



President: Mr. Jorge E. ILLUECA (Panama).

AGENDA ITEM 5

Election of the officers of the Main Committees

1. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I should like to inform members that the following representatives, whom I wish to congratulate, have been elected Chairmen of the seven Main Committees of the Assembly and are accordingly members of the General Committee for the thirty-eighth session [decision 38/303]:

First Committee: Mr. Tom Eric Vraalsen (Norway);

Special Political Committee: Mr. Ernesto Rodríguez Medina (Colombia);

Second Committee: Mr. Peter Dietze (German Democratic Republic);

Third Committee: Mr. Saroj Chavanaviraj (Thailand);

Fourth Committee: Mr. Ali Treiki (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya);

Fifth Committee: Mr. Sumihiro Kuyama (Japan);

Sixth Committee: Mr. Liès Gastli (Tunisia).

AGENDA ITEM 6

Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly

2. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): Pursuant to rule 31 of the rules of procedure, we shall proceed to the election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly, who are to be chosen in such a manner as to ensure the representative character of the General Committee.

3. All Members of the General Assembly are eligible in this election except those already represented in the General Committee—namely, those countries whose representatives have been elected to the presidency of the General Assembly or to the chairmanships of the Main Committees.

4. In accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 33/138, of 19 December 1978, the 21 Vice-Presidents shall be elected according to the following pattern: six representatives from African States, five representatives from Asian States, one representative from an Eastern European State, two representatives from Latin American States, two representatives from Western European or other States, and five representatives from the permanent members of the Security Council.

5. In accordance with paragraph 16 of annex VI to the rules of procedure, the election of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly by secret ballot will be dispensed with when the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled. In other words, whenever the number of candidates in a given group corresponds to the number of seats to be filled in that group, those candidates will be declared elected. We shall proceed accordingly.

6. I shall now read out the names of the States endorsed by the following regional groups. Six African States: Algeria, Burundi, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Swaziland; five Asian States: Bhutan, Lebanon, Nepal, Pakistan and Singapore; one Eastern European State: Czechoslovakia; and two Western European or other States: Belgium and Canada.

7. Since the number of candidates endorsed by the Groups of African, Asian and Eastern European States, as well as the Group of Western European or other States, corresponds to the number of seats to be filled in each group, I declare those candidates and the five permanent members of the Security Council elected Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly.

8. Regarding the Group of Latin American States, I have received a communication dated 19 September 1983 from the chairman of the Group informing me that his Group has decided to transmit to the General Assembly the candidacies of Chile and Guatemala.

9. I have now received a request that a ballot be taken on the candidates for the seats of the Latin American States.

10. The Assembly will therefore proceed to a vote by secret ballot for the Group of Latin American States. Any ballot containing the names of more than two States or the names of States from another region will be declared invalid.

11. In accordance with existing practice, the candidates which receive the largest number of votes and not less than the majority required will be declared elected. May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

12. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): The ballot papers will now be distributed. I request Members of the Assembly to use only those ballot papers and to write on them the names of the States for which they wish to vote. The ballot paper indicates that two States are to be elected. Ballot papers containing more than that number will be declared invalid.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Hutchens (Australia), Mr. Konadu-Yiadom (Ghana) and Mr. Ott (German Democratic Republic) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

13. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I propose to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 6.20 p.m. and resumed at 6.35 p.m.

14. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): The result of the voting is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	152
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	152
<i>Abstentions:</i>	19
<i>Number of Members voting:</i>	133
<i>Required majority:</i>	67

Number of votes obtained:

Venezuela	71
Guyana	65
Chile	54
Guatemala	49
Saint Lucia	2
Trinidad and Tobago	2
Argentina	1
Bahamas	1
Costa Rica	1
Ecuador	1
Mexico	1
Nicaragua	1
Peru	1

Having obtained the required majority, Venezuela was elected Vice-President of the General Assembly.

15. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): Since only one Member State has obtained the required majority, there remains one vacancy to be filled. In accordance with the rules of procedure, the Assembly will proceed to a second ballot, which will be restricted to the two candidates having obtained the largest number of votes, namely, Guyana and Chile. I request representatives to use only the ballot papers that are being distributed and to write the name of the State for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers containing countries other than Guyana or Chile will be declared invalid.

16. I call on the representative of Chile, who wishes to speak on a point of order.

17. Mr. TRUCCO (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I should like to raise a point of order, Sir, but first allow me to congratulate you, on behalf of the Government and delegation of Chile, on your election to the post of President of the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly. The friendship that ties us to Panama and our knowledge of your experience assure us that your presidency will mark a milestone in the history of the General Assembly.

18. I wish to announce the withdrawal of Chile's candidacy for the post of Vice-President of the General Assembly, but I also wish the Assembly to know the candidacies of Guatemala and Chile for the two vice-presidencies to which the Group of Latin American States is entitled at this session have been before the Group since February and March this year.

19. Within the system in the Latin American Group candidacies could be presented up to 1 June this year. However, leaving aside the question of any deadline, these two candidacies remained without any discussion within the Group for more than six and a half months—from February and March this year up to the present.

20. Not until last Friday was there a meeting of the Latin American Group to study the situation concerning all the Group's candidacies. As is well known, there were no candidacies opposing those of Guatemala and Chile for vice-presidency of the General Assembly. However, a tiny minority in the Group, no more than four or five countries, wishes not to comply with the rules of the game and has come to the Assembly claiming not to have been candidates for the post of vice-president of the General Assembly, which is now under discussion, because the Group already had two candidacies, as already stated by the Group's chairman.

