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Seventieth session

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General Committee

Summary record of the 1st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 16 September 2015, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Lykketoft (President of the General Assembly) (Denmark)

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Organization of the seventieth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

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

Organization of the seventieth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (A/BUR/70/1*)

1. **The Chair** drew attention to General Assembly resolution 69/321, on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, particularly paragraphs 12 and 26 in which the Assembly had stressed the importance of enhancing the role of the General Committee in support of the work of the General Assembly, and had called upon the President of the General Assembly to hold interactive inclusive thematic debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community.

Memorandum by the Secretary-General

2. **The Chair** drew attention to the memorandum by the Secretary-General regarding the organization of the seventieth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (A/BUR/70/1).

Chapter II. Organization of the session

3. **The Chair** drew attention to paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's memorandum and said he trusted that he would shortly receive from each of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly a letter concerning the designation of a liaison person for the duration of the session. He also drew attention to paragraph 29 of the memorandum, in which the Secretary-General suggested that the general debate should continue on Saturday, 3 October 2015, in order to maximize the number of speakers during that week.

4. *The Committee took note of all the relevant information contained in chapter II of the memorandum. It decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to all the necessary information, in particular that contained in paragraph 54 of the memorandum concerning the timely submission of draft proposals for the review of their programme budget implications, and to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take action on all the proposals contained in that chapter. It also decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the information contained in paragraph 60 of the memorandum on the views of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the use of the phrase "within*

available resources" and on the responsibility of the Secretariat to inform the General Assembly thoroughly and accurately as to the availability of resources to implement a new activity. The Committee further decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the general debate should continue on Saturday, 3 October 2015.

Chapter III. Adoption of the agenda

5. **The Chair** informed the Committee that, in accordance with paragraph 2 (a) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, the draft agenda was organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization as contained in every medium-term plan, or in the strategic framework, with an additional heading for "Organizational, administrative and other matters".

Paragraphs 68 to 70

6. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 68 to 70 of the memorandum.*

Inclusion of items

7. **The Chair** said that, since the agenda was organized under nine headings, the Committee might wish to consider the inclusion of items under each heading as a whole. However, it might wish to take separate decisions on certain items, where it was deemed appropriate, including in some cases the placement of items under appropriate headings.

8. The draft agenda contained seven new items, namely item 70 (b) under heading D (Promotion of human rights), item 98 (dd) under heading G (Disarmament) and items 169 to 173 under heading I (Organizational, administrative and other matters).

Paragraph 71

Items 1 to 8

9. **The Chair** drew attention to paragraph 71 of the memorandum. Items 1 to 8 were not under any heading. The General Assembly had already dealt with items 1 and 2. Items 3 to 8 related to organizational matters.

10. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of items 1 to 8.*

Heading A. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences

11. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading A.*

Heading B. Maintenance of international peace and security

Item 41. Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte

12. **The Chair** said that the General Assembly, at the 105th plenary meeting of its sixty-ninth session, had decided to include item 41 in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session.

13. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 41 under heading B, on the understanding that there would be no consideration of the item until further notice.*

Item 64. Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India

14. **The Chair** said that the General Assembly, at the 2nd plenary meeting of its sixty-ninth session, had decided to include item 64 in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session

15. **Mr. Zinsou** (Benin), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that on the basis of consultations held by the delegations of France and Madagascar, he proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of item 64 should be deferred to its seventy-first session and that the item should be included in the provisional agenda of that session, without prejudice to the position of either Madagascar or France.

16. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of item 64 should be deferred to its seventieth session and that the item should be included in the provisional agenda of that session.*

17. *The Committee also decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading B, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 41 and 64.*

Heading C. Development of Africa

18. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the item listed under heading C.*

Heading D. Promotion of human rights

Item 70 (b) Follow-up to the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

19. **The Chair** said that item 70 (b) had been included in the provisional agenda pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/159, tentatively under heading D.

20. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 70 (b) under heading D.*

21. *The Committee also decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading D, taking into account the decision taken regarding item 70 (b).*

Heading E. Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts

22. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading E.*

Heading F. Promotion of justice and international law

23. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading F.*

Heading G. Disarmament

Item 98 (dd). Joint ad hoc meeting of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to space security and sustainability

24. **The Chair** said that item 98 (dd) had been included in the provisional agenda pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/38, tentatively under heading G.

25. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 98 (dd) under heading G.*

26. *The Committee also decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading G, taking into account the decision taken regarding item 98 (dd).*

Heading H. Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

27. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading H.*

Heading I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

Item 169. Observer status for the Eurasian Economic Union in the General Assembly

28. **The Chair** said that the inclusion of item 169 had been requested by Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation (A/70/141).

29. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 169 under heading I.*

Item 170. Observer status for the Community of Democracies in the General Assembly

30. **The Chair** said that the inclusion of item 170 had been requested by El Salvador (A/70/142).

31. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 170 under heading I.*

Item 171. Observer status for the International Civil Defence Organization in the General Assembly

32. **The Chair** said that the inclusion of item 171 had been requested by the Russian Federation (A/70/191).

33. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 171 under heading I.*

Item 172. Observer status for the Indian Ocean Rim Association in the General Assembly

34. **The Chair** said that the inclusion of item 172 had been requested by Australia (A/70/192).

35. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 172 under heading I.*

Item 173. Global Awareness of the tragedies of irregular migrants in the Mediterranean basin with specific emphasis on Syria asylum seekers

36. **The Chair** said that the inclusion of item 173 had been requested by Turkey (A/70/193). The representative of Turkey had asked to participate in the discussion in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

37. *At the invitation of the Chair, Mr. Çevik (Observer for Turkey) took a place at the Committee table.*

38. **Mr. Çevik** (Observer for Turkey) said that, globally, there were more than 60 million internally displaced persons and refugees who had fled their homes because of wars, natural disasters, famine, violence or discrimination. Many countries in Europe, the Middle East and Africa were affected by the ongoing migration tragedy and must collaborate to address what had become the largest humanitarian crisis since the Second World War. According to the United Nations, more than 12 million Syrians had left their homes; more than two million had sought refuge in Turkey, millions more had fled to Jordan and Lebanon and thousands were risking their lives as they sought to reach Europe. The inclusion of item 173 in the agenda of the General Assembly would raise awareness of the scope of the crisis and facilitate collective action by States and international organizations with a view to identifying and implementing viable solutions to the tragedy.

39. **Mr. Cardì** (Italy) said the Italian navy had saved the lives of more than 150,000 people in the Mediterranean. His country fully supported the adoption of the draft agenda item, which would facilitate efforts to address the crisis, and particularly the situation of Syrian migrants, in a collaborative and holistic manner. Indeed, a staggering number of refugees and internally displaced persons had been generated by the conflict in Syria and it was essential that every effort was made to address the root causes of the conflict, uphold human and refugees' rights and combat the activities of human traffickers. Efforts were needed to address the immediate humanitarian needs of migrants and foster regional stability and, although the European Union had sought to amend the title of the proposed agenda item to reflect the fact that migrants enjoyed different legal protections on the basis of their status, that did not mean that there was any lack of support for the proposed agenda item.

40. **Mr. Zinsou** (Benin) said that people would always seek stability and happiness; a more humane approach to the situation of migrants was needed. The proposed agenda item would strengthen international efforts to find optimal solutions for migrants, including those who had fled Syria. Migrants left their homes for many reasons, including the impact of climate change, and it was crucial that the issue of migration was addressed in a holistic manner by the General Assembly.

41. **Mr. Stehelin** (France) said that his country strongly supported the holding of inclusive discussions to find a solution to the crisis, which must be addressed on the basis of international law. Every effort must be made to address the needs of the various categories of migrants, including asylum seekers.

42. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 173 under heading I.*

43. *The Committee also decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading I, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 169 to 173.*

44. *Mr. Çevik (Observer for Turkey) withdrew.*

Chapter IV. Allocation of items

Paragraphs 72 to 74

45. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 72 to 74 of the memorandum.*

Paragraph 75

46. **The Chair** said that, in paragraph 75 of his memorandum, the Secretary-General had listed items of the draft agenda which had not been considered previously by the General Assembly. If the members of the Committee agreed, he would first request the Committee to decide on the recommendation it should make regarding the allocation of those items which it had just recommended for inclusion in the agenda of the seventieth session.

47. *It was so decided.*

Item 70 (b) Follow-up to the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

48. **The Chair** said that owing to the nature of item 70 (b), the Secretary-General had suggested that it should be allocated to the Third Committee.

49. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 70 (b) should be allocated to the Third Committee.*

Item 98 (dd). Joint ad hoc meeting of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to space security and sustainability

50. **The Chair** said that, owing to the nature of item 98 (dd), the Secretary-General had suggested that it should be allocated to the First Committee.

51. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 98 (dd) should be allocated to the First Committee.*

Item 169. Observer status for the Eurasian Economic Union in the General Assembly

Item 170. Observer status for the Community of Democracies in the General Assembly

Item 171. Observer status for the International Civil Defence Organization in the General Assembly

Item 172. Observer status for the Indian Ocean Rim Association in the General Assembly

52. **The Chair** recalled that, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 54/195, any request by an organization for the granting of observer status in the General Assembly would be considered in plenary meeting after consideration of the issue by the Sixth Committee. The Committee would therefore proceed accordingly with the consideration of items 169 to 172.

53. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that items 169 to 172 should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

Item 173. Global Awareness of the tragedies of irregular migrants in the Mediterranean basin with specific emphasis on Syria asylum seekers

54. **The Chair** said that the sponsor of item 173 had requested that it should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

55. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 173 should be considered directly in plenary meeting.*

Item 9. Report of the Economic and Social Council

56. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 80 and decided to recommend that the General Assembly, when considering item 9 in its entirety in plenary meeting, should take note of the clarification that, in implementing resolution 58/316, the relevant parts of chapter I of the report of the Economic and Social Council would be considered by the Main Committees concerned, under agenda items already allocated to them, for final action by the Assembly.*

Item 15. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Item 117. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

57. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 81 regarding item 15.*

58. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 82 regarding items 15 and 117.*

Item 17. Information and communications technologies for development

59. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 83.*

Item 23 (a). Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

60. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 84.*

Item 28 (a). Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

61. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 85.*

Item 28 (b). Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

62. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 86.*

Item 68. Report of the Human Rights Council

63. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 87.*

Item 71. Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

64. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 88.*

Item 98. General and complete disarmament

65. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the relevant paragraphs of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency should be drawn to the attention of the First Committee in connection with its consideration of item 98.*

Item 108. International drug control

66. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 90.*

Item 110. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

67. *The Committee decided to make the recommendation contained in paragraph 91.*

Item 121. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

68. *Taking note of paragraph 92, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 121 should be allocated to all the Main Committees for the purpose of discussing their working methods, as well as considering and taking action on their respective tentative programmes of work.*

Item 135. Programme planning

69. *Taking note of paragraphs 93 and 94, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 135 of the draft agenda should be allocated to all the Main Committees and to the plenary Assembly to enhance discussion of evaluation, planning, budgeting and monitoring reports.*

Item 143. Administration of justice at the United Nations

70. Taking note of paragraph 95 and in the light of resolution 69/203, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 143 should be allocated to the Fifth Committee and to the Sixth Committee.

Plenary Assembly

71. Taking note of paragraph 96, the Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 9, 135 and 173.

First Committee

72. The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 88, 98 (dd), 121 and 135.

Special Political and Decolonization Committee

73. The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 121 and 135.

Second Committee

74. The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 121 and 135.

Third Committee

75. The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 70 (b), 121 and 135.

Fifth Committee

76. The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 121, 135 and 143.

Sixth Committee

77. The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 121, 135, 143 and 169 to 172.

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.