



# General Assembly

Seventy-fifth session

**48<sup>th</sup>** plenary meeting  
Thursday, 31 December 2020, 10 a.m.  
New York

Official Records

*President:* Mr. Bozkir . . . . . (Turkey)

*The meeting was suspended at 4.40 p.m. on Monday, 21 December 2020, and resumed at 10.20 a.m. on Thursday, 31 December 2020.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

## Agenda item 70 (continued)

### Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

#### (b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

##### Report of the Third Committee (A/75/476)

**The President:** The General Assembly will now take action on draft resolution II, recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 23 of its report under sub-item (b).

The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution is contained in document A/75/678. The text of the report, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.15, section G.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution, entitled "A global call for concrete action for the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action".

A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*Against:*

Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Germany, Guyana, Israel, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Netherlands,

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21-00040 (E)



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Slovenia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tonga, Ukraine

*Draft resolution II was adopted by 106 votes to 14, with 44 abstentions (resolution 75/237).*

[Subsequently, the delegations of Guyana, Madagascar and Seychelles informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour; the delegation of Hungary that it had intended to vote against; and the delegations of Cyprus and the Netherlands that they had intended to abstain.]

**The President:** The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 70 and of agenda item 70, as a whole.

**Agenda item 72 (continued)**

**Protection and promotion of human rights**

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

**Report of the Third Committee (A/75/478/Add.3)**

**The President:** The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution IV, recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 39 of its report. The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution is contained in document A/75/677. The text of the report, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.15, section F.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution IV, entitled "Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar".

A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Yemen

*Against:*

Belarus, Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Philippines, Russian Federation, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

*Abstaining:*

Angola, Bhutan, Burundi, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Eritrea, Fiji, Grenada, Hungary, India, Japan, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, Nigeria, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia

*Draft resolution IV was adopted by 130 votes to 9, with 26 abstentions (resolution 75/238).*

[Subsequently, the delegations of Hungary and Kazakhstan informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

**The President:** I now give the floor to the representative of Myanmar for an explanation of vote.

**Mr. Tun (Myanmar):** My delegation voted against resolution 75/238. In that regard, I would like to make the following points.

First, the exploitation of human rights for political purposes should be avoided and is not acceptable to Myanmar. We regret the attempt to do so as an abuse of United Nations mechanisms under the banner of human rights. The resolution that has just been adopted is particularly objectionable since it is intrusive and delves into areas that under the Charter of the United Nations are essentially within my country's domestic jurisdiction.

Secondly, Myanmar has taken important strides in ensuring human rights for all people. Having struggled so long for democracy, the current leaders of our democratically elected civilian Government do not condone human rights violations.

Thirdly, Myanmar is willing and able to address the issue of accountability for alleged violations through its national accountability mechanism. Sixty-seven per cent of the total of 139 cases referred to in the report of the Independent Commission of Enquiry had been under investigation or in court proceedings. The Criminal Investigation and Prosecution Body will continue its investigation and prosecution of the human rights violations reported by the Commission. Moreover, a complaint mechanism for reporting human rights violations in northern Rakhine state has been established and there have been prosecutions under the military justice system, with three courts martial so far. The Judge Advocate General of Myanmar is now investigating a possible wider pattern of violations in northern Rakhine in 2016 and 2017.

Fourthly, our domestic political process has made significant advances towards a democratic State, including the successful holding of general elections last month. We have been on track to set up an inclusive political process. Recently, the winning party, the National League for Democracy, extended an invitation and reached out to parties belonging to ethnic nationals to form a new Government. Moreover, the Government is ready to have a meaningful dialogue with ethnic

groups that were recently engaged in the conflict in Rakhine and other areas.

Finally, to give life to their ill-disguised efforts, some argue that the resolution just adopted aims to address all human rights violations and abuses against persons belonging to minorities in my country. However, they deliberately fail to seek accountability for those who committed atrocities in 2017 against the Rakhine, Mro, other ethnic minorities and Hindus. The story speaks for itself. As such, we categorically reject this mischaracterized and politicized resolution, which Myanmar should not be bound by.

In conclusion, as we address the delicate and complex issue of Rakhine, we need truth, fairness and constructive support. Discriminatory scrutiny and political pressure with malicious intent will not help our efforts to resolve the problems. In conformity with our foreign policy, we will continue to cooperate with the United Nations and the Secretary-General in his good-offices role for the benefit of the people of Myanmar. We will continue to work for the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as towards a democratic federal union for the betterment of the people of Myanmar.

