



General Assembly

Fifty-sixth session

92nd plenary meeting

Monday, 24 December 2001, 11 a.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Han Seung-soo (Republic of Korea)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Sharma (Nepal) took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

Agenda item 3 (continued)

Credentials of representatives to the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly

Report of the Credentials Committee (A/56/724)

The Acting President: The draft resolution recommended by the Credentials Committee in paragraph 11 of its report reads as follows:

“The General Assembly.

“Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein.

“Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.”

We shall now proceed to consider the draft resolution recommended by the Credentials Committee in paragraph 11 of the report.

We shall now take action on the recommendation of the Credentials Committee set forth in paragraph 11 of the report.

The Credentials Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 56/221).

The Acting President: I shall now give the floor to those representatives wishing to make statements in explanation of vote. May I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Hamzehei (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation would like to express its reservations on those parts of the report which may be construed as recognition of Israel.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote after the voting.

We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 3.

Agenda item 26

Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children

Draft resolution (A/56/L.7)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/743)

The Acting President: We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/56/L.7.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/56/L.7, entitled “Special session of the General Assembly on children”.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/56/L.7?

Draft resolution A/56/L.7 was adopted (resolution 56/222).

The Acting President: In connection with the special session of the General Assembly on children, to be held from 8 to 10 May 2002, I should like to inform members that the children's forum will be held on Monday and Tuesday, 6 and 7 May 2002.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 26.

Agenda item 44 (*continued*)

The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Draft resolutions (A/56/L.42/Rev.1 and A/56/L.45/Rev.1)

Reports of the Fifth Committee (A/56/749, A/56/750)

The Acting President: Members will recall that the General Assembly held the debate on this agenda item at its 84th plenary meeting on 11 December 2001.

We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/56/L.42/Rev.1 and A/56/L.45/Rev.1.

The Assembly will first take a decision on draft resolution A/56/L.42/Rev.1, entitled "United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/56/L.42/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/56/L.42/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 56/223).

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/56/L.45/Rev.1, entitled "The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development".

There are two additional sponsors of this draft resolution: Mexico and Spain.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/56/L.45/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/56/L.45/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 56/224).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 44.

Agenda item 74 (*continued*)

General and complete disarmament

Report of the First Committee (A/56/536, para. 73, draft resolution U)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/740)

The Acting President: May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

"When the same draft resolution is considered in a main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I also remind delegations that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on draft resolution U, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as was done in the First Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance.

Draft resolution U is entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution U without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution U was adopted (resolution 56/24 V).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 74?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the First Committee.

Agenda item 89 (*continued*)

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
(A/55/572/Add.1)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/753)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) that are before it today.

It was so decided.

The Acting President: May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401 the Assembly agreed that

“When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation’s vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee.”

May I also remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the draft resolution, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as was done in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), unless notified otherwise in advance.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution.

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 56/225).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 89.

Agenda item 90 (*continued*)

Questions relating to information

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
(A/56/552)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/744)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution B, recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in paragraph 10 of its report.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401 the Assembly agreed that

“When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation’s vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee.”

May I also remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as was done in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), unless notified otherwise in advance.

Draft resolution B is entitled “United Nations public information policies and activities”.

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) adopted draft resolution B without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution B was adopted (resolution 56/64 B).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 90?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) that were before it.

Agenda item 98 (*continued*)

Environment and sustainable development

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Report of the Second Committee
(A/56/561/Add.1)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/751)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take action on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401 the Assembly agreed that

“When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation’s vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee.”

May I also remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner

as was done in the Second Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance.

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution, entitled “World Summit on Sustainable Development”, without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 56/226).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 98.

Agenda item 106 (*continued*)

Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Report of the Second Committee (A/56/569)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/752)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take action on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 12 of its report.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401 the Assembly agreed that

“When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation’s vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee.”

May I also remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as was done in the Second Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance.

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 56/227).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 106?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 12 (continued)

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Second Committee (A/56/571)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/747)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take action on draft decision I, recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 24 of its report.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

“When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation’s vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee.”

May I also remind delegations that, in accordance with Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as was done in the Second Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance.

The Second Committee adopted draft decision I, entitled “Office of the President of the Economic and Social Council”, without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft decision I was adopted.

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 12.

The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the Second Committee that were before it.

Agenda item 109 (continued)

Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

Report of the Third Committee (A/56/573)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/741)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution II, recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 17 of its report.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

“When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation’s vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee.”

