



General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/45/PV.3

25 September 1990

ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 21 September 1990, at 10 a.m.

President:

Mr. de MARCO

(Malta)

- Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: First report of the General Committee (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

ITEM 8 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA (continued)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK: FIRST REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE (A/45/250)

The PRESIDENT: This morning the Assembly will consider the first report of the General Committee, which has been circulated in document A/45/250. I shall refer to specific sections and paragraphs of the report which contain recommendations for consideration by the Assembly.

We shall begin with section I, "Introduction". The General Committee, in paragraph 2, draws the attention of the General Assembly to the provisions reproduced in annexes V, VI and VII of its rules of procedure.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of those provisions?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to section II of the report, which deals with the organization of the session.

In section II B, which deals with the rationalisation of work of the General Assembly, the General Committee draws our attention to recommendations 2, 3 and 7 of the Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations.

In connection with recommendation 3 (c), in particular, the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that, as at recent sessions, the holding of concurrent meetings of the Special Political and Fourth Committees should be avoided, to the extent possible and with the necessary flexibility, during the forty-fifth session.

May I take it that the Assembly agrees to that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In section II C, which relates to the closing date of the forty-fifth session, the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that, in the light of the practice at recent sessions, the forty-fifth session recess on 18 December 1990 and close on 16 September 1991.

May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In that connection, I wish to reiterate my appeal to all the Main Committees, without exception, that they should start their work as soon as possible.

Regarding the schedule of meetings referred to in section II D, the General Committee, in paragraph 7, recommends that meetings should start at 10 a.m. promptly for all plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees during the forty-fifth session.

May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 8 the General Committee also recommends that, in order to avoid the late start of meetings and as a cost-saving measure, the General Assembly should waive the requirement of the presence of at least one third of the members to declare a plenary meeting open and permit the debate to proceed and of at least one quarter of members to declare a meeting of a Main Committee open and permit the debate to proceed. That recommendation is made on the understanding that such a waiver would not imply any permanent change in the relevant provisions of rules 67 and 108 of the rules of procedure pertaining to the opening of meetings.

May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The General Committee, in paragraph 9, recommends to the General Assembly that delegations should be reminded of the utmost importance of punctuality in the interest of ensuring an effective and orderly organization of work and achieving economies for the United Nations.

May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In that connection, I should like to assure the Assembly that I shall be in the Chair punctually at the scheduled time, and I urge the Chairmen of the Main Committees also to be punctual. I sincerely hope that all delegations will make a special effort to co-operate in this regard.

In section II E, concerning the general debate, the General Committee recommends that the general debate begin on Monday, 24 September, and end by Thursday, 11 October 1990. The General Committee also recommends that the list of speakers in the general debate be closed on Wednesday, 26 September, at 6 p.m.

May I consider that the General Assembly approves the recommendations contained in paragraph 10?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In view of the very large number of speakers already on the list, I shall urge representatives to make their statements in the order in which they appear on the list of speakers. Those who are unable to speak at the scheduled time will be put at the end of the list for that day.

In paragraph 11, the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to the decision taken by the Assembly at previous sessions, namely that the practice of expressing congratulations in the General Assembly Hall after a speech had been delivered was prohibited and recommends that this provision should also apply during the forty-fifth session.

(The President)

May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In that connection, the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that speakers in the general debate, after delivering their statements, should leave the Assembly Hall through room GA-200 at the rear of the podium before returning to their seats.

May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We shall now turn to section II F, regarding explanations of vote, right of reply and length of statements. In paragraph 12, the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of the Assembly's decision 34/401.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of those provisions?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 13, regarding the length of statements, the General Committee draws the attention of the Assembly, as it did at previous sessions, to rules 72 and 114 of the rules of procedure and paragraph 22 of annex VI thereof for appropriate action in plenary meeting and the Main Committees.

May I take it that the Assembly takes note of those provisions?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Section II G deals with records of meetings.

May I take it that the Assembly approves the recommendations contained in paragraph 14?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The General Committee also draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 17 of Assembly decision 34/401, which is reproduced in section II H, concerning concluding statements in the General Assembly and its Main Committees.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of that provision?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Section II I of the report of the General Committee refers to questions related to the programme budget. In this connection the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraphs 12 and 13 of Assembly decision 34/401.

The Committee also draws the Assembly's attention to paragraph 6 of resolution 35/10 A of 3 November 1980, which deals with proposals affecting the schedule of conferences and meetings, and to regulation 4.9 of the Regulations governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (resolution 37/234, annex).