**The President:** May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 72 and of agenda item 72, as a whole?

*It was so decided.*

#### **Agenda item 76 (continued)**

#### **Oceans and the law of the sea**

##### **(a) Oceans and the law of the sea**

##### **Draft resolution (A/75/L.39)**

**The President:** The Assembly will now take action on the draft resolution contained in document A/75/L.39.

The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution is contained in document A/75/679. The text of the report, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.15, section H.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/75/L.39, entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea".

I now give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

**Mr. Nakano** (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that since the submission of the draft resolution and in addition to the delegations listed in the document, the following countries have also become sponsors of draft resolution A/75/L.39: Albania, Angola, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Chile, Croatia, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Eswatini, the Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Hungary, Indonesia, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Maldives, Mauritania, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Palau, Panama, Poland, Romania, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Ukraine and the United States of America.

**The President:** A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the

Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

*Against:*

Turkey

*Abstaining:*

Colombia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Draft resolution A/75/L.39 was adopted by 152 votes to 1, with 4 abstentions (resolution 75/239).*

[Subsequently, the delegations of Gabon, Madagascar, Qatar and Serbia informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

**The President:** Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of vote, I would like to remind delegations that explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

**Mr. Kayalar** (Turkey): Turkey requested that draft resolution A/75/L.39, entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea", under sub-item (a) of agenda item 76, be put to a vote, and we voted against it.

Turkey agrees in principle with the general content of resolution 75/239, whose scope has expanded significantly over the years to include various developments and issues that fall under the encompassing heading of activities and affairs relating to the oceans and seas. That is also evidenced by the breadth of topics contained in the Secretary-General's annual reports on this agenda item, ranging from maritime safety and security to climate change, sea-level rise and the human dimension. We believe that the resolution is particularly relevant as it recognizes the importance of conservation and the sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources in achieving the goals contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In view of that, we appreciate the efforts of the coordinator, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Secretariat and member States in

updating the resolution, albeit in a limited manner, as was agreed on this year in view of the unprecedented challenges caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic. However, owing to the nature of the resolution's references to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Turkey was obliged once again to call for a vote on it.

Turkey is not a party to UNCLOS and has consistently said that it does not agree with the view that UNCLOS has a universal and unified character. We also maintain that it is not the only legal framework that regulates activities conducted in the oceans and seas. It should be underlined in that regard that similar concerns and objections have been raised by a number of States throughout the years. Turkey is ready and willing to continue working with member States to ensure that the resolution in question is adopted by consensus in the future. Until then, the UNCLOS-related language in it cannot and should not set a precedent for other United Nations resolutions.

We would also like to take this opportunity to note that the reasons that have prevented Turkey from being a party to UNCLOS remain valid. Turkey supports international efforts to establish a regime for the seas that is based on the principle of equity and is acceptable to all States. However, in our opinion, the Convention does not provide sufficient safeguards for particular geographical situations and as a consequence does not take into consideration conflicting interests and sensitivities resulting from special circumstances. Furthermore, the Convention does not allow States to register reservations to its articles. As a result, although we agree with the Convention and its general intent and with most of its provisions, we are unable to become a party to it due to those prominent shortcomings. In that regard, Turkey also wishes to draw attention to the risks posed by one-sided interpretations of international law and invocations of UNCLOS to justify maximalist claims by some Member States, especially regarding the delimitation of maritime jurisdiction areas.

Although Turkey is not a party to the Convention, we support the resolution of all maritime disputes on a basis of equity and in accordance with international law, as applicable.

**Mr. Bayley Angeleri** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): Venezuela abstained in the voting on resolution 75/239 and would like to make its reservations clear with regard to its content, as we are

not a party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Venezuela reiterates that in general terms, the Convention on the Law of the Sea is constructive and useful. We therefore hope that solutions can be found to issues with the text that can be endorsed by all participants in order to ensure that discussions on the character of the Convention are more balanced.

A longer version of our statement will be submitted to the Secretariat for inclusion in the official records of today's meeting.

**Mr. Rodriguez de la Hoz** (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to explain Colombia's vote on resolution 75/239. The delegation of Colombia is sincerely grateful to Ms. Natalie Morris-Sharma of Singapore and Mr. Andreas Kravik of Norway for their outstanding work as coordinators on resolution 75/239, on the oceans and the law of the sea, and resolution 75/89, on sustainable fisheries, respectively. Since assuming their role as facilitators, they have conducted discussions with great transparency and a constructive spirit that is reflected in the texts before us today.

