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**Chairman:** Mr. Nemi Chandra KASLIWAL  
(India).

Statement by the Chairman

1. The CHAIRMAN thanked the delegations which had elected him to the office of Chairman of the Third Committee.

Welcome to the representatives of Burundi, Jamaica, Rwanda,  
and Trinidad and Tobago

2. The Chairman welcomed the delegations of the countries—Burundi, Jamaica, Rwanda, and Trinidad and Tobago—which had recently been admitted to the United Nations (1122nd plenary meeting).

Election of the Vice-Chairman

3. Mr. ZULOAGA (Venezuela) nominated Mr. Lineu de Albuquerque Mello (Brazil) as Vice-Chairman and said that his great ability and knowledge of international law made him particularly well qualified to fill that office.

4. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) supported the nomination.

*Mr. Albuquerque Mello (Brazil) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.*

Election of the Rapporteur

5. Mrs. MARTIN (Guinea) nominated Mrs. Sivomey (Togo) as Rapporteur. She said that Mrs. Sivomey was well known throughout Africa for her work on behalf of African women and that her election to the office of Rapporteur of the Third Committee would serve as an endorsement of the effective participation of African women in international life.

6. Mr. BOUQUIN (France) and Mrs. AFNAN (Iraq) supported the nomination.

*Mrs. Sivomey (Togo) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

Minute of silence in memory of the victims of the floods in  
Spain

*On the proposal of the representative of Mauritania, the members of the Committee observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of the victims of the disaster which had struck the region of Barcelona, Spain.*

7. Mr. SANZ BRIZ (Spain) expressed his profound gratitude to the members of the Committee for their display of human solidarity.

Organization of work (A/C.3/594, A/C.3/L.977 and Add.1)

8. Mr. LUQMAN (Mauritania) proposed that, as the Committee was to consider the item entitled "Measures to be adopted in connexion with the earthquake in Iran" (item 91 of the agenda of the General Assembly), it should also consider an additional question relating to the measures to be adopted in connexion with the floods in Spain.

9. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that it was not for a main Committee, but rather for the General Committee and the General Assembly, to decide on the inclusion of new items in the agenda.

10. Concerning the order of priority the Committee should follow, he drew attention to the note by the chairman (A/C.3/L.977) and particularly to paragraphs 5, 10, 6, 9 and 7. In connexion with paragraph 7, he noted that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had indicated that he wished to participate in the deliberations when the Committee considered the item entitled "Draft Declaration on the Right of Asylum" (item 46) and that he would arrive in New York on 19 November.

11. He noted lastly that 21 December 1962 had been set as the closing date for the General Assembly and that the Third Committee would be able to hold approximately seventy-eight meetings.

12. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said that he presumed that the listing of items in the letter dated 24 September 1962 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Third Committee (A/C.3/594) did not imply any order of priority and that the Committee was free to determine the order in which it would consider the various items allocated to it. The most pressing item, and one which should not give rise to lengthy discussion, was no doubt that concerning the measures to be adopted in connexion with the earthquake in Iran. The Committee should therefore consider that question without delay.

13. It had been the practice of the Third Committee in the past few years to discuss first the parts of the report of the Economic and Social Council which directly concerned it—in the present instance chapters VIII and IX. He believed that that discussion should

not begin with a general debate since some of the matters dealt with in those chapters were the subject of separate agenda items and would be studied individually.

14. The Committee should devote its attention next to the draft International Covenants on Human Rights (item 43), a matter with which it had been concerned for a number of years. As the Committee must also study the two additional articles proposed for inclusion, regarding the right of asylum and rights of children respectively, it would probably have to devote to that item as many meetings as it had during the sixteenth session, namely, about thirty-five. It would nevertheless be desirable if the Committee could organize its work in such a way that it would be able to complete the consideration of the draft Covenants in the current year, as its last Chairman, Mr. López, had strongly urged at the close of the sixteenth session.

15. The consideration of that item would in any case have to be interrupted during the second half of November, as the Chairman had suggested, so that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees could be present when the Committee considered his report under item 42. It seemed further desirable that the Committee should take advantage of the High Commissioner's presence to examine the draft Declaration on the Right of Asylum. Indeed, aside from the part which the High Commissioner had played in the preparation of the draft Declaration, he was in a sense the legal protector of all refugees without exception. That item was, moreover, becoming urgent because of the fact that the Committee had already deferred consideration of it on two occasions for lack of time. Agenda items 42 and 46 should not, however, give rise to lengthy debate, and their consideration should not take more than eight or ten meetings in all.

16. Regarding the Draft Convention on Freedom of Information (item 45), that matter should also receive priority consideration, as in preceding years. The issue was becoming particularly important and pressing as media of information were used increasingly for aggravating world tension and as certain Governments did not hesitate to employ such media to interfere in the domestic affairs of other countries. The adoption of a convention might possibly help to create a climate more conducive to the maintenance of good international relations. Since the most delicate article—article 2—had already been adopted, it would seem that the item's consideration should present no difficulties and should likewise require no more than eight or ten meetings.

