



General Assembly

Sixtieth session

First Committee

24th meeting

Tuesday, 18 July 2006, 10.20 a.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Choi Young-jin (Republic of Korea)

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Election of the Chairperson and the Bureau of the First Committee for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly

The Chairman: I take great pleasure in calling to order the 24th meeting of the Disarmament and International Security Committee — the First Committee — of the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

This meeting has been convened to elect the Chairperson and the Bureau, consisting of three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur, of the First Committee for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 99 (a) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, as amended by resolution 56/509 of 8 July 2002, and with rule 103, as well as with annex B, paragraph 9, of resolution 58/126 of 19 December 2003.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to convey to the members of the Bureau at the sixtieth session — Vice-Chairpersons Mrs. Gabriela Martinic of Argentina, Mr. Detlev Wolter of Germany and Mr. Lotfi Bouchaara of Morocco and the Rapporteur, Ms. Elvina Jusufaj of Albania, our appreciation for their extraordinary performance and assistance in steering the work of the Committee to a successful conclusion.

We shall now proceed with the electoral process, starting with the chairmanship of the First Committee.

It is my privilege and honour to nominate the candidate of the Group of Western European and Other States, Ambassador Mona Juul of Norway, for the post of Chairperson of the First Committee for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

Ambassador Juul has been a member of the Foreign Service of Norway since 1988, representing her country with distinction throughout the world, in various capacities. She has served as Head of Division, Special Adviser/Ambassador/Middle East Coordinator, State Secretary, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador to Israel and Ambassador to Cyprus. Since January 2005, she has been Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations.

Given her vast experience and impressive credentials, it is truly an honour for me to submit her candidature to the Committee today.

Since there are no other nominations, may I take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure and established practice, the First Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to declare Ambassador Mona Juul of Norway elected Chairperson of the First Committee for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly by acclamation?

It was so decided.

The Chairman: I should like now to proceed to the election of the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.



of the First Committee for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

It is my pleasure to put before the Committee the nominations for the posts of Vice-Chairman of the First Committee: for the Group of Asian States, Mr. Andy Rachmianto of Indonesia; for the Group of Eastern European States, Mr. Boštjan Malovrh of Slovenia; and for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, Mr. Federico Perazza of Uruguay. I am also pleased to inform the Committee that Mr. Abdelhamid Gharbi of Tunisia has been nominated by the Group of African States for the post of Rapporteur.

Bearing in mind that those four candidates for the posts of Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur have been endorsed and nominated by their respective regional groups unanimously, I expect that the Committee would wish to move to elect them by acclamation.

It was so decided.

The Chairman: Allow me, on behalf of the Committee and on my own behalf, to express sincere congratulations to Ambassador Mona Juul on her election as Chairperson of the First Committee and to Mr. Andy Rachmianto, Mr. Boštjan Malovrh and Mr. Federico Perazza on their election as Vice-Chairmen, as well as to Mr. Abdelhamid Gharbi on his election as Rapporteur of the First Committee for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

I am confident that, given their wealth of experience, political acumen and invaluable knowledge, the First Committee will forge ahead in its work with great success during the sixty-first session.

I now give the floor to the Chairperson of the First Committee for the sixty-first session, Ambassador Mona Juul.

Mrs. Juul (Norway): On behalf of my country and on my own behalf, I would like to thank all members for the confidence that you have placed in

me. It is an honour to be elected to chair this Committee. Allow me also to congratulate the new members of the Bureau. I look forward to working with you all.

Disarmament and non-proliferation is a priority area for the Norwegian Government. We all stand to gain when nations work together to address today's challenges in the field of disarmament and international security. Norway would like to see an active and engaged United Nations, and we believe that the General Assembly has a central role to play in promoting international peace and security. Its First Committee is given the crucial task of finding solutions to our common security challenges. Norway values highly the work of this Committee, and we look forward to making a contribution through its chairmanship.

The past few years have seen important efforts to improve the working methods of the First Committee. I hope to build on the achievements of Member States and, indeed, of my predecessor in the Chair in order that the Committee can work as effectively as possible and give its full attention to the crucial issues before it.

I look forward to the task with enthusiasm. As Chair of this important Committee, I will place great emphasis on good communication with delegations through the regional groups. I will be in frequent contact with all of you, both here in New York and in Geneva. Your views, concerns and ambitions will serve as my guide when I prepare for the Committee's fall session. I count on your support and continued cooperation, and I look forward to working with all of you.

The Chairman: Like other members, I appreciate the vision and determination expressed by Ambassador Juul. I wish her all the best in her new job.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.