(The President)

In connection with paragraph 13 of decision 34/401 regarding a mandatory deadline for the submission to the Fifth Committee of all draft resolutions with financial implications, I would like to suggest that the mandatory deadline for the Main Committees should be at least one week before the scheduled conclusion of their work and no later than 1 December in view of the scheduled 18 December recess.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of the provisions contained in paragraphs 16 and 17?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Section II J refers to documentation. In paragraph 18, the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 28 of its decision 34/401.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of this provision?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In section II K the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 32 of its decision 34/401, concerning resolutions and to recommendation 3 (f) of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts.

I take it that the General Assembly takes note of these provisions.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Section II L relates to special conferences. The General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to recommendation 6 of the Committee on Conferences, adopted by the Assembly in paragraph (b) of its decision 34/405, and to recommendations 2 (d) and 4 of the Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts.

I take it that the General Assembly takes note of these provisions.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In section II M, concerning meetings of subsidiary organs, the General Committee, in the light of recommendations submitted by the Committee on Conferences, recommends to the General Assembly that the following subsidiary organs of the Assembly should be authorized to hold meetings during the forty-fifth session:

- (a) Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa;
- (b) Committee of Trustees of the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa;
- (c) Committee on Relations with the Host Country;
- (d) Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People;
- (e) Special Committee against Apartheid;
- (f) Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

May I take it that the General Assembly approves these recommendations?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: This completes our consideration of section II of this report of the General Committee, which relates to the organization of the session. We turn now to section III of the report of the General Committee, relating to the adoption of the agenda.

May I just remind members of the General Assembly of rule 23 of the rules of procedure, which provides that:

"Debate on the inclusion of an item in the agenda, when that item has been recommended for inclusion by the General Committee, shall be limited to three speakers in favour of, and three against, the inclusion".

I should like to stress that at this time we are not discussing the substance of any item.

(The President)

In paragraph 27, in connection with item 32 of the draft agenda (The situation in Kampuchea), the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that the wording of the item should be amended to read: "The situation in Cambodia".

May I take it that the Assembly adopts this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 28, in connection with item 36 of the draft agenda (Judgment of the International Court of Justice of 27 June 1986 concerning military and paramilitary activities in and against Nicaragua: need for immediate compliance), the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that consideration of the item should be deferred.

May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 29, concerning item 79 of the draft agenda (Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India), the General Committee recommends that consideration of the item should be deferred to the forty-sixth session and that the item should be included in the provisional agenda of that session.

May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 30, concerning item 118 of the draft agenda (Question of East Timor), the General Committee recommends that consideration of this item should be deferred to the forty-sixth session and that the item should be included in the provisional agenda of that session.

May I take it that the Assembly approves those recommendations?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 31 in connection with item 141 of the draft agenda (Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States), the General Committee recommends that consideration of the item should be deferred to the forty-sixth session and that the item should be included in the provisional agenda of that session.

May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In connection with paragraph 32, may I draw the General Assembly's attention to the fact that the wording of the proposed item "Iraqi aggression and continued occupation of Kuwait in flagrant violation of Security Council resolutions" as revised to read "Iraqi aggression and the continued occupation of Kuwait in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations".

I call on the representative of Iraq on a point of order.

Mr. AL ANBARI (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): As is known, this item is before the Security Council under the heading of Kuwait and Iraq. In reality, the formula adopted by the General Committee contradicts the traditions of the General Assembly as it: first, condemns and judges Iraq prior to any debate in or recommendation by the General Assembly; secondly, in so far as any discussion of this item by the General Assembly must of necessity contradict the deliberations of the Security Council and its resolutions adopted in this connection. The third and last point is that the real danger and real aggression are the presence in the region of the United States military forces, a presence which endangers regional and world peace. Therefore, the item should be amended so as to refer to the danger posed by the United States build-up in the region.

The PRESIDENT: I take note of the statement made by the representative of Iraq.

We turn now to the agenda the General Committee recommends for adoption by the General Assembly.

In accordance with past practice we shall follow the numbering given in paragraph 33 of the General Committee's report (A/45/250) and shall consider together several items in groups, where that seems appropriate. I should like to remind members once again that at present we are not discussing the substance of any item except when such discussion can assist the Assembly in deciding whether or not to include an item in the agenda.

Items 1 to 6 have already been acted upon in plenary meeting. Therefore, their inclusion has been approved.

We come now to items 7 to 22. I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to include those items in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we come to item 23, entitled "Question of Palestine". May I take it that item 23 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We come now to items 24 to 26. May I take it that items 24 to 26 are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We come next to item 27, entitled "Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte".

May I take it that item 27 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We come next to item 28, entitled "The situation in Central America: threats to international peace and security and peace initiatives".

May I take it that item 28 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We come now to item 29, entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security".

May I take it that item 29 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we come to items 30 and 31.

May I take it that items 30 and 31 are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we turn to item 32, entitled "The situation in Cambodia".

May I take it that item 32 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We come now to items 33 and 34.

May I take it that these items are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we turn to item 35, entitled "The situation in the Middle East".

May I take it that item 35 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we turn to item 36, entitled "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)".

