



# General Assembly

Seventieth session

Official Records

Distr.: General  
11 December 2015

Original: English

## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 29th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 5 November 2015, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Logar ..... (Slovenia)

## Contents

Agenda item 17: Information and communications technologies for development  
(*continued*)

Agenda item 18: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(a) International trade and development (*continued*)

(b) International financial system and development (*continued*)

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*)

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*)

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind  
(*continued*)

(h) United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (*continued*)

Agenda item 22: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(c) Culture and sustainable development (*continued*)

Agenda item 23: Groups of countries in special situations (*continued*)

(a) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be sent as soon as possible, under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>).



Agenda item 24: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

- (a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (*continued*)
- (b) Women in development (*continued*)
- (c) Human resources development (*continued*)

Agenda item 25: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

- (a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (*continued*)

Agenda item 64: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (*continued*)

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*)

- (c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

**Agenda item 17: Information and communications technologies for development** (*continued*)  
(A/C.2/70/L.23)

*Draft resolution on information and communications technologies for development* (A/C.2/70/L.23)

1. **Mr. Nyembe** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.23 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**Agenda item 18: Macroeconomic policy questions** (*continued*)

**(a) International trade and development**  
(*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.2)

*Draft resolution on unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries* (A/C.2/70/L.2)

2. **Mr. Nyembe** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.2 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**(b) International financial system and development**  
(*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.7)

*Draft resolution on the international financial system and development* (A/C.2/70/L.7)

3. **Mr. Nyembe** (South Africa), introduced draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.7 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**Agenda item 20: Sustainable development** (*continued*)  
(A/C.2/70/L.14 and A/C.2/70/L.22)

*Draft resolution on the oil slick on Lebanese shores* (A/C.2/70/L.14)

4. **Mr. Nyembe** (South Africa), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.14 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft was based on the previous year's resolution (A/RES/69/212) with minor technical amendments. It also reflected the concern expressed in the report of the Secretary-General (A/70/291) regarding the lack of implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolutions of the General Assembly on the subject. The draft resolution also urged Member States, international organizations, international and regional financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to intensify support for Lebanon and the recovery and rehabilitation of its coastline.

*Draft resolution on combating sand and dust storms* (A/C.2/70/L.22)

5. **Mr. Nyembe** (South Africa), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.22 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the new resolution was informed by the knowledge that dust and sand storms posed a severe impediment to the sustainable development of affected developing countries and the well-being of their peoples. In the last few years, sand and dust storms had inflicted substantial damage on inhabitants in affected areas, especially in Africa and Asia.

**(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States** (*continued*)  
(A/C.2/70/L.17)

*Draft resolution on Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States* (A/C.2/70/L.17)

6. **Mr. Nyembe** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.17 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction**  
(*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.15)

*Draft resolution on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction* (A/C.2/70/L.15)

7. **Mr. Nyembe** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.15 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind** (*continued*)  
(A/C.2/70/L.18)

*Draft resolution on the protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind* (A/C.2/70/L.18)

8. **Mr. Nyembe** (South Africa), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.18 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that given the ongoing climate change talks, the current text had been made more procedural and had focused on elements that illustrated developments since November 2014. The Group

envisioned a successful outcome to the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

**(h) United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development** (*continued*)  
(A/C.2/70/L.20)

*Draft resolution on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development* (A/C.2/70/L.20)

9. **Mr. Nyembe** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.20 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**Agenda item 22: Globalization and interdependence** (*continued*)

**(c) Culture and sustainable development**  
(*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.6)

*Draft resolution on culture and sustainable development* (A/C.2/70/L.6)

10. **Mr. Nyembe** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.6 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**Agenda item 23: Groups of countries in special situations** (*continued*)

**(a) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries**  
(*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.19)

*Draft resolution on follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries* (A/C.2/70/L.19)

11. **Mr. Nyembe** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.19 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**Agenda item 24: Eradication of poverty and other development issues** (*continued*)

**(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)** (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.9)

*Draft resolution on implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)* (A/C.2/70/L.9)

12. **Mr. Nyembe** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.9 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**(b) Women in development** (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.8)

*Draft resolution on women in development* (A/C.2/70/L.8)

13. **Mr. Nyembe** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.8 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**(c) Human resources development** (*continued*)  
(A/C.2/70/L.16)

*Draft resolution on human resources development* (A/C.2/70/L.16)

14. **Mr. Nyembe** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.16 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**Agenda item 25: Operational activities for development** (*continued*)

**(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system** (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.13)

*Draft resolution on operational activities for development of the United Nations system* (A/C.2/70/L.13)

