



# General Assembly

Fifty-seventh session

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## General Committee

### Summary record of the 2nd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 11 September 2001, at 3 p.m.

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

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Organization of the fifty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General  
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*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.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** (continued) (A/BUR/57/1)

*Section IV: Adoption of the agenda (continued)*

*Paragraph 72 (Inclusion of items) (continued)*

*Item 169 (continued)*

1. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to resume its consideration of item 169, entitled "Question of the representation of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in the United Nations".

2. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Benmehidi (Algeria), Mr. Manguera (Angola), Mr. Ahmad (Bangladesh), Mr. Tidjani (Cameroon), Mr. Daratzikis (Greece), Mr. Stanislaus (Grenada), Mr. Traoré (Guinea), Mr. Ali (Iraq), Mr. De Vito (Italy), Mr. Moleko (Lesotho), Ms. Roholinirina (Madagascar), Mr. Sevilla Somoza (Nicaragua), Mr. Khalid (Pakistan), Ms. Jiménez de la Hoz (Spain), Mr. Kulyk (Ukraine), Mr. Yussuf (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr. Obidov (Uzbekistan), Mr. Mubarez (Yemen), Mr. Mubebo (Zambia) and Mr. Muchetwa (Zimbabwe) took places at the Committee table.

3. **Mr. Traoré** (Guinea) recalled that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had been adopted by a wide majority of member States in 1971 and was firmly enshrined in the collective memory. Through that resolution, Member States had unambiguously recognized the People's Republic of China as the only representative of China at the United Nations. Guinea was proud to have been the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to have established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and appreciated the role which that country had played in safeguarding international peace and security. Its support of the emancipation of peoples and of all just causes was fully shared by Guinea. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of an item regarding Taiwan in the agenda.

4. **Ms. Jiménez de la Hoz** (Spain) said that, as in the past, her delegation opposed the inclusion in the agenda of an item regarding the representation of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

5. **Mr. De Vito** (Italy) said that in adopting resolution 2758 (XXVI), the General Assembly had recognized the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China as the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations. In accordance with that resolution and with its respect for the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China, his Government wished to reiterate its view that a satisfactory resolution of any differences that existed could only be achieved peacefully through constructive dialogue. In the interests of such a dialogue and an agreed arrangement that was in the mutual interest, Italy could not support the inclusion of the item in question in the agenda.

6. **Mr. McLeod** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation's position was unchanged: it did not support the inclusion of the item in question in the agenda. The United Kingdom continued to welcome the development of democracy in Taiwan and looked to the parties on both sides of the Taiwan Strait to resolve their differences peacefully.

7. **Mr. Abebe** (Ethiopia) said that his Government's position was clear: there was only one China in the world, and the Government of the People's Republic of China was the sole legal Government representing the whole of China, including Taiwan. Ethiopia considered that all legal and political ambiguity regarding the representation of China in the United Nations and its specialized agencies had been definitively settled by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), and it opposed any step which contravened and jeopardized the letter and spirit of that resolution. Accordingly, his delegation rejected the proposal to include the issue of Taiwan in the agenda.

8. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria) said that his Government subscribed to the principle and policy of one China, represented by the People's Republic of China. It had held the same view even before the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which constituted the international community's decision on China's representation at the United Nations. His delegation was disappointed that for several years the work of the General Committee had been regularly interrupted by attempts to reopen a debate that was long closed, wasting scarce resources and time. Algeria fully supported the responsible efforts of the People's Republic of China to reunify its territory. It joined others in opposing the inclusion in

the agenda of item 169, which had been proposed by a small number of delegations.

9. **Mr. Maitland** (South Africa) said that on 1 January 1998, South Africa had established full diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and had ended its official relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan, thereby giving notice that it supported the "one-China" principle and its goals. The issue of Taiwan was an internal matter that should be resolved by the Chinese people. In the light of those considerations and the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), his delegation could not support the inclusion of the proposed item.

10. **Mr. Smagulov** (Kazakhstan) said that Kazakhstan strongly opposed the inclusion of the item in the agenda. It fully supported the efforts of the Government of the People's Republic of China to safeguard that country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. That Government was the only legitimate representative of the people of China. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had resolved the issue of China's representation at the United Nations in political, legal and procedural terms. Moreover, the matter was an internal one which the Chinese Government and people could settle by themselves.

