

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

Official Records



**1206th
PLENARY MEETING**

(Opening meeting)

Tuesday, 17 September 1963,
at 3 p.m.

NEW YORK

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velopments an assurance that further steps are possible in developing mutual understanding, in resolving conflicts and in strengthening international peace and security.

5. It is not for me, as Temporary President, to discuss the work of the forthcoming session, but I hope that you will permit me to express my profound satisfaction at the advances which have been made and which hold out such promising prospects for the future.

6. In our time we are both witnesses of, and participants in, the gradual development of a world community of nations and of peoples. Throughout the world there is a deep sense of expectancy, a longing among all the peoples to live in peace and to strive together to achieve social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

7. As at the opening of the seventeenth session so today I pray humbly, sincerely, earnestly, that we may be rightly guided in our deliberations and be granted the courage, the strength, the vision necessary for supporting and advancing the cause of justice, peace, freedom and prosperity for all. As always: All praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Universe.

President: Mr. Carlos SOSA RODRIGUEZ
(Venezuela).

Temporary President: Mr. Muhammad
ZAFRULLA KHAN (Pakistan).

AGENDA ITEM 1

Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Pakistan

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I declare open the eighteenth regular session of the General Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Minute of silent prayer or meditation

2. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I request representatives to stand and observe one minute of silent prayer or meditation.

The representatives stood in silence.

Address by Mr. Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, Temporary President, Chairman of the delegation of Pakistan

3. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I have the honour to welcome all the representatives present in this hall.

4. Since we last met, two important developments have taken place: the conclusion of the treaty banning nuclear tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water, and the establishment of a direct telephone line between the capitals of the two great nuclear Powers. The peoples of the world see in these de-

AGENDA ITEM 3

Credentials of representatives to the eighteenth session of the General Assembly:

(a) Appointment of the Credentials Committee

8. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: Under rule 28 of the rules of procedure the General Assembly should, at the beginning of each session, appoint a Credentials Committee composed of nine members on the proposal of the President.

9. I propose that the Credentials Committee for the eighteenth regular session should consist of the following Member States: Algeria, Belgium, Ecuador, Ireland, Liberia, Nepal, Panama, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America.

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After the close of the session, collated sets of fascicles will be placed on sale for the general public.

10. If there is no objection, I shall consider these countries appointed to the Credentials Committee.

It was so decided.

Statement by the representative of Indonesia

11. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I have been given to understand that the representative of Indonesia wishes to make a statement, and I now recognize him.

12. Mr. PALAR (Indonesia): Before the General Assembly proceeds with the consideration of its agenda today, I should like to make the following statement: the Indonesian delegation has noted that, in the seating arrangements in this hall, the seat of the Federation of Malaya is now being occupied by the representative of the Federation of Malaysia. The Indonesian delegation feels compelled to take exception to this procedural fait accompli. For very serious reasons, my Government has withheld recognition of the Federation of Malaysia. We reserve our right to clarify our position on the question of Malaysia at a later stage. The Indonesian delegation requests that this statement be spread fully upon the record.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Election of the President

13. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I now invite members of the General Assembly to proceed to the election of the President of the eighteenth regular session. The election will be held by secret ballot, in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure. Ballot papers are now being distributed. I request delegations to write on this paper the name of the person—not the name of a country, but the name of a person—for whom they wish to vote.

At the invitation of the Temporary President, Mr. Dashtseren (Mongolia) and Mr. Lynch-Shyllon (Sierra Leone) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	110
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	110
Abstentions:	11
Number of Members voting:	99
Required majority:	50

Number of votes obtained:

Mr. Carlos Sosa Rodríguez	
(Venezuela)	99

Mr. Carlos Sosa Rodríguez (Venezuela), having obtained the required majority, was elected President of the eighteenth session of the General Assembly and took the Chair.

14. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: It is my very great pleasure to confirm that His Excellency Mr. Carlos Sosa Rodríguez of Venezuela has been unanimously elected President of the eighteenth session of the General Assembly. In extending my sincere congratulations to Mr. Carlos Sosa Rodríguez, I have the pleasure to hand over the responsibilities of this high office into his capable hands.