This year humankind has been dealing with an unusual and enormous challenge as a result of the coronavirus disease pandemic, which has affected our lives in many ways, including our relationship with the ocean. The situation has forced Member States to postpone substantive discussions on the resolutions that we have adopted, and which we therefore see reflected only the relevant technical updates.

While my delegation acknowledges the valuable contribution represented by the resolutions on oceans and the law of the sea and sustainable fisheries, we note that they contain language that the Colombian Government does not share with respect to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) of 1982, such as the opinion that the Convention is the only normative framework regulating activities carried out in the oceans. Participation in the process of adoption of those resolutions, and the resolutions themselves, cannot therefore be considered or interpreted as implying Colombia's express or tacit acceptance of the provisions of UNCLOS. Colombia conducts activities in the marine environment in strict observance of the various international commitments that it has expressly adopted or accepted, and we take this opportunity to reiterate that we have not ratified UNCLOS, as we consider its provisions neither

enforceable nor opposable except for those that we have expressly agreed to enter into.

The constructive spirit that guides our countries on matters pertaining to the oceans and the law of the sea is based on the firm belief that all nations should take on the responsibility of safeguarding the sea and its resources, its tremendous biodiversity and its ecosystems, given that a sustainable future for our planet largely depends on it. Colombia stands ready to work together with other nations to overcome the challenges facing our oceans and make them clean, sustainable, resilient, productive, stable, accessible and safe. Accordingly, Colombia expresses its reservation with regard to any mention in resolution 75/239 of the Convention as the only regulatory framework governing the activities conducted in the oceans and reaffirms that it does not consider itself bound by its content.

**The President:** I give the floor to the representative of Cyprus, who has asked to speak in right of reply.

**Mr. Mavroyiannis** (Cyprus): I would like to exercise my right of reply with regard to the statement by the representative of Turkey concerning resolution 75/239, the omnibus resolution on the oceans and the law of the sea that was just adopted. It is of course the absolute right of all Member States to decide whether or not to ratify and abide by a convention, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. At the same, it has to be clear that the international community, as a whole, is bound by the norms of general international law, and we all know very well that the Convention on the Law of the Sea codifies customary international law. To that extent, what the Convention contains is therefore binding on all of us. Furthermore, I would like to underline that if Turkey or the representative of Turkey has any issue with the implementation of the international law of the sea in particular areas, there are ways to resolve such issues through recourse to judicial means, and not necessarily through the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, since Turkey is not a State party to the Convention. However, we do have the International Court of Justice. There are other means and mechanisms to ensure that we all respect international legality.

The position of one Member State is without prejudice to what the international community as a whole believes and has accepted as the norms applicable to the limitations of maritime zones. I want to stress once again that Turkey continues to be the only country

that votes against the annual omnibus resolution on the law of the sea. I believe that all of us should find a way, based on principles and values, to reach an understanding as to the applicable international law in such situations.

**The President:** The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 76.

#### **Agenda item 98** (*continued*)

#### **Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security**

##### **Report of the First Committee (A/75/394)**

##### **Reports of the Fifth Committee (A/75/674, A/75/675 and A/75/676)**

**The President:** The Assembly has before it draft resolution II, recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 17 of its report, and draft decisions I and II, recommended by the Committee in paragraph 18 of the same report.

The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of draft resolution II is contained in document A/75/674. The text of the report, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.15, section C. The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of draft decision I is contained in document A/75/675. The text of the report, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.15, section D. The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of draft decision II is contained in document A/75/676. The text of the report, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.15, section E.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution II and draft decisions I and II, one by one.

We turn first to draft resolution II, entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security”. Separate, recorded votes have been requested on the tenth preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 1.

I shall first put to the vote the tenth preambular paragraph.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gambia, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen

*Against:*

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Angola, Barbados, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guyana, Kiribati, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Solomon Islands, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay

*The tenth preambular paragraph of draft resolution II was retained by 81 votes to 52, with 22 abstentions.*

[Subsequently, the delegations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Guyana and Uruguay informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour; the delegation of Turkey that it had intended to abstain.]

