unequivocally stated that the People's Republic of China occupied the only legitimate seat for China in the United Nations. The situation obtaining before 1971 was of historical interest only; it was possible to understand why difficulties had arisen, but the authority of the General

Assembly must remain paramount. His delegation therefore urged that the proposed item should not be included in the agenda.

98. **Mr. Widodo** (Indonesia) said that the premises on which General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) was based remained valid: the People's Republic of China was the only State that could be regarded as legally representing the people of China. To include the item in the agenda would be to imply the existence of a problem where there was none.

99. **Mr. Buffa** (Paraguay) recalled that his delegation had written a letter to the Secretary-General, contained in document A/57/378, pointing out that the Republic of China on Taiwan had made great progress in all areas. It was to be hoped that, through dialogue, the parties could resolve their differences in a peaceful manner and within the norms of international law. Meanwhile, however, the General Assembly should include the item in the agenda of its current session, since the Republic of China on Taiwan met the requirements established in the Charter of the United Nations. His delegation had supported the admission of both the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China on Taiwan to the World Trade Organization.

100. **Mr. Jon Yong Ryong** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the People's Republic of China was the only legitimate representative of China, of which Taiwan was an integral part. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled that question once and for all. To seek separate representation for Taiwan ran counter to the spirit of that resolution and to the will of the Chinese people, who longed for China to be one. The item should not be included in the agenda.

101. **Mr. Ntahuga** (Burundi) said that, as a long-time supporter of the "one-China" policy and the supremacy of United Nations resolutions, his delegation believed that nothing could justify a departure from the spirit of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Indeed, it was time to seek closure on the issue, rather than reverting to it at every session of the General Assembly. The item should not be included in the agenda.

102. **Ms. Joseph** (Saint Lucia) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had conferred on the People's Republic of China legitimacy of representation in the United Nations. Her delegation therefore hoped that, in the wider interests of

prosperity and security, the parties could rediscover the bonds of brotherhood, while the international community worked towards a "one-China" policy instead of fuelling the hostility that characterized the relations between the parties at present. The item should not be included in the agenda.

103. **Ms. Ferrari** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) said that countries adhering to the abstract idea of one China continued to thwart the aspirations of the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan, who had for many years sought representation in the United Nations. Some of the bigger players on the world stage should broker a settlement between the two parties, thus bringing peace to them, to the region and to the world. The Republic of China on Taiwan had the seventeenth largest economy in the world and, after a turbulent past, was one of the few countries in Asia to enjoy a democratic system. The international community should cease to treat it as an orphan.

104. **Mr. Acuña** (Chile) said that the issue of China's representation had been definitively and equitably resolved by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI): the representative of the People's Republic of China was the sole legitimate representative of that country. His delegation was therefore opposed to the inclusion of the item in question.

105. **Mr. Al-Awdi** (Kuwait) said that it was clear from General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) that the People's Republic of China was the sole representative of China. Indeed, the attempt to reintroduce the question amounted to interference in China's internal affairs. His delegation was therefore against including the supplementary item.

106. **Ms. Morgan-Moss** (Panama) said that, as indicated in its letter to the Secretary-General, contained in document A/57/374, her delegation supported the proposal contained in document A/57/191 and Add.1. The question of the representation of the Chinese people was a delicate internal matter which should be resolved through dialogue. The United Nations was best placed to provide a forum for such dialogue.

107. **Mr. Swe** (Myanmar) expressed concern that the issue had been raised yet again. The universality of the United Nations did not apply in the current case, because Taiwan was an integral part of China and the United Nations was a body of sovereign States. Moreover, General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI)

recognized only the People's Republic of China as the lawful representative of China. Reconciliation between the parties was an internal matter to be decided by the Chinese themselves. His delegation would oppose the inclusion of the item.

108. **Mr. Farhâdi** (Afghanistan) expressed opposition to the inclusion of the item. It was clear from General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) that there was only one China. The People's Republic of China had proposed peaceful reunification with the motherland through dialogue, and the international community should allow the question to be settled by the parties, thus avoiding yet another futile debate at the fifty-eighth session.