May I take it that item 36 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The next item, item 37, is entitled "Question of peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia".

May I take it that item 37 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Item 38 is entitled "Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on the aerial and naval military attack against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the present United States Administration in April 1986".

May I take it that item 38 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to item 39, entitled "Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations".

May I take it that item 39 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to item 40, entitled "Launching of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development".

May I take it that item 40 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We come next to item 41, entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council".

May I take it that item 41 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we turn to item 42, entitled "Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security".

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May I take it that item 42 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to item 43, entitled "Question of Cyprus".

May I take it that item 43 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Item 44 is entitled "Consequences of the prolongation of the armed conflict between Iran and Iraq".

May I take it that item 44 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I now invite members to turn to items 45 to 70 relating to disarmament.

May I take it that items 45 to 70 are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: May I also take it that items 71 to 77 are recommended for inclusion?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the question of the inclusion of item 78, entitled "Question of the composition of the relevant organs of the United Nations".

May I take it that item 78 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We come now to items 79 to 87 relating to international economic co-operation.

May I take it that those items are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to items 88 to 110 relating to social and humanitarian questions.

May I take it that those items are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn next to items 111 to 115 relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories.

May I take it that those items are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to the group of items dealing with administrative and financial questions, items 116 to 134.

May I take it that those items are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to items 135 to 145.

May I take it that those items are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to item 146, entitled "Additional protocol on consular functions to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations."

May I take it that the Assembly approves its inclusion?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to item 147, entitled "Conciliation rules of the United Nations."

May I take it that item 147 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to item 148, entitled "Implementation of the commitments and policies for international development co-operation agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalisation of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries."

May I take it that the Assembly approves the inclusion of that item?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we turn to item 149, entitled "Observer status for the International Committee of the Red Cross, in consideration of the special role and mandates conferred upon it by the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949."

May I take it that the Assembly approves its inclusion?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to item 150, entitled "Tenth anniversary of the University for Peace."

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to include it in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to item 151, entitled "Ceremony for the presentation of the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by world leaders at the World Summit for Children."

(The President)

May I take it that item 151 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to item 152, entitled "Critical economic situation in Africa:

(a) United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990;

(b) Report of the United Nations Secretary-General's Expert Group on African Commodity Problems;

(c) African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation."

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to include item 152 in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Lastly, we turn to item 153, entitled "Iraqi aggression and the continued occupation of Kuwait in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to include item 153 in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to the question of the allocation of items dealt with in section IV of the report of the General Committee. In this connection, the General Committee, in paragraph 34, draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 4 of Assembly decision 34/401, which states that

"Substantive items should normally be discussed initially in a Main Committee and, therefore, items previously allocated to plenary meetings should henceforth be referred to a Main Committee unless there are compelling circumstances requiring their continued consideration in plenary meeting".

(The President)

The modifications indicated in paragraph 35 are reflected in the proposed allocation. We shall therefore consider them when we come to the relevant items under paragraph 36.

Before we proceed, may I remind members that the item numbers refer to the agenda in paragraph 33 of the report before us, namely document A/45/250.

May I now invite members to turn to the list of items recommended by the General Committee for consideration in plenary meeting.

Regarding item 18 on the list, the General Committee recommends in paragraph 35 (a) (i) that the Assembly should refer to the Fourth Committee chapters of the report of the Special Committee relating to specific Territories so that the General Assembly may deal in plenary meeting with the question of the implementation of the Declaration as a whole.

Also in connection with item 18, the General Committee decided to recommend that a special commemorative meeting in observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples should be held on Thursday, 11 October, in the morning.

May I take it that the Assembly adopts those recommendations?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I now invite members to turn their attention to item 34, entitled "Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa." In this connection, as stated in paragraph 35 (a) (ii), the General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that the representatives of the Organisation of African Unity and of national liberation movements recognized by that organisation would be permitted to participate in the discussion in plenary

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meeting and that organisations and individuals having a special interest in the question would be permitted to be heard by the Special Political Committee.

May I take it that the General Assembly approves the recommendation of the General Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: May I now invite members to consider item 36, "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)". In this connection, as stated in paragraph 35 (a) (iii), the General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that bodies and individuals having an interest in the question would be heard in the Fourth Committee in conjunction with the consideration of the item in plenary meeting.

May I take it that the General Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: May I now invite the General Assembly to turn its attention to paragraph 35 (a) (iv), regarding item 43, entitled "Question of Cyprus".

The General Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly allocate the item at an appropriate time during the session.

May I take it that the Assembly adopts that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we turn to paragraph 35 (a) (v) regarding item 149, "Observer status for the International Committee of the Red Cross, in consideration of the special role and mandates conferred upon it by the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949".