Address by Mr. Carlos Sosa Rodríguez, President of the eighteenth session of the General Assembly

15. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): On assuming the responsibilities of President of the eighteenth session of the General Assembly, I wish,

first and foremost, to express to you my deep gratitude for the great honour you have conferred upon me in electing me to this high office. This is an honour bestowed primarily on my country, an honour which places upon me the obligation, as a son of the native land of Simón Bolívar, to be guided in my activity by the noble ideals to which our Liberator dedicated his life. I pray that the Almighty will make me worthy of the confidence you have placed in me. I assure you that I shall do everything in my power to discharge creditably the great responsibility which I am assuming.

16. It is with trepidation that I follow in the footsteps of Presidents of such great stature as those who have preceded me in this office. The outstanding ability of my immediate predecessor, Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, in particular, will be my source of inspiration. I shall do my utmost to emulate the qualities and competence of my predecessors.

17. I call upon you all to give me your generous and indispensable co-operation, as I am sure you will, to assist me in the efficient conduct of our proceedings. I also know that I can rely on the invaluable assistance and knowledge of the Secretariat under the distinguished leadership of the Secretary-General. This confidence in the help which I shall receive gives me the courage to face with optimism the difficult responsibilities you have placed upon me and leads me to hope that my efforts to serve you and the cause of the United Nations will not be in vain.

18. Venezuela, my native land, is not a great Power, but it is a young and dynamic country which, in its 152 years of independent existence and amid all the vicissitudes which have beset it, has constantly upheld the rule of law in its international relations. True to the traditional principles of all the peoples of America, principles which are also set forth in the United Nations Charter, such as the obligation to seek a solution of international disputes by peaceful means, the principle of self-determination of peoples and the principle of the equality of all men without distinction as to race, colour, nationality or religion, Venezuela has steadfastly maintained its faith in the United Nations and has always striven, both within and outside the Organization, to further the implementation of each and every one of the lofty ideals set forth in the Charter. For all its imperfections—imperfections which are inherent in it as an institution shaped by human hands—the United Nations is today an indispensable need of mankind.

19. It is a characteristic fact of the present century that the astounding achievements of science and technology have not gone hand in hand with similar progress in the disciplines applicable to human relations. The importance of the spiritual values has too often been forgotten, and too much reliance has been placed on purely material progress. The United Nations Charter represents a great effort to redress this imbalance, and if its principles are applied without overlooking the spiritual content embodied in them, great advances will be made towards that better world desired by all men and all nations.

20. Since the Second World War three political imperatives have emerged with irresistible force and are shaping the course of history in this second half of the twentieth century. These are: the outlawing of war as a means of settling international disputes, the abolition of the dependence of certain peoples on others, and international co-operation with a view

to improving the levels of living of the developing peoples.

21. The conviction that, given the existing means of destruction, total war is inconceivable since it would mean the extermination of the human race; the conviction that if men and nations are to live in peace there must be equality of rights and mutual respect between them; and the conviction that if peace is to be secured a further necessity is the gradual abolition of the profound imbalance between the highly industrialized nations, whose people are enjoying growing prosperity, and the under-developed countries, the masses of whose peoples are languishing in poverty and ignorance—these three convictions have directed international activity towards a triple objective: peaceful coexistence, with its logical corollary, general and complete disarmament under effective international control; the wiping of colonialism and racial discrimination from the face of the earth; and international co-operation designed to help the developing countries to achieve economic stability. The United Nations has made incontestable progress in prosecuting these ends; but the work which remains for it to do is of much greater dimensions.

22. The recently concluded Moscow Treaty banning nuclear tests,^{1/} which does credit to and greatly enhances the prestige of the signatory States, the successive appearance of new independent States, the technical assistance being provided to the developing countries and the holding of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,^{2/} are all tangible realities which fill us with hope and demonstrate that the United Nations is not a mere entelechy and that its moral influence is gradually leading the nations towards the practical application of the principles of the Charter.

23. The need for the existence of the United Nations if peace is to be strengthened and a better future ensured for mankind was clearly emphasized when, in his encyclical, *Pacem in terris*, the late Pope stated: "It is Our earnest wish that the United Nations Organization—in its structure and in its means—may become ever more equal to the magnitude and nobility of its tasks and that the day may come when every human being will find therein an effective safeguard for the rights which derive directly from his dignity as a person, and which are therefore universal, inviolable and inalienable rights."^{3/}

24. The Secretary-General, with the vast experience he has gained in this Organization, first as representative of his country and then as the Secretary-General of the United Nations, stated, in a speech delivered at Johns Hopkins University in December 1962: "The United Nations ... does not represent a vague ideal of universal peace and brotherhood which has its appeal only to starry-eyed idealists and moralists. Far from it. It is hard-headed, enlightened self-interest, the stake that all humanity has in peace and progress and, most important of all, survival, that dictates the need for the United Nations as a practical, institutional embodiment of the needs of nations on a shrinking planet, as a potent and dynamic

instrument at the service of all nations, east and west, north as well as south." That the United Nations is necessary in the world of today is therefore a fact accepted both by the more outstanding intellects and by the ordinary men in every part of the world, who see in it an instrument working for the preservation of peace and for the equality of men.