109. **Mr. Silas** (Palau) said that the question of the representation of the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan, who fulfilled all the conditions required under the Charter of the United Nations, should be settled once and for all. Their exclusion from the United Nations lacked any legal basis. Meanwhile, the international community faced more profound questions, such as terrorism, HIV/AIDS and poverty, for which unity and cooperation were required. The Republic of China on Taiwan had much to contribute and should be invited to join the Organization. His delegation would therefore support the inclusion of the supplementary item, which should be followed by an affirmative resolution on the question, so that the United Nations could move forward to deal with issues affecting the whole world.

110. **Mr. Kpotsra** (Togo) said that the question of China's representation at the United Nations had been settled once and for all by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). The question of Taiwan was an internal matter that should be decided by the Chinese people. His delegation commended the Chinese Government for its position that the peaceful reunification of the country must take place through dialogue on the basis of the "one-China" principle. To include the proposed item in the agenda could seriously compromise the cause of China's reunification and threaten international peace and security.

111. **Mr. Meléndez-Barahona** (El Salvador) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of the Gambia. The international community had recently been enlarged still further, yet the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan were denied the right to exercise their

sovereignty. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had not resolved the question of representation, which should be reviewed in the light of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The item therefore deserved inclusion in the agenda.

112. **Mr. Fall** (Senegal) said that the Republic of China on Taiwan had been the victim of ostracism for too long. It was time for the United Nations to remedy the injustice done to that country, whose activities were fully in harmony with the Organization's aspirations. The accession by the Republic of China on Taiwan to the World Trade Organization showed that the country was worthy of playing a major role on the world stage. Its people, who had displayed dynamism, enterprise and generosity, should be given the opportunity to fulfil their economic and humanitarian obligations with the restoration of their legitimate rights.

113. **Mr. Capelle** (Marshall Islands) said that at a time when every other country on earth could participate in the United Nations, there was no rationale for excluding a sovereign State, a constructive member of the international community and a fully fledged democracy comprising 23 million people willing and entitled to play their part. Their exclusion was a violation of the United Nations principle of universality. Moreover, since the United Nations stood for peace, it had the responsibility to develop relations between the two parties by providing a forum for rapprochement.

114. **Mr. Balzan** (Malta) reiterated his delegation's view that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) was a clear and comprehensive reflection of the General Assembly's decision on the matter. The inclusion of the item in the agenda of the current session would not be conducive to an amicable solution to the situation and might even aggravate it.

115. **Mr. Requeijo Gual** (Cuba) said that the proposal to consider the question of the Republic of China on Taiwan had been rejected by a large majority every year since 1993, whereas General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) provided equitable and definitive reasons, both political and legal, for the People's Republic to be the only legal representative of China. The Republic of China on Taiwan, on the other hand, had been expelled from the United Nations and its associated organizations in 1971.

116. **Ms. Cedeño Reyes** (Venezuela) said that the item should not be included in the agenda, in accordance with the principle of the sovereignty of States and non-interference in internal affairs. Her Government, which enjoyed excellent relations and cooperation with the People's Republic of China, had consistently recognized that country as the sole representative of the Chinese people.

117. **Mr. Yahya** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the question of China's representation in the United Nations had been resolved by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which his delegation had helped to draft. The People's Republic of China was the Chinese people's only legitimate representative, and the inclusion in the United Nations of the Republic of China on Taiwan would constitute interference in the internal affairs of China. His delegation was opposed to the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

118. **Mr. Gatilov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation had consistently adhered to the principle that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China was fully upheld by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which recognized that Government as the only legitimate representative of the Chinese people. There was no need to reconsider the question, and the proposed item should therefore not be included in the agenda.

119. **Mr. Vixay** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) reiterated his delegation's view that there was only one China, which was represented by the People's Republic of China; Taiwan was an inseparable part of China. That position was made quite clear in General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), and the question should be laid to rest once and for all.

120. **Ms. Korneliouk** (Belarus) reiterated her delegation's support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China. Any attempt to establish two Chinas or one China and one Taiwan was unacceptable. The People's Republic was the only legitimate representative of the Chinese people, and the proposed item should not appear on the agenda.