May I also remind delegations that, in accordance with Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as was done in the Third Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance.

Draft resolution II is entitled “Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing”.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 56/228).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 109.

Agenda item 112 (*continued*)

Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee (A/56/576)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/742)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution VII, recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 36 of its report.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

“When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation’s vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee.”

May I also remind delegations that, in accordance with Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as was done in the Third Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance.

I call on the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, who wishes to speak on a point of order.

Mr. Barg (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya): I wish to have it noted in the record of the meeting that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya withdraws its sponsorship of draft resolution VII.

The Acting President: It will be so noted.

Draft resolution VII is entitled “Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women”.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution VII was adopted (resolution 56/229).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 112.

I should like to inform the Assembly that I will suspend the meeting to wait for the Fifth Committee to conclude its work. The meeting will resume immediately following the adjournment of the Fifth Committee.

The meeting was suspended at 12.55 p.m. and resumed at 1.40 p.m.

Agenda item 119 (*continued*)

Human rights questions

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Report of the Third Committee
(A/56/583/Add.2, para. 109)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/746)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution XXIV, recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 109 of its report.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

“When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation’s vote is different from its vote in the Committee.”

May I also remind delegations that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on draft resolution XXIV, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as was done in the Third Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance.

Draft resolution XXIV is entitled “Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa”.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XXIV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XXIV was adopted (resolution 56/230).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 119.

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Report of the Third Committee
(A/56/583/Add.3)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/748)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution III recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 48 of its report.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401 the Assembly agreed that

“When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation’s vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee.”

May I also remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as was done in the Third Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance.

Draft resolution III is entitled “Situation of human rights in Myanmar”.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 56/231).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 119.

Agenda item 118 (*continued*)

Right of peoples to self-determination

Report of the Third Committee (A/56/582)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/745)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution I recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 17 of its report.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401 the Assembly agreed that

“When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation’s vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee.”

May I also remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as was done in the Third Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance.

Draft resolution I is entitled “Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination”.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea,

Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

Against:

Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Yugoslavia.

Draft resolution I was adopted by 77 votes to 20, with 20 abstentions (resolution 56/232).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 118?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of all the reports of the Third Committee that were before it.

Reports of the Fifth Committee

The Acting President: The General Assembly will now consider the reports of the Fifth Committee of agenda item 12, 120, 121, 121 and 128, 121 and 130, 122, 122 and 133, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 130, 131, 132, 136, 137, 141 and 158.

I request the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Santiago Wins of Uruguay, to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee in one intervention.

Mr. Wins (Uruguay), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour today to introduce to the General Assembly the reports prepared by the Fifth Committee during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly. It will be recalled that the Fifth Committee was assigned 43 agenda items during the fifty-sixth session.

Throughout the principal part of the fifty-sixth session, the Fifth Committee focused its attention primarily on the agenda items and issues with deadlines. As members will recall, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 49/233 A, the Committee will examine all issues relating to the financing of peacekeeping operations and other peacekeeping-related matters during the resumed session.

From 8 October to 24 December, the Fifth Committee held 40 plenary meetings. Intense negotiations took place, especially on the draft programme budget for the 2002-2003 biennium, which often lasted throughout the night in Conference Room 5. I shall now present a brief report on the results of the work of the Fifth Committee.

The report of the Committee on agenda item 120, entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors", is contained in document A/56/651. In paragraph 7 of its report, the Committee recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, which the Committee had adopted without a vote.

With regard to agenda items 121 and 128, entitled, respectively, "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" and "Joint Inspection Unit", the Committee considered two thematic reports of the Joint Inspection Unit, entitled, respectively, "Management of buildings: practices of selected United Nations system organizations relevant to the renovation of the United Nations Headquarters" and "Policies and practices in the use of the services of private management consulting firms in the organizations of the United Nations system". In paragraph 8 of its report contained in document A/56/652, the Fifth Committee recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of two draft resolutions, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

Concerning agenda items 121 and 130, entitled, respectively, “Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations” and “Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services”, the Committee, in paragraph 6 of its report in A/56/727, recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

Continuing with agenda item 121, entitled “Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations”, the Committee, in paragraph 7 of its report in A/56/734, recommended to the Assembly the adoption of two draft decisions, relating, respectively, to the biennial programme of work of the Fifth Committee for 2002-2003, and action taken on certain items, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

The report of the Committee on agenda item 122, entitled “Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001”, is contained in document A/56/653. In paragraph 12 of its report, the Committee recommended to the Assembly the adoption of four draft resolutions, entitled, respectively, “Enhancing the United Nations experience for visitors”, “Development Account”, “Proposed measures to improve the profitability of the commercial activities of the United Nations” and “Information technology”, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

Also with respect to agenda item 122, entitled “Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001”, the Committee, in paragraph 6 of its report contained in document A/56/735, recommended to the Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution concerning the second performance report on the programme budget, which the Committee had adopted without a vote.