**The President:** I shall now put to the vote operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution II.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gambia, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Maldives, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen

*Against:*

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Angola, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia,

Mali, Mexico, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Viet Nam

*Operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution II was retained by 73 votes to 51, with 28 abstentions.*

**The President:** I shall now put to the vote draft resolution II, entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security”, as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

*Against:*

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New

Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Angola, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Fiji, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay

*Draft resolution II, as a whole, was adopted by 92 votes to 50, with 21 abstentions (resolution 75/240).*

[Subsequently, the delegation of Uruguay informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

**The President:** We will now take action on draft decisions I and II. We turn first to draft decision I, entitled “Open-ended Working Group on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/27 of 5 December 2018”. The First Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*Draft decision I was adopted (decision 75/550).*

**The President:** Draft decision II is entitled “Group of Governmental Experts on Advancing Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace in the Context of International Security established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/266 of 22 December 2018”. The First Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*Draft decision I was adopted (decision 75/551).*

**The President:** The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 98.

**Agenda item 103** *(continued)***General and complete disarmament**

- (p) **The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects**
- (z) **Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus**

**Report of the First Committee (A/75/399)****Reports of the Fifth Committee (A/75/672 and A/75/673)**

**The President:** The General Assembly has before it draft resolution XXV, recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 96 of its report on sub-item (p) and draft decision IV recommended by the Committee in paragraph 97 of the same report on sub-item (z). The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of draft resolution XXV is contained in document A/75/672. The text of the report, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.15, section B. The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of draft decision IV is contained in document A/75/673. The text of the report, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.15, section A.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution XXV and draft decision IV, one by one.

We turn first to draft resolution XXV, entitled “The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects”. A separate, recorded vote has been requested on the seventh preambular paragraph.

I shall now put to the vote the seventh preambular paragraph of draft resolution XXV.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador,

Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen

*Against:*

Israel, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Angola, Guyana, Madagascar

*The seventh preambular paragraph of draft resolution XXV was retained by 158 votes to 2, with 3 abstentions.*

**The President:** The First Committee adopted draft resolution XXV as a whole without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 75/241).*

**The President:** We will now take action on draft decision IV, entitled “Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus”. The First Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*Draft decision IV was adopted (decision 75/552).*

**The President:** May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-items (p) and (z) of agenda item 103?

*It was so decided.*

**The President:** The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 103.

### Reports of the Fifth Committee

**The President:** The General Assembly will consider the reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda items 120 (e), 138, 139, 141, 142, 144, 148, 149, 151 to 153, 166 (b) and 169. Before we proceed, I would like to make some opening remarks.

At the opening meeting of the Fifth Committee, I said that all roads lead to the Fifth Committee. I am pleased to note that today we are nearing our destination. However, this is also a historic and unprecedented day because for the first time in United Nations history the General Assembly will be adopting the general budget on the very last day of the preceding year. I would like to emphasize that we did not come to that point easily, and given the difficulties we have experienced in recent days, I felt the need to express my concern and disappointment in a written statement, as well as two days ago. I am pleased that the remaining differences were resolved and that the Fifth Committee was able to finish its work last night, adopting draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.19, on the United Nations budget for 2021. I thank Ambassador Amorín, his team and all the members of the Bureau for their stewardship at a critical time in the history of the United Nations. I welcome the flexibility and spirit of compromise shown by all delegations with a view to ensuring that the main session can conclude on time. I have followed the deliberations closely, and I can attest to the fact that it is the work ethic and determination of Committee members, demonstrated in countless late-night negotiations, that enable the Organization to carry out its functions and deliver the mandate assigned to it by Member States.

As we contend with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the efforts of all are more important than ever and demonstrate that agreement and consensus are integral to all multilateral undertakings. The Committee members are the

innovators of the United Nations as the first Main Committee championing hybrid diplomacy by meeting both in person and remotely. In the seventy-fifth year of the United Nations, they have fulfilled the vision of the founders of the Organization. At a time of crisis, diplomats from around the world came together in order to meet the needs of the people whom we serve.

The United Nations has played a vital role in mitigating and addressing the COVID-19 pandemic globally. In order to continue fulfilling that key role, it requires a strong budget and the allocation of important resources. The global landscape has drastically changed, but much work remains to be done in this decade of recovery to ensure that we all build back better, implement the Sustainable Development Goals, facilitate the Organization's efforts to fulfil its mandate and safeguard humankind by providing vaccines for all.

The Secretary-General has expressed concerns about the financial situation of the United Nations on several occasions, and they have been echoed throughout the main session. Those who briefed the Fifth Committee on behalf of the Secretariat presented stark projections regarding the impact of the current liquidity crisis. The fact is that we cannot create the future we want without the United Nations we need. It is the collective responsibility of the membership to provide the United Nations with funding adequate to its task of fulfilling the activities mandated by Member States. To that end, I once again call on all Member States to meet their commitments and obligations in line with the budget and the scale of assessment. I also assure them that they can count on my full support and that of my Office throughout their work.