121. **Ms. Coye-Felson** (Belize) said that respect for the principle of sovereignty should not imply a myopic disregard for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Although the Republic of China on Taiwan had a democratically elected Government, maintained diplomatic relations with 21 States and was active in

the areas of trade, investment and technology, the United Nations remained impervious to its achievements. It was time to end that injustice.

122. **Mr. Sopoaga** (Tuvalu) said that he wished to associate himself with the statement made by the representative of the Gambia. The principle under which Switzerland had been welcomed into the United Nations should serve as a basis for admitting the Republic of China on Taiwan; Member States should not be hampered by history or by rigid positions on the sovereignty issue. It was time to address the matter realistically, and that could not be done without including item 169 in the agenda.

123. **Mr. Christofides** (Cyprus) said that his delegation was not in favour of including the proposed item in the agenda because of his Government's unwavering commitment to the principles of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States and to the "one-China" policy. The issue had been resolved by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

124. **Mr. Ndekheadekhe** (Nigeria) said that the issue of the representation of the Republic of China on Taiwan in the United Nations was virtually that of its recognition as a sovereign State. The question must be politically, diplomatically and peacefully resolved by the two parties in question, who should be guided by the Charter and by the rules of civilized law and conduct. He was therefore unable to support inclusion of the item.

125. **Mr. Tomás** (Mozambique) reiterated his delegation's support for the "one-China" policy. Taiwan was part of China, and the Government of the People's Republic of China was the lawful Government representing the whole of China. Resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the issue of China's representation in the United Nations once and for all. His Government could not therefore support the inclusion of item 169 in the agenda.

126. **Mr. Santiago** (Brazil) said that resolution 2758 (XXVI) had definitively settled the issue of China's representation in the United Nations. His delegation therefore rejected the inclusion of the proposed item.

127. **Mr. Kafando** (Burkina Faso) said that his Government, which maintained diplomatic relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan, was strongly in favour of that country's return to the United Nations so

that its people could assume their share of responsibility within the Organization. Taiwan's sovereignty, which had been challenged by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), had become a tangible political reality. His delegation sought a just and equitable solution to an exclusion which was untenable for the Taiwanese people, particularly in the current climate of globalization.

128. **Mr. Gansukh** (Mongolia) said that there was no compelling reason for inclusion of the supplementary item since it was well known that resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the question of the representation of the Chinese people and Government. The item's inclusion would be contrary to the principled decision taken by the General Assembly in 1971.

129. **Mr. Jino** (Solomon Islands) said that Member States were fully aware of the realities surrounding Taiwan's bid for membership in the United Nations: there were no legal barriers, only political obstacles. The Asian Development Bank, the Asia-Pacific Economic Community and the World Trade Organization had responded positively to Taiwan's willingness to shoulder its international obligations. For all intents and purposes, Taiwan was a sovereign country with its own political, judicial and economic systems and was controlled solely by its democratically elected Government. It had a defined territory and a stable population of over 23 million citizens. The Republic of China on Taiwan and the People's Republic of China were two distinctly separate countries; neither had control over the other. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) concerned only the question of the membership of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations; it did not address the issue of sovereignty over any other independent land mass occupied by ethnic Chinese. He therefore endorsed the proposal to include item 169 in the agenda.

130. **Mr. Arrouchi** (Morocco) said that his delegation's opposition to inclusion of the agenda item was consistent with its policy of respect for the Charter, international law and the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States.

131. **Mr. Flores** (Honduras) said that the United Nations was a universal forum in which every country, including the Republic of China on Taiwan, had the right to participate. He urged the Committee to

recommend the inclusion of the item in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

132. **Mr. Gregoire** (Dominica) said that his delegation associated himself with those delegations that had proposed the inclusion of the item. The 23 million citizens of the Republic of China on Taiwan had earned the right to participate in the work of the United Nations and its agencies and to be treated no differently from the citizens of any other country in international affairs. Since the end of the cold war, the principle of universality had taken on new urgency, particularly in the light of the admission of Switzerland and Timor-Leste to the Organization. He strongly urged that item 169 should be included in the agenda.

133. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that for the past nine years an overwhelming majority of Member States had opposed inclusion of the item in the agenda of the General Assembly. Resolution 2758 (XXVI) had resolved the question of the admission of the Republic of China on Taiwan to the United Nations, and any attempt to establish two Chinas would violate the territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China, which was the sole representative of the Chinese people. He was therefore unable to endorse the proposal.

134. **Mr. Florent** (France) said his delegation continued to believe that attention should be focused on promoting peaceful dialogue between the parties on either side of the Taiwan Strait.

135. **Mr. Gokool** (Mauritius) said that his delegation unequivocally supported the view that there was only one China and that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the sole legal Government and representative thereof. He reaffirmed his Government's commitment to General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had settled the issue once and for all. Taiwan was not eligible to participate in the work of the United Nations, including its specialized agencies, under any name whatsoever. His delegation was therefore opposed to the inclusion of the proposed item.

136. **Ms. Thong** (Cambodia) said that her Government recognized only one China; the issue of Taiwan was an internal matter to be settled by the people of that country and should not be brought before a world body. In adopting resolution 2758 (XXVI) by an overwhelming majority, the General Assembly had reaffirmed the "one-China" principle and had resolved

the issue of China's representation in the United Nations. Accordingly, her delegation rejected the item's inclusion in the agenda for the fifty-seventh session.

137. **Mr. Lacanilao** (Philippines) said that there were important legal and political reasons for defeating the proposal. The United Nations was composed of sovereign States represented by their duly constituted Governments. His delegation supported the "one-China" policy, and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) recognized the representatives of the People's Republic of China as the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations. Inclusion of the item would therefore contradict a clear decision of the General Assembly.

138. **Mr. Yahya** (Djibouti) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had definitively settled the issue: there was only one China, and the People's Republic of China was its sole representative. He therefore opposed inclusion of the item, which would constitute interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of China.

139. **Mr. Djangone-Bi** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that his country had maintained friendly diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China for over 20 years. There was only one China, and only the Chinese people could resolve its internal matters. The legal issue involved had been resolved with the adoption of resolution 2758 (XXVI); in the interests of credibility, that decision must be respected. The Berlin Wall had fallen, a solution to the problems of the Korean Peninsula was in sight and the African Union had recently come into being; in the context of those changes, his delegation rejected the item's inclusion in the agenda.

140. **Mr. Ileka** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) reaffirmed his delegation's position that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had definitively restored the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China. There was only one China, and Beijing was its capital, with sovereignty over all the territory of China, of which Taiwan was an integral part. He therefore rejected the proposal.

141. **Mr. Molla Hosseini** (Islamic Republic of Iran) pointed out that the United Nations was an intergovernmental organization composed of sovereign States. The representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China were the only lawful

representatives of China to the United Nations. His Government supported the "one-China" policy and the noble cause of national reunification; it therefore opposed inclusion of item 169 in the agenda.

142. **Mr. Davies** (Sierra Leone) said that his delegation steadfastly opposed any effort to divide China, endorsed the "one-China" principle and encouraged efforts to achieve national reunification. The international community had long accepted the People's Republic of China as the only representative of China. The United Nations should therefore abide by the norms of international relations, including the principles of sovereignty and non-interference, and by the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and should vehemently oppose Taiwan's efforts to participate in any organization composed solely of Member States.

143. **Mr. Briz Gutiérrez** (Guatemala) said that his Government, which maintained full diplomatic, trade and cultural relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan, was concerned that its inhabitants' aspirations had not been met and therefore welcomed its admission to the World Trade Organization. However, in a letter dated 10 January 1997 (S/1997/23), his Government had assured the Security Council that it respected the contents of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), had never intended to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries and fully supported the peaceful settlement of disputes. He trusted that a satisfactory solution to the differences between the Republic of China on Taiwan and the People's Republic of China would be found.

144. **Mr. Prandler** (Hungary) said that his country's policy remained unchanged: it had consistently endorsed the "one-China" principle and was opposed to the inclusion of the proposed item.

145. **Mr. Theron** (Namibia) said that he opposed inclusion of the item. There was only one China, of which Taiwan was an integral part, and the People's Republic of China was the sole legal representative of the whole of China, a position which the General Assembly had endorsed in its resolution 2758 (XXVI).

The meeting rose at 2 p.m.