Concerning agenda items 122 and 133, entitled, respectively, “Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001” and “Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations”, the Committee addressed the comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects. In paragraph 5 of its report in A/56/738, the Committee recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

The report of the Committee on agenda item 124, entitled “Pattern of conferences”, is contained in document A/56/737. In paragraph 6 of its report, the Committee recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

The report of the Committee on agenda item 125, entitled “Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations”, is contained in document A/56/728. In paragraph 7 of its report, the Committee recommended to the Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

Concerning agenda item 126, entitled “Human resources management”, the Committee considered documents on consultants, delegation of authority, and young professionals. In paragraph 10 of its report contained in document A/56/654, the Committee recommended to the Assembly the adoption of three draft decisions relating to these issues, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

With respect to agenda item 127, entitled “United Nations common system”, the Committee, in paragraph 8 of its report contained in document A/56/729, recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

Concerning agenda item 128, entitled “Joint Inspection Unit”, the Committee, in paragraph 6 of its report in A/56/655, recommended to the Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

Regarding agenda item 130, entitled “Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services”, the Committee, in paragraph 6 of its report contained in document A/56/739, recommended to the Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

The reports of the Committee on agenda items 131 and 132, entitled, respectively, “Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991” and “Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious

Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994”, are contained, respectively, in documents A/56/730 and A/56/731. In paragraph 6 of A/56/730 and in paragraph 6 of A/56/731, the Committee recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of two relevant draft resolutions, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

As has been previously indicated, the Committee considered the financing of five United Nations peacekeeping operations relating to agenda items 136, 137, 141 and 158, entitled, respectively, “Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor”, “Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea”, “Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone” and “Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo”. The reports of the Committee on these agenda items are contained in documents A/56/715, A/56/714, A/56/712 and A/56/713, respectively. In paragraph 6 of each report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the corresponding draft resolutions, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

The Assembly will recall that it adopted the draft resolution on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon recommended by the Fifth Committee in its report in document A/56/722 at its 91st plenary meeting, on Friday, 21 December 2001.

With regard to agenda item 12, entitled “Report of the Economic and Social Council”, in paragraph 4 of its report contained in document A/56/676 the Committee recommends to the Assembly the adoption of a draft decision that the Committee approved without a vote.

With regard to agenda item 123, entitled “Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003”, in paragraph 33 of part II of its draft report contained in A/C.5/56/L.28, the official version of which will be issued as document A/56/736, the Committee recommends to the Assembly the adoption of draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.31, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

Also with regard to agenda item 123, the Committee considered 15 statements on budgetary

programme implications. Document A/C.5/56/L.33 contains 13 draft decisions concerning programme budget implications, which the Committee adopted without a vote. The Committee recommends to the Assembly their adoption.

The reports of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of each of the 15 draft decisions or resolutions involved are contained in documents A/56/725 and A/56/740 through A/56/753.

The draft report of the Fifth Committee on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 is contained in A/C.5/56/L.28 (Parts I and II), to be issued as document A/56/736. Part I pertains to measures adopted by the Committee regarding the draft programme budget, and part II contains the Committee’s recommendations. In paragraph 33 of part II, the Committee recommends to the Assembly the adoption of five draft resolutions, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

Finally, I wish to thank delegations for their cooperation, and to assure them that the changes made in the course of the Fifth Committee’s 40th formal meeting, held this morning, have been duly taken into account and will be reflected in the corrected publications of documents as needed.

In conclusion, I now simply wish to thank the entire Assembly and to wish you a happy holiday.

The Acting President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee that are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of position or vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that, under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that, when the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting,

unless that delegation's vote in the plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee.

May I also remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the report of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance. I therefore hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Fifth Committee.

Agenda item 120

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/651)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 56/233).

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 120.

Agenda item 121

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/734)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft decisions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

We turn first to draft decision I, entitled "Biennial programme of work of the Fifth Committee for 2002-2003". The Fifth Committee adopted draft decision I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft decision I was adopted.

The Acting President: Draft decision II is entitled "Action taken on certain items".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft decision II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft decision II was adopted.