15. **Mr. Nyembe** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.13 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**Agenda item 64: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (continued) (A/C.2/70/L.21)**

*Draft resolution on permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (A/C.2/70/L.21)*

16. **Mr. Nyembe** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution [A/C.2/70/L.21](#) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (continued) (A/C.2/70/L.5)**

*Draft resolution on the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017 (A/C.2/70/L.5)*

17. **Ms. Strickland-Simonet** (Samoa), introducing draft resolution [A/C.2/70/L.5](#) on behalf of the sponsors listed in the document, said that Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Lebanon, Mauritania, Mauritius, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe had joined the list of sponsors. In recent decades, tourism had experienced significant growth and diversification, becoming one of the fastest-growing economic sectors worldwide. Tourism was responsible for 9 per cent of global gross domestic product, accounted for 30 per cent of trade in services, created 277 million jobs and employed one out of every eleven people worldwide. In 2014, international tourist arrivals had surpassed 1.1 billion, compared to 25 million in 1950; by 2030, the number of international tourist arrivals was expected to reach 1.8 billion yearly.

18. The importance of tourism for sustainable development and inclusive growth would only continue to grow: in addition to its economic value, tourism offered social, cultural and environmental benefits if well managed, and could help to preserve cultures and conserve the environment. As a people-to-people activity, tourism also promoted peace and mutual understanding.

19. Sustainable tourism was recognized as a cross-cutting issue in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In view of the relevance of tourism in

the modern globalized world, the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development in 2017 was an invaluable opportunity to advocate for sustainable tourism as a key tool for sustainable development, inclusive growth and international understanding. It could mobilize the sector and the international community to work together to maximize the contribution of sustainable tourism towards implementing a transformative, people-centred and universal development agenda.

20. Three informal consultations had been held on the draft resolution. A revised draft had been finalized with the exception of perambulator paragraph 3, which referred to the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and would be agreed upon subsequently by Member States as a horizontal language across Second Committee resolutions.

21. **The Chair** said that Bangladesh, the Russian Federation and the Sudan had joined the list of sponsors.

**(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (continued) (A/C.2/70/L.11)**

*Draft resolution on World Tsunami Day (A/C.2/70/L.11)*

22. **Mr. Yoshikawa** (Japan), introducing draft resolution [A/C.2/70/L.11](#) on behalf of the sponsors listed in the document, said that Armenia, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, the Comoros, Cuba, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Jamaica, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Mali, Nepal, Panama, the Russian Federation, the Solomon Islands, Somalia, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates had joined the list of sponsors.

23. Reducing the level of mortality, the number of affected people and the direct economic losses from natural disasters through disaster risk reduction were key targets of both the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the 2030 Agenda; achieving those targets would require a concerted effort by the international community.

24. Although tsunamis were relatively rare natural phenomena, they could cause tremendous damage to human life and property. Much of that damage could be avoided, however, if communities were made aware of the risks. Chile provided a good example of such

awareness. Following the 2010 earthquake and tsunami that had killed nearly 600 people in Chile, its Government had established an early warning system. When another large earthquake and resulting tsunami hit Chile in 2015, the Government had swiftly instructed over one million people to evacuate, thus saving all of their lives. The number of human losses was reduced significantly to 15 individuals.

25. From a global perspective, even individuals from countries which had never experienced a tsunami were not immune from that risk, since they might visit places that were vulnerable to tsunamis, as illustrated by the tourists who lost their lives in the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquakes and tsunami. Raising public awareness, disseminating prompt information through early warning systems, using traditional knowledge and implementing the build back better concept throughout the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phases were all means to prevent tsunami damage; all those elements had been included in the Sendai Framework.

26. The choice of 5 November as World Tsunami Day was closely linked to several important lessons. On 5 November 1854, a Japanese villager had recognized the signs of an approaching tsunami after a large earthquake and had saved the lives of his fellow villagers by setting fire to his sheaves of rice, thus quickly spreading information about the tsunami, which led to the village's evacuation. In the aftermath of the disaster, he and his fellow villagers had made great efforts to build their village back better than before.

27. Consultations on the draft resolution were still ongoing in the Second Committee, including with regard to the title of the resolution. His delegation believed that the designation of World Tsunami Day would not only help raise awareness of the risks caused by tsunamis but also help to implement the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda.

28. **Mr. Iglesias Mori** (Chile), expressing support for the draft resolution, said that World Tsunami Day would help to raise awareness about that natural phenomenon and establish, promote and strengthen early warning systems. The draft resolution also recognized the importance of the traditional knowledge of indigenous communities. In order to be resilient, societies must include all sectors and participants, and harness their knowledge systems.

29. **The Chair** said that Guatemala had joined the list of sponsors.

*The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.*