17. After that would come the Draft Convention and draft Recommendation on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages (item 44). He hoped in that connexion that certain representatives would prove less intransigent and would take into account the great variety of cultures and traditions in the world and the fact that such variety was usually due to the question of climate or even to purely biological factors. If, therefore, there was a greater measure of co-operation, and with goodwill on the part of everyone, the draft Convention and the draft Recommendation could be adopted in less than three meetings.

18. The item "Measures designed to promote among youth the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples" (item 83) was also important

and urgent. The Third Committee, the Economic and Social Council and UNESCO had already been shuttling that question back and forth for three years, and it was high time that a final decision was taken on it. In his view the Committee could devote five or six meetings to that item.

19. At the sixteenth session (1134th meeting) the Third Committee had decided to defer consideration of a draft Declaration on Freedom of Information (item 47). In his view the item was of only secondary importance in view of the existence of a draft convention on the same subject. The fact, moreover, that there was at present a spate of such declarations tended to lessen their significance. A convention in good and due form would have a much greater effect. However, since several delegations felt that a draft declaration would be timely, the Committee should examine the item, but it should devote only one or two meetings to it, preferably after completing the remainder of its agenda.

20. With regard to the item entitled "Implementation of the Supplementary Convention of 1956 on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery" (item 81), the importance of which no one could deny, the question was merely one of inviting all States to adhere to two Conventions, the International Slavery Convention of 1926 and the Supplementary Slavery Convention of 1956. There, too, one or two meetings should be ample.

21. In the case of advisory services in the field of human rights (item 80), he considered that the Committee, despite the practical interest of the question, should be able to conclude the examination of it in two or three meetings. With regard to manifestations of racial prejudice and national and religious intolerance (item 48), he considered that the question could be tackled only in a spirit of unanimity and should not therefore involve lengthy discussion. In that case, also, two or three meetings ought to be sufficient.

22. With regard to some of the questions which he had mentioned, notably items 46 and 83, he believed that it would be better, in order to avoid long and abstract discussion, for certain delegations to submit carefully worded draft texts which could be used as a basis for constructive examination.

23. Thus, taking into account that the Committee would probably devote some fifteen meetings to its examination of the item "Report of the Economic and Social Council" (item 12), it would seem that the agenda could be completed in seventy or, at most, eighty meetings.

24. Mr. CHOW (China) also thought that the Committee should give immediate consideration to the question of the measures to be adopted in connexion with the earthquake in Iran. Many weeks had already elapsed since that disaster, and in such cases action had to be quick if it was to be effective.

25. Although in general he approved the suggestions made by the representative of Saudi Arabia, he would prefer the Committee not to take up item 12 immediately after item 91. The report of the Economic and Social Council (A/5203) had been circulated only very recently, and most delegations had not yet had time to study it as carefully as it deserved, particularly since two extremely important questions—the United Nations Development Decade and the strengthening of the work of the United Nations in the social field—would have to be examined in connexion with it.

26. With regard to the proposal of the Mauritanian representative concerning the catastrophe which had just thrown Spain into mourning, he hoped that the General Assembly would add to the agenda the question of the measures to be adopted to assist the victims of the disaster.

27. Mr. E. K. DADZIE (Ghana) proposed that the Committee should begin by considering the measures to be adopted in connexion with the earthquake in Iran. It could then take up the item relating to the draft Convention and draft Recommendation on marriage, to which the General Assembly, at its sixteenth session, had decided to give priority, and after that the item on manifestations of racial prejudice and national and religious intolerance. The report of the Economic and Social Council could come in the fourth place, since, as had already been stated, that would give delegations the time to study it carefully.

28. With regard to the other agenda items, he favoured the suggestions of the Saudi Arabian representative.

29. The Ghanaian delegation would give its view on the item proposed for inclusion by the representative of Mauritania when that item had been put before the Committee formally.

30. Mr. PALAR (Indonesia) said that in general he supported the suggestions made by the representative of Saudi Arabia. He agreed with the suggestion made by the Chairman in his note, that those passages of the report of the Economic and Social Council which concerned separate items of the agenda should be examined by the Committee at the same time as the relevant items. In addition, the Committee should endeavour to complete at the present session its consideration of the second part of the two draft Covenants on human rights.

31. With regard to the other items, several of them should be given priority to accord with the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixteenth session, but he would prefer to know the views of other delegations before he took a stand in that regard.

32. Mr. DIAZ CASANUEVA (Chile) believed that the order in which the Committee should consider the items on its agenda should be determined in the light of the two criteria of the importance and the urgency of the particular items. The first criterion was apt to lead to lengthy debate owing to the differing positions of delegations on each item.

