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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 13 October 2010, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Deiss (President of the General Assembly) (Switzerland)

Contents

Organization of the sixty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by the Secretary-General

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Organization of the sixty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items *(continued)*

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by the Secretary General (A/65/231)

1. **The Chair** drew attention to the request submitted by the Secretary-General for the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "Follow-up to the high-level meeting held on 24 September 2010: revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations" (A/65/231).

2. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) said that he wished to clarify whether the request was for the item to be included in the agenda of the sixty-fifth session or as a recurring item for subsequent sessions. He also questioned whether the Committee would wish to recommend allocation of the item both to the plenary Assembly and to the First Committee, as proposed by the Secretary-General, since, according to his delegation's understanding of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, agenda items could be allocated to the Main Committee having the requisite expertise to consider them. His delegation believed that the First Committee was the competent Committee to consider the item in question.

3. He proposed that the title of the requested item should be amended to read: "Follow-up to the high-level meeting held on 24 September 2010: revitalizing the work of the international disarmament machinery, including the Conference on Disarmament, and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations", so that the question could be comprehensively considered by the First Committee.

4. **Mr. Kleib** (Indonesia) said that the high-level meeting had been convened as one of a series of meetings aimed at advancing the non-proliferation and disarmament agenda and maintaining momentum, especially following the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in New York, and the Nuclear Security Summit, held in Washington, D.C. His delegation agreed that a number of follow-up actions were required after the high-level meeting, and it therefore supported the Secretary-General's request for inclusion of an additional item, exactly as worded in his letter. It was to be hoped that the new agenda item could be used to strengthen

efforts to revitalize the Conference on Disarmament and other United Nations disarmament machinery and provide a forum for further discussion on how to take forward multilateral disarmament negotiations. He encouraged all Committee members to give their full support to the request for inclusion of the item and its allocation both to the plenary and to the First Committee.

5. **The Chair**, responding to the points raised by the representative of Pakistan, said it was clear from the Secretary-General's letter that the request was for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. The Committee would decide on the recommendation it should make regarding the allocation of the item after deciding on the inclusion of the item in the agenda. Recalling that, pursuant to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Committee was not permitted to discuss the substance of an item but was required simply to recommend whether or not the item should be included in the agenda, he said that the proposed amendment to the title of the requested item changed its substance and was not therefore admissible.

6. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) said that his delegation's proposal did not relate to the substance of the item, except in so far as it had a bearing on the Committee's recommendation regarding the inclusion of the item; according to rule 40 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Committee was permitted to discuss the substance of an item under those circumstances. The proposed amendment, which merely sought to make the item more comprehensive and all-inclusive, was consistent with the contents of the letter in which the Secretary-General had convened the high-level meeting, as well as the letter currently before the Committee.

7. **Ms. Lucas** (Luxembourg) said that the Secretary-General's decision to convene the high-level meeting had come at a crucial time for the future of the Conference on Disarmament, which must prove itself capable of meeting current challenges. That very timely initiative now required follow-up by the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. With regard to the proposal made by the representative of Pakistan, it was important to recall that the title of the additional item requested in the Secretary-General's letter reflected the actual name of the high-level meeting held on 24 September 2010. Consequently, a change in that title would constitute a change in the name of the high-level meeting after the fact. Her delegation therefore

supported the inclusion of the requested item, as worded in the Secretary-General's letter, in the agenda of the current session.

8. **Mr. Ntwaagae** (Botswana), reiterating the importance of maintaining the momentum generated by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and recalling with concern that the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament had not advanced for quite some time, said that his delegation fully supported the Secretary-General's timely request, which should significantly advance the disarmament agenda of the global community. The question of whether to allocate the agenda item both to the plenary Assembly and to the First Committee was a matter of detail that could be decided subsequently.

9. **Mr. Ndong Mba** (Equatorial Guinea) said that he joined other delegations in supporting the Secretary-General's request for the inclusion of an additional item, as originally submitted. Such action would allow further discussions and expedite progress on the issue, as part of a peacekeeping and conflict prevention strategy.

10. **Ms. DiCarlo** (United States), reiterating the importance of disarmament for her country, said that her delegation had found the high-level meeting to be very useful and, like other delegations, wished to build on the momentum created by the 2010 Review Conference. She therefore supported the Secretary-General's request, as originally submitted.

11. **The Chair** said that the representative of Egypt had asked to participate in the discussion. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to that request.

12. *It was so decided.*

13. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Abdelaziz (Egypt) took a place at the Committee table.*

14. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt) said that the Secretary-General's request had particular merit, bearing in mind that the high-level meeting had been convened in response to an invitation contained in the outcome document of the 2010 Review Conference (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (vol. I)). Although his delegation was concerned that the explanatory memorandum attached as an annex to the Secretary-General's letter failed to mention many of the issues that had been raised by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at the high-level meeting, including the need to conclude a nuclear weapons

convention and to set 2025 as the target date for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, he believed that a decision to include the requested item in the agenda of the current session did not preclude subsequent negotiations on the wording of a draft resolution that addressed the concerns of all delegations. He therefore appealed to the representative of Pakistan to allow the inclusion of the item. Egypt had always supported strengthening the disarmament machinery and the role of the Conference on Disarmament and believed that the eventual consensus adoption of a resolution on the requested agenda item would be a very positive step.

15. *Mr. Abdelaziz (Egypt) withdrew.*

16. **Mr. Ould Hadrami** (Mauritania) endorsed the Secretary-General's request.

17. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) said he wished to clarify that his delegation did not oppose the Secretary-General's proposal but sought to further strengthen it. The proposed amendment was in line with paragraph 1 of the explanatory memorandum, which referred to widespread recognition of the importance of multilateralism, as well as to broad concern about the current status of the multilateral disarmament machinery.

18. **Mr. Badji** (Senegal), reiterating his delegation's commitment to disarmament, said that he joined other delegations in supporting the Secretary-General's proposal. As a member of the Conference on Disarmament, Senegal was well aware of the problems currently faced.

19. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion, in the agenda of the sixty-fifth session, of an additional item entitled "Follow-up to the high-level meeting held on 24 September 2010: revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations".*

20. *The Chair said he took it that the Committee recommended to the General Assembly that the additional item should be allocated to the plenary and to the First Committee, on the understanding that, in the plenary, the Assembly would hold the debate on the item and that the First Committee would consider any proposals pertaining thereto.*

21. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.