25. In the broad historic process which is moving towards the attainment of the ideals of the Charter, each General Assembly has marked a step forward. I hope that this eighteenth session will be no exception, and that when we complete our work we shall have the satisfaction of knowing that we have taken a further step in the same direction.

26. The growing number and importance of the items submitted to the consideration of the General Assembly, as also the great increase in the number of Member States, makes it essential for us to adopt methods of work which will enable us to reconcile the need for free and full discussion of items, allowing every delegation that so wishes to speak in the debates, with the necessity of completing our proceedings within the time-limit normally set for the General Assembly.

27. Both from the practical point of view and that of the convenience of Member States, and from the political point of view and that of the prestige of the United Nations, it is desirable that the work of the regular session of the General Assembly should not extend beyond the normal period. My eminent predecessor, Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, managed to demonstrate that this is not only desirable but possible. I in turn hope that this year too, with the co-operation of all the delegations here present, we shall be able to bring our work to a successful conclusion within the normal term of this session. In this connexion I venture to draw the attention of representatives to the importance of the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Improvement of the Methods of Work of the General Assembly [A/5423], which will be submitted to them for consideration during this session. This report, as we all know, is the outcome of the happy initiative of the distinguished President of the fifteenth session, Mr. Mongi Slim, and it reflects the experience accumulated during the eighteen years in which the United Nations has been in being.

28. The importance which the United Nations has acquired compels it to adapt its methods of work to the increasing demands it is called upon to satisfy. The efficiency of the Organization will depend to a great extent on the efficiency of its methods of work. We must all co-operate in making it a ready and effective instrument, responding to the needs of the moment and prepared to face those of the future.

29. Despite all the divergent views, conflicting interests and passions which must naturally find expression in an international parliament, we also share ideals and aspirations which constitute an invaluable common denominator permitting us to smooth out our differences and helping us to achieve acceptable solutions. Many a difficulty can be overcome if we put aside the often artificially created fears and prejudices which distort reality and hamper understanding. Moreover, a sound interpretation of the principles of the Charter presupposes that they are to be applied impartially; the principles and precepts of the Charter are the same for all; we should not exempt some from what we demand of others, nor

^{1/} Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water, signed on 5 August 1963.

^{2/} United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, scheduled to open at Geneva on 23 March 1964.

^{3/} On establishing universal peace in truth, justice, charity and liberty, Vatican Polyglot Press, 1963, p. 34.

excuse in some what in others we condemn; such inconsistencies weaken the moral force of the Assembly and breed mistrust and scepticism.

30. I have every confidence that the debates which will take place during this session and in which so many eminent statesmen from all over the world will participate, will proceed in an atmosphere of understanding, harmony and mutual respect and will increase the trust placed by the peoples of the world in the United Nations; and that, while they obviously cannot solve all the serious problems facing the world today, they will at least help to clear the ground for the solution of those problems.

31. The United Nations is, in a sense, a mirror which reflects the world, and the spirit in which our debates are conducted is bound to spread beyond these walls to all the nations of the globe.

32. Fortunately, this session opens in an auspicious atmosphere. International tension has been reduced by the welcome signature of the Moscow Treaty, on the prohibition of nuclear tests, and in all parts of the world men's fears are replaced by hope.

33. I beseech Divine Providence to enlighten our minds and to unify our efforts so that, thus inspired and united, we may bring to a happy conclusion our appointed task of maintaining peace among nations and promoting the progress and well-being of all mankind.

34. I shall now adjourn the meeting. Each of the Main Committees will proceed, in consecutive order, to elect its Chairman in this hall. We shall begin with the First Committee. As soon as these elections have been completed the General Assembly will convene again in plenary meeting to elect the thirteen Vice-Presidents of the eighteenth session.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.