33. He also thought that, apart from the item in connexion with the earthquake in Iran, the Committee should begin by considering the draft Convention and draft Recommendation on Marriage. The General Assembly, in its resolution 1680 (XVI), had decided to give priority to that question and it should not be forgotten that the Convention's adoption would contribute to the dignity of millions of women throughout the world and particularly in Africa. The Committee should next examine, in turn, the draft International Covenants on Human Rights, manifestations of racial prejudice and national and religious intolerance, measures designed to promote among youth the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples and the draft Convention on Freedom of Information. As to the other agenda items, his delegation had no preference regarding the order in which they should be taken up.

34. From the standpoint of urgency, there could be no doubt that the Committee should start by considering the measures to be adopted in connexion with the earthquake in Iran. Chile felt especial solidarity with Iran in the present instance because, two years previously, it had itself been the victim of a similar disaster and had in consequence received generous aid from the international community.

35. To be effective, assistance to Iran should be supplied rapidly, and it was therefore indispensable that the Committee should recommend concrete measures along those lines. He believed that the Committee's discussion should be on specific proposals, and he suggested that a sub-committee should be appointed for the purpose of formulating them. The sub-committee would include representatives of the great Powers such as the United States and should be given the benefit of the experience acquired by the Secretariat in similar situations. The sub-committee could meet while the Committee itself was discussing the organization of its work, and discussion on item 91 could begin as soon as the sub-committee had formulated its proposals.

36. Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom) said that he believed that the Committee's members all agreed that the measures to be adopted in connexion with the earthquake in Iran should be taken up first. He expressed his Government's sympathy to the Government of Iran and, also, to the representative of Spain, whose country had just been the victim of very severe floods.

37. As to the other agenda items, he thought that the Committee might next examine the draft Convention on Marriage, as that would meet the desires of a large number of delegations. Also, the consideration of that item should require fewer meetings than at the previous session. The report of the Economic and Social Council would thus come third, with the result that, as the representative of China had said, delegations would have time to examine it thoroughly. In that regard, the United Kingdom delegation would prefer chapters VIII and IX of the Report to be considered in their entirety, without eliminating from the debate the sections covered by separate agenda items. Those items could, however, be taken up immediately after the Council's Report. That applied especially to the item on advisory services in the field of human rights, which required definite action by the Assembly, and the item concerning implementation of the Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, which should not take too long to consider but which the United Kingdom delegation held to be very important. A sufficient number of meetings would, of course, have to be devoted to the draft International Covenants on Human Rights, although the Committee could scarcely hope to conclude its consideration of them at that session.

38. With regard to the other agenda items, he found it premature at that time to establish when they should be taken up and how much time should be devoted to them. He only hoped that the Committee would strive to consider the items relating to the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees and the right of asylum at a date convenient to the High Commissioner.

39. Mr. DARAI (Iran) thanked, on his country's behalf, the Governments which had asked for the inclusion of item 91 on the agenda, and the delegations which had proposed that the Committee should give that item priority in its work.

40. Mrs. COCEA-BREDICEANU (Romania) said that a great number of agenda items ought to have priority, and that the order in which they were considered should therefore be based on their importance, their urgency and their timeliness. She stressed the great importance, in order to create a climate favourable to international peace and understanding, of taking up the measures contemplated in item 83. Consideration of that item should therefore not be delayed too long, especially as a UNESCO report on the subject (E/3638) had been submitted to the Committee. The Committee could devote eight meetings to that item as it had done at the fifteenth session without thereby neglecting the essential problems which were before it.

41. Mr. SAHAI (India) said that in his view the Committee should first of all take up the measures to be adopted in connexion with the earthquake in Iran. It should, moreover, give priority to the draft International Covenants on Human Rights, devoting thirty-five meetings to them so as to be able to adopt the second part of each Covenant. With regard to manifestations of racial prejudice and national and religious intolerance, his delegation supported the proposal of the representative of Ghana that the Committee should examine that item without delay.

42. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that she, like most of the representatives who had already spoken, believed that the question of measures to be adopted in connexion with the earthquake in Iran should be considered first. The Committee should then pass on to the Report of the Economic and Social Council.

43. With regard to the other questions on the agenda, she believed that the most urgent were those which

the Third Committee had not considered at the previous session. Nevertheless, whatever the order finally adopted, it was important for the Committee to have enough time for a thorough consideration of the capital question of measures designed to promote among youth the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples. As for the rest, the Soviet delegation approved in their entirety the suggestions made by the representative of Saudi Arabia.

44. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should first take up item 91 regarding that the measures to be adopted in connexion with the earthquake in Iran.

*It was so decided.*

45. The CHAIRMAN also suggested that the delegations should meet to draw up a provisional agenda which they would submit to the Committee for its consideration at the next meeting.

46. Mr. GHORBAL (United Arab Republic) supported the Chairman's suggestion but hoped that, at the following meeting, the Committee would take up the particularly urgent question of measures to be adopted in connexion with the earthquake in Iran. The order to be followed by the Committee in its consideration of the other questions could be decided later.

47. The CHAIRMAN said that he preferred the Committee to determine the order in which it would consider the various agenda items before passing on to the item in connexion with the earthquake in Iran.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.