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

May I take it that the Assembly adopts that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we turn to paragraph 35 (a) (vi), concerning item 150, "Tenth anniversary of the University for Peace". The General Committee has recommended that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we turn to paragraph 35 (a) (vii), regarding item 151 of the draft agenda, "Ceremony for the presentation of the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by world leaders at the World Summit for Children". The General Committee decided to recommend that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting and that the Declaration and Plan of Action should be presented at a ceremony on the morning of 1 October 1990.

In this regard, it is further proposed that the ceremony should be held at 9.30 a.m. and that it should not exceed 30 minutes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to these proposals?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we turn to paragraph 35 (a) (viii), concerning item 153, "Iraqi aggression and the continued occupation of Kuwait in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations". The General Committee decided to recommend that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting as a matter of priority.

May I take it that the General Assembly adopts those recommendations?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Taking into account the decisions just adopted regarding allocation of specific items for consideration in plenary meetings, may I now consider that the General Assembly approves the allocation of the items listed in

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paragraph 36 of the report of the General Committee for consideration directly in plenary meeting?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the list of items which the General Committee has recommended for allocation to the First Committee.

In connection with item 56, "General and complete disarmament", the General Committee recommends in paragraph 35 (b) that the paragraphs of the annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is to be considered directly in plenary meeting under item 14, should be drawn to the attention of the First Committee in connection with its consideration of item 56.

May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of the items proposed for the First Committee in paragraph 36 of the report of the General Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the list of items which the General Committee has recommended for allocation to the Special Political Committee.

May I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of the items proposed for the Special Political Committee in paragraph 36 of the report of the General Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to the list of items which the General Committee has recommended for allocation to the Second Committee.

Regarding sub-item (a) of item 84, entitled "Operational activities of the United Nations system", the General Committee has recommended in paragraph 35 (c)

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that a plenary meeting should be held on Wednesday, 24 October, to observe the fortieth anniversary of multilateral technical co-operation for development within the United Nations system.

May I take it that the Assembly adopts that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I consider that the General Assembly approves the allocation of the items proposed for the Second Committee in paragraph 36 of the report of the General Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now come to the items proposed for allocation to the Third Committee.

In paragraph 35 (d), regarding item 102, "Forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women to the year 2000", the General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the operations, management and budget of the United Nations Development Fund for Women should be referred to the Second Committee for consideration under item 84, "Operational activities for development".

May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of the items proposed for the Third Committee in paragraph 36 of the report of the General Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the list of items recommended for allocation to the Fourth Committee.

(The President)

Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of the items to the Fourth Committee as proposed in paragraph 36 of the report of the General Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the list of items recommended for allocation to the Fifth Committee.

In connection with item 117, "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations", the General Committee, in paragraph 35 (e) (i), recommends that the item be allocated to the Fifth Committee, on the understanding that the report on the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields would be considered directly in plenary meeting and that such a decision should in no way prejudice the arrangements to be made for the future consideration of the item.

May I take it that the Assembly approves those recommendations?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Regarding item 123, entitled "Joint Inspection Unit", the General Committee recommended in paragraph 35 (e) (ii) that the item should be allocated to the Fifth Committee, on the understanding that the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit dealing with subject-matters assigned to other Main Committees would be referred also to those Committees.

May I take it that the General Assembly adopts that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of the items proposed for the Fifth Committee in paragraph 36 of the report of the General Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we come to the items recommended for allocation to the Sixth Committee.

We next take up paragraph 35 (f) (i), concerning item 146, "Additional protocol on consular functions to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations". The General Committee has recommended that the item should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly approves the recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to paragraph 35 (f) (ii), regarding item 147, "Conciliation rules of the United Nations". The General Committee decided to recommend that the item should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly adopts that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of the items proposed for the Sixth Committee in paragraph 36 of the report of the General Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of the report of the General Committee.

(The President)

I wish to thank the members of the Assembly for their co-operation, which has made it possible for us to complete this task expeditiously.

Each Main Committee will receive promptly the list of agenda items allocated to it so that it may begin its work as soon as possible, in accordance with rule 99 of the rules of procedure.

Before adjourning the meeting, I should like to make a few observations in my capacity as President.

I believe that the agendas of the General Assembly may perhaps have become too long, complicated and duplicated. They mix major issues of current concern with others which are perhaps less central, and some agenda items may have been overtaken by events. If the Assembly is to fulfil its promise - as I am sure it will - it is important that we should move towards a simplified and streamlined agenda structure for the future.

Accordingly, I propose to initiate informal consultations with interested delegations to consider ways to achieve that objective. Among other ideas, we could explore the proposal whereby at each session the Assembly would construct its agenda anew. This could be an opportunity for the Assembly to concentrate in its deliberations on a number of subjects which also present priority issues before the international community. We hope in this way to continue giving a more effective role to this forum which has been described as the "town meeting of the world".

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.