11. **Ms. Roholinirina** (Madagascar) said that her Government was strongly opposed to including an item on Taiwan in the agenda. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had definitively settled the matter of China's participation in the United Nations and its agencies. Madagascar firmly believed that there was only one China, the People's Republic of China, of which Taiwan formed an integral part. Any proposal to make Taiwan a separate participant in the United Nations should therefore be seen as challenging the Organization's past decisions and violating one of its fundamental principles: the territorial integrity of its Member States.

12. **Mr. Ali** (Iraq) said that his delegation unhesitatingly supported the sovereignty, territorial integrity and legal status of the People's Republic of China. There was only one China, and Taiwan was an integral part of it. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had confirmed that the People's Republic of China was the sole representative of China. The question of Taiwan was an internal matter which should be peacefully settled; to regard it otherwise would be to interfere in the internal affairs of a country

which had always supported international peace, security and cooperation. Taiwan's economic development and diplomatic and commercial relations did not entitle it, as a single province, to secede. Iraq therefore opposed the inclusion of the item in question in the agenda.

13. **Mr. Aguilar Zinser** (Mexico) said that his delegation supported China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and that the inclusion of the proposed item would be incompatible with the Organization's interests. There were no grounds for questioning the validity of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which Mexico continued to support. He therefore opposed the inclusion of the question in the agenda.

14. **Mr. Muchetwa** (Zimbabwe) said that the conspiratorial request to include in the agenda an item on the Chinese eastern province of Taiwan's participation in the United Nations had been heard frequently in recent years. His delegation condemned those attempts, as there was only one China. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had rightly restored lawful rights within the United Nations system to the People's Republic of China, which included the eastern province of Taiwan. That that province was populous and economically healthy was only a reflection of the state of China as a whole. Member States should therefore desist from sowing seeds of secession based on frivolous arguments. Zimbabwe rejected any attempt to include what was a non-issue in the agenda of the present or future sessions of the General Assembly.

15. **Mr. Ahmad** (Bangladesh) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) constituted the Organization's final decision that the Government of the People's Republic of China was that country's only legitimate representative. The international community at large adhered to a "one-China" policy which considered Taiwan to be a province of China. Bangladesh was opposed to the proposed inclusion in the agenda of a supplementary item regarding representation of the Republic of China (Taiwan), and felt that any attempt to include such an item would complicate the existing situation rather than help to resolve it.

16. **Mr. Mubarez** (Yemen) said that his country had itself been reunified, and his delegation understood the importance of reunification of homelands, not just for

sentimental reasons, but for practical reasons: promoting the development of a single country, enhancing international cooperation and putting an end to internal conflict. Those considerations, and Yemen's good relations with the Government and people of the People's Republic of China, led his delegation to support the country's unification and to oppose the inclusion of item 169 in the agenda.

17. **Mr. Daratzikis** (Greece) said that the validity of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had provided a political, legal and procedural solution to the issue of China's representation in the United Nations, should be respected. Greece had always supported the principles of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China, and therefore opposed the inclusion in the agenda of the item in question.

18. **Mr. Kulyk** (Ukraine) wished to reiterate his Government's position that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the only lawful representative of the whole of China, of which Taiwan was an integral part. The question of China's representation in the United Nations had been resolved by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) and was therefore not a matter for further consideration. Ukraine opposed the request to include in the agenda a supplementary item regarding the representation of Taiwan in the United Nations and the United Nations system.

19. **Mr. Acemah** (Uganda) said that Uganda had consistently considered that the representation of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in the United Nations had been resolved definitively in 1971, by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had restored the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China and expelled Taiwan from the Organization. Any attempt to reopen the matter was therefore interference in the internal affairs of China and a violation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations. Uganda therefore firmly opposed the inclusion in the agenda of the item in question.

20. **Mr. Moleko** (Lesotho) said that the inclusion in the agenda of the question of Taiwan's representation in the United Nations had become an annual ritual. His delegation strongly opposed the inclusion of an item on that question. As a supporter of the "one-China" policy, Lesotho was against any proposal which sought to create two Chinas or one China, one Taiwan.

21. **Mr. Dhakal** (Nepal) said that he wished to reaffirm his delegation's support for the "one-China" principle. The question of the representation of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in the United Nations had already been settled by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), and he therefore urged the Committee to reject the inclusion of the proposed item 169.

22. **Mr. Tidjani** (Cameroon) said that Cameroon's position on the matter in question was well known. In keeping with the spirit and the letter of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), his delegation held that there was one indivisible China, namely the People's Republic of China. Cameroon enjoyed excellent relations with that country and was therefore strongly opposed to the inclusion of item 169.