I now request the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Tsu Tang Terrence Teo of Singapore, to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee in one intervention before the Assembly.

**Mr. Teo (Singapore):** I have the honour to present the reports of the Fifth Committee.

Owing to the coronavirus disease pandemic, the Fifth Committee met formally and remotely during the main part of the seventy-fifth session, from 5 December to 30 December 2020, holding eight plenary meetings and numerous informal consultations. The Committee's reports on the following items have already been considered by the General Assembly at its second and fifth plenary meetings, on 7 October and 6 November 2020 respectively: agenda item 145, "Scale

of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations”, specifically under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations; and agenda item 120, “Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments”.

I would now like to present the additional reports of the Fifth Committee, containing recommendations on issues that require action by the General Assembly during the main part of its seventy-fifth session.

With regard to sub-item (e) of agenda item 120, entitled “Appointment of members of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee”, the Committee recommends, in paragraph 4 of its report contained in document A/75/583/Add.1, that the General Assembly appoint Mr. Imran Vanker of South Africa as a member of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2021.

Regarding agenda item 138, entitled “Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors”, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly, in paragraph 6 of its report contained in document A/75/665, a draft resolution adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Regarding agenda item 142, entitled “Programme planning”, the Committee considered two draft resolutions. The Committee first took action on draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.5, submitted by Belarus, Burundi, China, Cuba, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Iran, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Zimbabwe, which was rejected by a recorded vote.

The Committee then proceeded to take action on draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.7, to which the representative of Qatar introduced an oral amendment, which the Committee voted to include, in a recorded vote. In its report contained in document A/75/666, the Committee subsequently adopted the draft resolution as a whole, as orally amended, without a vote.

Regarding agenda item 144, entitled “Pattern of conferences”, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly, in paragraph 6 of its report contained in document A/75/667, a draft resolution adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Regarding agenda item 148, entitled “United Nations common system”, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly, in paragraph 6 of its report

contained in document A/75/670, a draft resolution adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Regarding agenda item 149, entitled “United Nations pension system”, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly, in paragraph 6 of its report contained in document A/75/669, a draft resolution adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Regarding agenda item 151, entitled “Report on the activities of the Office of the Internal Oversight Services”, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly, in paragraph 6 of its report contained in document A/75/671, a draft resolution adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Regarding agenda item 152, entitled “Administration of justice at the United Nations”, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly, in paragraph 6 of its report contained in document A/75/668, a draft resolution adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Regarding agenda item 153, entitled “Financing of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals”, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly, in paragraph 6 of its report contained in document A/75/680, a draft resolution adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Regarding agenda item 166 (b), entitled “Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon”, the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/75/664. The Committee considered a draft resolution and decided to retain the third preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 by a single, recorded vote. In the report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the draft resolution as a whole, also adopted by a recorded vote.

Regarding agenda item 169, entitled “Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur”, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly, in paragraph 6 of its report contained in document A/75/681, a draft resolution adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Regarding agenda item 141, entitled “Proposed programme budget for 2021”, the Committee considered the following proposals.

The Committee first took action on document A/C.5/75/L.15, containing eight statements of programme budget implications. The representative

of the United States introduced an oral amendment to section G of the document. A recorded vote on the amendment was requested by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77 and China, which the Committee rejected. In paragraph 3 of its report contained in document A/75/678, the Committee subsequently adopted the draft decision as a whole. The reports of the Fifth Committee on those statements are issued in documents A/75/672 through A/75/679.

On questions relating to the proposed programme budget for 2021, the Committee considered the following draft resolutions.

The Committee first took action on draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.6, submitted by Belarus, Burundi, China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Zimbabwe, which was rejected by a recorded vote.

The Committee then proceeded to consider five draft resolutions contained in document A/75/682. The Committee first took action on draft resolution I, entitled "Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for 2021". The representative of Germany, on behalf of the States members of the European Union, introduced an oral amendment to draft resolution I. A recorded vote was requested, in which the Committee voted to include the amendment. In the report, the Committee subsequently adopted draft resolution I, as orally amended, and as a whole, without a vote.