21. Whenever something has been favourable to that very small minority it has been able to count on a consensus or the good will of the rest of the Latin American Group, which has stuck to the rules of the game. But now, six months later and contrary to the will of the great majority in the Group, candidacies have been presented

which have not been considered by the Group. This is all taking place only in the General Assembly.

22. This not only damages the traditional respect which should prevail among regional groups but also, because of the duplicity involved, could bring chaos to the election of officers of the General Assembly.

23. My delegation intends to call for an urgent meeting of the Group of Latin American States. Meanwhile, what has occurred compels my delegation not merely to withdraw its candidacy, as a matter of self-respect, but also to withdraw the assistance extended to any candidacy presented by delegations which have so flagrantly flouted the wishes of the majority of the Group.

24. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): The statement of the representative of Chile will of course be taken into account by delegations.

25. Voting has already begun and in accordance with the rules of procedure, we must continue the process.

26. Before continuing, I call on the representative of Pakistan, who wishes to clarify a point.

27. Mr. FAREED (Pakistan): I wish to seek clarification in regard to what we are supposed to do now. We have just heard a statement by the representative of Chile announcing the withdrawal of his country's candidature for the post of Vice-President.

28. According to what you said earlier, Mr. President, the two countries which had received the highest number of votes would be considered for the next ballot. Is our understanding correct, therefore, that the next ballot will be between Guatemala and Guyana?

29. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): In view of the comment just made by the representative of Pakistan, and so that we may act objectively and reasonably, I shall ask the Legal Counsel of the United Nations, who is here, to give his opinion on the application of the rules of procedure—that is, whether we should vote as announced before the representative of Chile raised his point of order or follow the procedure just suggested by the representative of Pakistan.

The meeting was suspended at 6.45 p.m. and resumed at 6.50 p.m.

30. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I wish to inform the Assembly that we have received the view of the Legal Counsel. According to the rules of procedure, when the first vote for two posts of Vice-President results in only one of the candidates obtaining the required majority, the following ballot is restricted to the two candidates with the largest number of votes—in the present case Guyana and Chile—and the rules exclude all other candidates. In this case a vote is required. Even though Chile has stood down for the reasons stated, it is the Legal Counsel's view that the procedure I proposed is the correct one: the ballot which will now be held will be restricted to Guyana and Chile, since these are the two candidates with the largest number of votes in the previous ballot. I would therefore ask the tellers to collect the ballots.

31. I call on the representative of Chile to speak on a point of order.

32. Mr. TRUCCO (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): With the greatest respect for the opinions of the Legal Counsel, nobody can compel me to fill a post when I have stood down. I wish to save the Assembly the time and effort involved in a needless vote. Even if I were elected, I would not be prepared to serve as a Vice-President. Indeed, I really expected that the person to withdraw his candidacy would have been the candidate who had in fact stated in advance that he would on no account

be a candidate or agree to become one. In view of the situation which has arisen, I am no longer prepared to serve as a Vice-President of the General Assembly.

33. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): In view of the remarks of the representative of Chile, I wish to consult the Assembly. Does it agree to declare Guyana elected by acclamation, which would conclude the vote?

34. I call on the representative of Guatemala to speak on a point of order.

35. Mr. QUIÑONES AMÉZQUITA (Guatemala) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. President, first of all I should like to congratulate you on your election.

36. My point of order is as follows. I think that on this occasion the wishes and desires of the Group of Latin American States have been overlooked. With the exception of two countries, it was the wish of that Group that the candidacies of Chile and Guatemala be endorsed. That has not happened. I respect the desire of the countries that voted for the other candidates, but we cannot agree to the election of Guyana by acclamation because we voted against Guyana. If the record showed that there were votes against the election of Guyana, my country would appear on that list.

37. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I call on the representative of Venezuela to speak on a point of order.

38. Mr. MARTINI URDANETA (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. President, at the outset I should like to congratulate you on your election.

39. In connection with the election of Venezuela as Vice-President of the Assembly, I must first of all express my thanks to the various countries that voted for us and enabled our country to assume this responsibility. But I should like to place on record some points that I consider to be of vital importance.

40. First, Venezuela is a democratic, free, sovereign and pluralistic country. We are aware of our rights and obligations. In the Group of Latin American States there was a discussion on this situation, and it was agreed that the chairman of the Group would present to the General Assembly only the two candidacies that have been presented. Nevertheless, a majority vote supported my country, and we cannot reject the sovereign and democratic vote of the Assembly. I must therefore state that we did not seek to be a candidate, but we do accept that responsibility.

41. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): In view of the statement by the representative of Guatemala, I have no alternative but to proceed with the vote. In accordance with the legal opinion, the vote will have to take place in the manner announced. Representatives are requested to take note of the statement by the representative of Chile. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Hutchens (Australia, Mr. Konadu-Yiadom (Ghana) and Mr. Ott (German Democratic Republic) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

42. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I propose to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 7.05 p.m. and resumed at 7.20 p.m.

43. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): The result of the voting is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	147
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	13
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	134
<i>Abstentions:</i>	23
<i>Number of Members voting:</i>	111
<i>Required majority:</i>	56
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Guyana	100
Chile	11

Having obtained the required majority, Guyana was elected Vice-President of the General Assembly.

44. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): The General Committee for the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly has now been fully constituted in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure.

45. I express my thanks to the tellers for their assistance and I congratulate the countries that have been elected Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly.

The representatives of the following Member States were elected Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly: Algeria, Belgium, Bhutan, Burundi, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, France, Guyana, Lebanon, Liberia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sudan, Swaziland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela (decision 38/304).

The meeting rose at 7.25 p.m.