23. **Mr. Obidov** (Uzbekistan) said that his delegation was committed to the letter, spirit and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in favour of the implementation of all the provisions of resolution 2758 (XXVI). It was his firm belief that the representatives of the People's Republic of China were the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations, and the Committee should therefore refrain from including item 169 in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.

24. **Mr. Yussuf** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, as in previous years, his delegation was firmly opposed to the inclusion of an item in the agenda pertaining to the representation of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and considered that efforts to reopen the debate on that issue were risky and fraught with problems. At a time when the call for respect for international law was being heard loud and clear, there were no compelling reasons to undermine the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI); consequently, the Committee should dismiss the request before it.

25. **Mr. Mubebo** (Zambia) said that his Government recognized only one China and regarded Taiwan as an integral part of Chinese territory. The Government of the People's Republic of China was thus the only legitimate Government of China. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which confirmed the international community's recognition of the People's Republic of China, must be respected, and he wished to reaffirm his opposition to the inclusion of item 169 in the agenda.

26. **Mr. Manguiera** (Angola) said that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, his delegation strongly defended the unity and integrity of all States, including China. Taiwan was an integral part of China, and therefore the People's Republic of China was the only legal representative of the Chinese people in the United Nations. His delegation did not support the inclusion of item 169.

27. **Mr. Stanislaus** (Grenada) said that debate on the question of Taiwan had become an annual ritual and that, as in the past, his delegation supported the inclusion of the item on that question in the agenda. Given that the Republic of China had, inter alia, elected its own President, enacted its own laws and regulations and established its own social, political and economic systems, it could be considered a democratic and sovereign State. The loss of the Republic of China's seat in the United Nations meant that 23 million peace-loving people were denied representation in the world body where they had once represented the whole of China. The Republic of China was not a threat to the People's Republic of China, nor was it seeking the removal of that country from the United Nations, and it was regrettable that two peoples with so much common heritage were still at loggerheads. The fact that both countries were now members of the World Trade Organization augured well for the future, and it was clear that if they combined their skills they could become dominant players on the world stage.

28. **Mr. Khalid** (Pakistan) said that it was futile to indulge in discussions on a question already settled by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which recognized the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate representative of China to the United Nations. After such an unequivocal judgement, any attempt to revive the debate on the issue constituted a serious violation of the Charter of the United Nations and illegal interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign Member State, which could have serious political implications. His delegation held that Taiwan was an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China and therefore strongly opposed the inclusion of item 169 in the agenda.

29. **Mr. Sevilla Somoza** (Nicaragua) said that the return of Taiwan to the United Nations was more than a political issue — it was a humanitarian necessity and would benefit the whole world. The admission of Taiwan would contribute to peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region and would create a forum in which

reconciliation between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan could be discussed.

30. His delegation's support for the inclusion of item 169 in the agenda was based on the fact that the Republic of China met all the requirements set out in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the requirement of democracy, as evidenced by the fact that Taiwan had just held its second general election in which 83 per cent of the population had voted. The recent admission of Switzerland to the United Nations represented a step towards genuine universality, but that universality would be impossible without the admission of Taiwan.

31. *The Committee decided not to recommend the inclusion of item 169 in the agenda.*

32. *Mr. Ben Mehidi (Algeria), Mr. Manguiera (Angola), Mr. Ahmad (Bangladesh), Mr. Tidjani (Cameroon), Mr. Daratzikis (Greece), Mr. Stanislaus (Grenada), Mr. Traoré (Guinea), Mr. Ali (Iraq), Mr. De Vito (Italy), Mr. Moleko (Lesotho), Ms. Roholinirina (Madagascar), Mr. Sevilla Somoza (Nicaragua), Mr. Khalid (Pakistan), Ms. Jiménez de la Hoz (Spain), Mr. Kulyk (Ukraine), Mr. Yussuf (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr. Obidov (Uzbekistan), Mr. Mubarez (Yemen), Mr. Mubebo (Zambia) and Mr. Muchetwa (Zimbabwe) withdrew.*

#### *Section V. Allocation of items*

##### *Paragraphs 73 to 76*

33. **The Chairman** drew attention to paragraphs 73 to 76 of the memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/57/1), which stated that the allocation of items was based on the pattern adopted by the General Assembly for those items in previous sessions. The Committee might wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 4 of its resolution 34/401, paragraph 5 of the annex to its resolution 39/88 B, paragraph 6 of the annex to its resolution 45/55, paragraphs 2 and 5 (b) and (d) of annex I to its resolution 48/264 and paragraph 24 of the annex to its resolution 51/241 concerning the allocation and clustering of items.