With regard to draft resolution II, entitled "Special subjects relating to the proposed programme budget for 2021", the representative of Cuba introduced an oral amendment to section XVIII of the draft resolution. A recorded vote was requested, in which the Committee voted to reject the oral amendment. An amendment to the same section was introduced by the representative of the United States of America, followed by a recorded vote in which the Committee voted to reject the proposed amendment. The Committee subsequently adopted draft resolution II as a whole without a vote.

With regard to draft resolution III, entitled "Proposed programme budget for 2021", the Committee adopted by a recorded vote the draft resolution as technically updated, containing the following sections: section A, the budget appropriations for the year 2021; section B, the revised income estimates for the year

2021; and section C, the financing of appropriations for the year 2021.

The Committee adopted draft resolution IV, entitled "Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for 2021", and draft resolution V, entitled "Working Capital Fund for 2021", without a vote.

Finally, under agenda item 139, "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations", in paragraph 5 of its report contained in document A/75/683, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly a draft decision entitled "Questions deferred for future consideration", which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

I thank delegations for their cooperation and assure them that the changes made during the eighth formal meeting of the Fifth Committee will be reflected in the draft resolutions, decisions and reports, which will be issued in all official languages.

Before I conclude, on a personal note, I would like to thank the Chair of the Fifth Committee, Ambassador Carlos Amorín and his team, especially Ms. María Fernanda Silvera Flores, for the dedicated way in which they guided us through our difficult work. I also thank my fellow colleagues in the Bureau, Mr. Katlego Mmalane of Botswana, Mr. Jakub Chmielewski of Poland and Mrs. Armağan Ayşe Can Crabtree of Turkey, with whom we have always had robust and frank discussions. I would also like to give special thanks to the Secretary of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Lionel Berridge, and his team — Mr. Wiryanto Sumitro, Ms. Sarah Mueller, Ms. Geraldine Valandria, Ms. Lindsay Edwards, Ms. Ilene McGrade and Ms. Rogena Inductivo — for their tireless dedication and hard work.

**The President:** I thank the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee.

Before proceeding further, I would like to emphasize to representatives that because the Committee finished its work late last night, the Committee's reports are available in English only. It is my understanding that they will be issued in all languages as soon as possible. I thank members for their understanding.

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. If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall therefore 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 President:** Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote. I would like to remind members that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, 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. I also want to remind members that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

When there are multiple proposals under an agenda item, statements in explanation of vote or position before the vote on any or all of them should be made in one intervention, followed by action on all of them, one by one. Thereafter, there will also be an opportunity for statements and explanation of vote or position after the vote on any or all of them, in one intervention.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we will proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance. This means that where separate or recorded votes were taken, we will do the same. I would also hope that we will adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Fifth Committee. The results of the votes will be uploaded to the e-deleGATE portal under plenary announcements.

I would also like to remind members that any corrections to the voting intentions of delegations after the voting has concluded should be made directly to the Secretariat at the end of the meeting and submitted to the e-deleGATE portal after 8 January 2021, as the e-voting intention platform is being migrated to a new platform. I seek your cooperation in avoiding any interruptions to our proceedings in that regard.

#### **Agenda item 120 (continued)**

##### **(e) Appointment of members of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee**

##### **Report of the Fifth Committee (A/75/583/Add.1)**

**The President:** In paragraph 4 of its report, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly appoint Mr. Imran Vanker of South Africa as a member of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2021.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to appoint Mr. Imran Vanker as a member of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2021?

*It was so decided (decision 75/408).*

**The President:** May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (e) of agenda item 120?

*It was so decided.*

#### **Agenda item 138**

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

##### **Report of the Fifth Committee (A/75/665)**

**The President:** The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in the document A/C.5/75/L.4.

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

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 75/242).*

**The President:** The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 138.

#### **Agenda item 142 (continued)**

##### **Programme planning**

##### **Report of the Fifth Committee (A/75/666)**

The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7

of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in the document A/C.5/75/L.7, as orally amended in the Committee.

**The President:** I now give the floor to representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote before the vote.

**Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We would like to introduce an oral amendment with regard to the Russian Federation's position. I would like to refer to the statement I made in the Fifth Committee yesterday (see A/C.5/75/SR.8). The oral amendment is as follows.

(*spoke in English*)

To delete the paragraph "Further approves the programme plan for programme 6, Legal affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2021, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General", and to insert the paragraph "Decides to delete all narratives and references regarding the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 from programme 6, Legal affairs."

**Mr. Alshahin** (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation supports the oral amendment proposed by the representative of the Russian Federation for the reasons that I mentioned at the Fifth Committee's final meeting yesterday.