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 121.

Agenda items 121 (continued) and 128

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/652)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "Management of buildings: practices of selected United Nations system organizations relevant to the renovation of the United Nations Headquarters".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 56/234).

The Acting President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on policies and practices in the use of the services of private management consulting firms in the organization of the United Nations system".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 56/235).

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda items 121 and 128.

Agenda items 121 (continued) and 130

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/727)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The draft decision is entitled "Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Operations in Albania".

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft decision was adopted.

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda items 121 and 130.

Agenda item 122

Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Reports of the Fifth Committee (A/56/653, A/56/735)

The Acting President: The Assembly will turn first to the report of the Fifth Committee contained in document A/56/653. The Assembly will take a decision on the four draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 12 of its report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Enhancing the United Nations experience for visitors". The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 56/236).

The Acting President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Development Account". The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 56/237).

The Acting President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Proposed measures to improve the profitability of the commercial activities of the United Nations". The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 56/238).

The Acting President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Information technology". The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 56/239).

The Acting President: The Assembly will now turn to the report of the Fifth Committee contained in document A/56/735. The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of that report.

The draft resolution, entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001", was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 56/240).

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 122.

Agenda items 122, 123 and 133 and agenda item 89 (continued)

Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/738)

The Acting President: The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of its report.

The draft resolution, entitled “Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects”, was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 56/241).

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda items 122, 123, 133 and 89.

Agenda item 124**Pattern of conferences****Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/737)**

The Acting President: The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 56/242).

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 124.

Agenda item 125**Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations****Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/728)**

The Acting President: The General Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 56/243).

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 125.

Agenda item 126**Human resources management****Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/654)**

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the three draft decisions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

We turn first to draft decision I, entitled “Use of consultants in the United Nations”. The Fifth Committee adopted draft decision I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft decision I was adopted.

The Acting President: Draft decision II is entitled “Delegation of authority”. The Fifth Committee adopted draft decision II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft decision II was adopted.

The Acting President: Draft decision III is entitled “Young professionals in selected organizations of the United Nations system: recruitment, management and retention”. The Fifth Committee adopted draft decision III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft decision III was adopted.

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 126.

Agenda item 127**United Nations common system****Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/729)**

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

The draft resolution is entitled “United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission”. The Fifth Committee adopted

the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 56/244).

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 127.

Agenda item 128

Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/655)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 56/245).

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 128.

Agenda item 130

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/739)

The Acting President: The General Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 56/246).

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 130.

Agenda item 131

Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/730)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 56/247).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 131.

Agenda item 132

Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/731)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 56/248).

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 132.

Agenda item 136**Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor****Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/715)**

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 56/249).

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 136.

Agenda item 137**Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea****Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/714)**

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 56/250).

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 137.

Agenda item 141**Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone****Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/712)**

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 56/251).

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 141.

Agenda item 158**Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo****Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/713)**

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 56/252).

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 158.

Agenda item 12 (continued)**Report of the Economic and Social Council****Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/676)**

The Acting President: The Assembly will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 12, dealing with those chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council which were allocated to the Fifth Committee.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 4 of its report.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of those chapters of the report of the

Economic and Social Council which were allocated to the Fifth Committee?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 12.

Agenda item 123 (*continued*)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/736)

The Acting President: Document A/56/736 is, for the time being, contained in document A/C.5/56/L.28 (Parts I and II).

The Assembly will now take a decision on the five draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in its report, which, for the time being, are contained in document A/C.5/56/L.28 (Part II), section IV, paragraph 33.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003". The text of the draft resolution is contained for the time being in document A/C.5/56/L.29.

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 56/253).

The Acting President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 56/254).

The Acting President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Special subjects relating to the proposed

programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003". The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 56/255).

The Acting President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2002-2003". The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 56/256).

The Acting President: Draft resolution V is entitled "Working Capital Fund for the biennium 2002-2003". The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution V without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 56/257).

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 123.

Programme of work

The Acting President: Apart from organizational matters and items that may have to be considered by operation of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, and bearing in mind the action already taken by the Assembly thus far, I should like to propose that the following agenda items remain for consideration during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly: agenda items 10 to 12, 17, 18, 20, 22 to 24, 26, 29, 32, 37, 40 to 44, 46, 47, 49 to 50, 51, 58 to 63, 89, 96, 98, 102, 107, 109, 110, 112, 117, 119 to 158, 166, 169 and 175.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly that those agenda items remain for consideration during the fifty-sixth session of the Assembly?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.