34. *The Committee decided to take note of paragraphs 73 to 76.*

*Paragraph 77*

35. **The Chairman** said that in paragraph 77 of his memorandum (A/BUR/57/1), the Secretary-General drew the attention of the Committee to paragraphs 2 and 3 of General Assembly resolution 54/195, concerning the criteria and procedures for the granting of observer status in the General Assembly.

36. *The Committee decided to take note of paragraph 77.*

*Paragraph 78*

37. *The Chairman* said that in paragraph 78 of his memorandum (A/BUR/57/1), the Secretary-General listed items of the draft agenda which had not been considered previously by the General Assembly. If the members of the Committee agreed, he would first request the Committee to pronounce itself on the recommendation that it should make regarding the allocation of those items recommended for inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session.

38. *It was so decided.*

*Items 167 and 168*

39. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that items 167 and 168 should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

*Paragraph 81 (Item 10 of the draft agenda)*

40. **The Chairman** noted that the Secretary-General had made a presentation on the item to the General Assembly at its 1st plenary meeting.

*Paragraph 82 (Item 12 of the draft agenda)*

41. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the various parts of the report of the Economic and Social Council should be allocated in accordance with the suggestions made by the Secretary-General in paragraph 82 of his memorandum.*

*Paragraph 83 (Item 19 of the draft agenda)*

42. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that all chapters of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples*

*relating to specific Territories should be referred to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), thereby enabling the Assembly to deal in plenary meeting with the question of the implementation of the Declaration as a whole..*

*Paragraph 84 (Item 22 (h) of the draft agenda)*

43. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 22 (h) should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

*Paragraphs 85 (Item 23 of the draft agenda) and 86 (Item 25 of the draft agenda)*

44. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should take note of paragraphs 85 and 86.*

*Paragraph 87 (Item 39 of the draft agenda)*

45. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) should be considered directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that bodies and individuals having an interest in the question would be heard in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in conjunction with the consideration of the item in plenary meeting.*

*Paragraph 88 (Item 41 of the draft agenda)*

46. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should take note of paragraph 88.*

*Paragraph 89 (Item 43 of the draft agenda)*

47. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 43 should be allocated to the Second and Third Committees.*

*Paragraph 90 (Item 55 of the draft agenda)*

48. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 55 should be allocated at an appropriate time during the session.*

*Paragraph 91 (Item 67 of the draft agenda)*

49. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the paragraphs of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency dealing with the subject matter of item 67 should be drawn to the*

attention of the First Committee in connection with its consideration of that item.

*Paragraph 92 (item 100 of the draft agenda)*

50. **The Chairman** said that in paragraph 92 of his memorandum (A/CUR/57/1) the Secretary-General drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 56/38 and decision 56/473, in which the Assembly had decided to devote two plenary meetings of the fifty-seventh session to the outcome of the International Year of Volunteers and its follow-up.

51. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should take note of paragraph 92.*

*Paragraph 93 (Item 104 of the draft agenda)*

52. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the annual report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the operations, management and budget of the United Nations Development Fund for Women should be referred to the Second Committee for consideration under item 90 of the draft agenda.*

*Paragraph 94*

*Items proposed for consideration in plenary meeting*

53. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed in the Secretary-General memorandum for consideration in plenary meeting, excluding items 43 and 55 and taking into account its decision on item 52, should be allocated to the plenary Assembly.*

*Items proposed for consideration by the First Committee*

54. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed in the Secretary-General's memorandum for consideration by the First Committee should be allocated to that Committee.*

*Items proposed for consideration by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)*

55. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed in the Secretary-General's memorandum for consideration by*

*the Fourth Committee should be allocated to that Committee, taking into account its decision on the item entitled "Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India".*

*Items proposed for consideration by the Second Committee*

56. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed in the Secretary-General's memorandum for consideration by the Second Committee, including item 43, should be allocated to that Committee.*

*Items proposed for consideration by the Third Committee*

57. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed in the Secretary-General's memorandum for consideration by the Third Committee, including item 43, should be allocated to that Committee.*

*Items proposed for consideration by the Fifth Committee*

58. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed in the Secretary-General's memorandum for consideration by the Fifth Committee should be allocated to that Committee.*

*Items proposed for consideration by the Sixth Committee*

59. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed in the Secretary-General's memorandum for consideration by the Sixth Committee should be allocated to that Committee.*

*The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.*