**Mr. Hauri** (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): I am taking the floor on behalf of Liechtenstein and my own country, Switzerland, to explain our position on the oral amendment proposed to the draft resolution contained in document A/C.5/75/L.5 and introduced in the Fifth Committee.

Our countries regrets the proposed oral amendment because it undermines the expressed authority of the General Assembly. The General Assembly has repeatedly affirmed, by a large margin, its intention to finance the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 (IIIM) through the regular budget of the United Nations from its establishment to the inclusion of the necessary financing in the regular budget for 2020. Since its creation, the IIIM has been

an integral part of the regular budget of the United Nations and we regret that a small group of countries continues to challenge the will expressed by members, thereby setting a bad precedent in the Fifth Committee.

Switzerland and Liechtenstein therefore call for a vote on the oral amendment, which we will vote against in support of the integrity and authority of the General Assembly. We will also vote against the draft resolution contained in document A/C.5/75/L.6, on the programme budget.

**The President:** The representative of the Russian Federation has proposed an amendment to the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/75/L.7 and recommended in the report of the Fifth Committee. In accordance with rule 90 of the rules of procedure, the Assembly will first take a decision on the oral amendment submitted by the representative of the Russian Federation.

A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe

*Against:*

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia,

Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Yemen

*Abstaining:*

Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Togo, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zambia

*The oral amendment to the draft resolution was rejected by 88 votes to 19, with 55 abstentions.*

[Subsequently, the delegation of Cyprus informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote against.]

**The President:** We will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fifth Committee. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 75/243).*

**The President:** I now give the floor to those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote after the vote.

**Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): For the reasons that I explained during yesterday's Fifth Committee meeting, the Russian Federation joined the consensus on resolution 75/243, which has just been adopted.

However, we dissociate ourselves from the paragraphs it contains regarding the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011.

**Mr. Zaw** (Myanmar): For the same reason that my delegation gave in the Fifth Committee regarding the so-called Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, my delegation wishes to dissociate itself from the General Assembly's decision to approve the programme plan for the Mechanism for 2021, as well as resolution 75/243, entitled "Programme planning".

**Mr. Alshahin** (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation joined the consensus on resolution 75/243 but dissociates itself from the paragraphs pertaining to the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 (IIIM). Furthermore, my Government totally rejects the establishment of the so-called IIIM, which we do not recognize. Neither do we recognize the mandate or activities of that illegitimate mechanism. It was established through a non-consensual resolution (resolution 71/248), without consultation or coordination with the Syrian Government — the Government of the country concerned — or its approval. That is a gross violation of the Charter of the United Nations, which makes it clear in Articles 10, 11, 12 and 22 that the General Assembly has no mandate to establish an investigation or judicial apparatus such as the so-called IIIM, because such a mandate belongs exclusively to the Security Council.

**The President:** The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 142.

#### **Agenda item 144**

##### **Pattern of conferences**

##### **Report of the Fifth Committee (A/75/667)**

**The President:** The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.8.

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

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 75/244).*

**The President:** The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 144.

#### **Agenda item 148**

##### **United Nations common system**

###### **Report of the Fifth Committee (A/75/670)**

**The President:** The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.12.

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

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 75/245).*

**The President:** The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 148.

#### **Agenda item 149**

##### **United Nations pension system**

###### **Report of the Fifth Committee (A/75/669)**

**The President:** The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.10.

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

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 75/246).*

**The President:** The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 149.

#### **Agenda items 139 and 151**

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

##### **Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services**

###### **Report of the Fifth Committee (A/75/671)**

**The President:** The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.13.

We will now take action on the draft resolution, entitled "Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services". The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 75/247).*

**The President:** The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda items 139 and 151.

#### **Agenda item 152**

##### **Administration of justice at the United Nations**

###### **Report of the Fifth Committee (A/75/668)**

**The President:** The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.9.

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

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 75/248).*

**The President:** The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 152.

**Agenda item 153****Financing of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals****Report of the Fifth Committee (A/75/680)**

**The President:** The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.16.

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

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 75/249).*

**The President:** The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 153.

**Agenda item 166****Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East****(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon****Report of the Fifth Committee (A/75/664)**

**The President:** The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.3/Rev.1.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. A single, separate recorded vote has been requested on the third preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 1, 2 and 3.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia,

Gabon, Gambia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:*

Canada, Israel, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay

*The third preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 were retained by 99 votes to 3, with 57 abstentions.*

[Subsequently, the delegation of Guatemala informed the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.]

