



# General Assembly

Sixty-fifth session

## First Committee

**24**<sup>th</sup> meeting

Wednesday, 22 June 2011, 4 p.m.  
New York

*Official Records*

*President:* Mr. Koterec ..... (Slovakia)

*The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m.*

### **Election of the Chair and the Bureau of the First Committee for the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly**

**The Chair:** In accordance with rule 99 (a) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, this meeting has been convened to elect the Chair of the First Committee for the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

On behalf of the First Committee, I would like to convey to the other members of the Committee's Bureau at the sixty-fifth session — the Vice-Chairs, Mr. Herman Schaper of the Netherlands, Mr. Carlos Sorreta of the Philippines and Mr. Hossam Aly of Egypt, and the Rapporteur, Mr. Enrique Ochoa of Mexico — our appreciation for their valuable contributions and assistance in guiding the work of the Committee to a successful conclusion.

We shall now proceed with the election of the Chair of the First Committee. It is my privilege and honour to nominate the candidate of the Group of Western European and other States, Mr. Jarmo Viinanen, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations, for the post of Chair of the First Committee at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

Ambassador Viinanen assumed his functions as Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations in April 2009. Prior to his appointment, he was Secretary General and Chief of Cabinet to the

President of Finland from 2005 to 2009. Between 2000 and 2005, he was the President's diplomatic adviser, Deputy Secretary General and Deputy Chief of Cabinet. From 1998 to 2000, he was Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and he served as First Secretary in the Foreign Ministry's Department of External Trade Relations from 1997 to 1998.

Mr. Viinanen spent several years outside his country, including a term at Finland's Embassy in Tel Aviv, where he served as Second Secretary and then First Secretary and Deputy Chief of Mission from 1990 to 1994. He was posted to Washington, D.C., as First Secretary from 1994 to 1997. Between 1988 and 1990, he served as an attaché in the Foreign Ministry's Administrative and Political Departments, and in Vienna. He holds a Master of Arts degree in political science from the University of Turku.

Given his vast experience and impressive credentials, it is truly an honour for me to submit his candidature for the chairmanship of the Disarmament and International Security Committee today.

As there are no other nominations, may I take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure and with established practice, the First Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to declare Ambassador Jarmo Viinanen of Finland elected as Chair of the First Committee at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly by acclamation?

*It was so decided.*

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**The Chair:** On behalf of the Committee, I congratulate Ambassador Viinanen on his election and I pledge to him my personal support and cooperation, and that of the delegation of Slovakia, as he carries out his duties throughout the sixty-sixth session.

Regarding the election of the three Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur of the First Committee for the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, I would like to inform delegations that the consultations on nominations are still continuing in the regional groups. It is therefore necessary to allow some time for those consultations. The First Committee will revert to this matter at a later date, to be announced in a timely manner.

I now give the floor to the Chair-elect of the First Committee for the sixty-sixth session, Ambassador Jarmo Viinanen.

**Mr. Viinanen** (Finland): I highly appreciate the trust placed in me by Member States. It is a great honour as well as a challenge, at a time of renewed determination to move the disarmament agenda forward after years of standstill. There are encouraging signs. The successful outcome of the 2010 Review

Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was a milestone in strengthening the world's nuclear and non-proliferation regime. Furthermore, there is momentum to revitalize the Conference on Disarmament and re-energize the multilateral disarmament negotiations. That is being fostered by the Secretary-General and supported by a significant number of Member States.

The General Assembly plenary meeting on disarmament in July will be an important opportunity to take forward this agenda. The next year will be crucial to multilateral disarmament issues. The conference on the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul and the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will all take place next year.

I hope that the First Committee will seize upon this renewed momentum in disarmament negotiations. Once again, I express my thanks to the Committee for giving me the honour to chair this important body during the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

*The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.*