**The President:** We will now take a decision on the draft resolution, entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon", as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:*

Canada, Israel, United States of America

*The draft resolution was adopted by 166 votes to 3 (resolution 75/250).*

**The President:** The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 166.

**Agenda item 169****Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur****Report of the Fifth Committee (A/75/681)**

**The President:** The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.17.

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

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 75/251).*

**The President:** The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 169.

**Agenda item 141****Proposed programme budget for 2021****Report of the Fifth Committee (A/75/682)**

**The President:** The report of the Fifth Committee, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.22, as technically updated in the Committee. The Assembly has before it five draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 63 of its report.

I now give the floor to representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote or position on draft resolutions I to V.

**Mrs. De Armas Bonchang** (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Regarding the proposals under agenda item 141 under consideration today, my delegation would like to specifically discuss draft resolution II, "Special subjects relating to the proposed programme budget for 2021", contained, for the time being, in document A/C.5/75/L.18, and in particular its section XVIII, entitled "Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council", and, under the amounts approved for special

political missions for 2021, “Thematic cluster I: special and personal envoys, advisers and representatives of the Secretary-General”.

As we have stated for more than a decade, there is no legal basis for the implementation of activities related to the responsibility to protect, because there is no intergovernmental agreement negotiated by Member States that defines that concept. For more than 10 years, the Secretariat has been unable to put forward a definitive mandate outlined by Member States to advance the implementation of the concept. In addition, resources related to the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect appear to be combined with those requested by the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, whose role has the full support of our delegation, in line with the consistent principled position of the Cuban Government against genocide.

The amendments being proposed do not seek to undermine the operations or resources of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. The Cuban delegation therefore firmly believes that the budget estimates and related narratives that have been put forward for the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect should be deleted and considered only after the General Assembly has taken a decision on the concept and its implementation, scope of application and other related matters.

I would therefore like to reiterate Cuba’s request to propose the following amendments to section XVIII of draft resolution II, currently before the Assembly and contained, for the time being, in document A/C.5/75/L.18, and to include them in the text as preambular and operative paragraphs.

*(spoke in English)*

The proposed first preambular paragraph reads, “Recalling that the General Assembly has not decided on the concept of responsibility to protect, its scope of application, its implication or its possible forms of implementation”.

The proposed second preambular paragraph reads, “Noting that the estimates of thematic cluster I comprises narratives, functions, strategy and external factors, results, performance measures, deliverables and other information related to the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect”.

The proposed operative paragraph 1 reads, “Decides to eliminate the narratives, functions, strategy and external factors, results, performance measures, deliverables and other information related to the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect, as contained in the strategic framework and related narratives of the Office of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, contained in document A/75/6 (Sect. 3/Add.2).”

The proposed operative paragraph 2 reads, “Requests the Secretary-General to issue a corrigendum to his report A/75/6 (Sect.3/Add.2)”.

*(spoke in Spanish)*

We would like to ask delegations to consider the amendments we have just proposed in the spirit of appropriately financing the mandates that I emphasize already enjoy Governments’ consensus, while also bearing in mind the Organization’s lack of funding, and in that light to vote in favour of the amendments.

**Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation) *(spoke in Russian)*: The Russian Federation would like to submit an oral amendment to draft resolution I, contained, for the time being, in document A/C.5/75/L.14, entitled “Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for 2021”. The oral amendment reads as follows:

*(spoke in English)*

To delete the paragraph “[t]akes note of paragraph III.54 of the report of the Advisory Committee” and paragraph “[d]ecides that regular budget resources for the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 under section 8, Legal affairs, for 2021 amount to \$17 million before recosting”.

*(spoke in Russian)*

The next part of the oral amendment is as follows:

*(spoke in English)*

To insert the paragraph “[d]ecides to delete all narratives and references regarding the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March

2011 from section 8, Legal Affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2021”.

*(spoke in Russian)*

I explained the reasons for the submission of these amendments in detail at yesterday’s meeting of the Fifth Committee, and I request that a reference to that explanation be included in the record of today’s meeting (see A/C.5/75/SR.8).

**Mrs. Craft** (United States of America): Far too often, the membership of this vital body abandons principle for expediency and integrity for the presumed benefits of consensus. We convince ourselves that the accommodation of all viewpoints, including those that run counter to the values outlined in the Charter of the United Nations, will eventually yield long-term progress. Today, this body is poised to adopt a budget that reflects an accommodation that extends a shameful legacy of hate, anti-Semitism and anti-Israel bias. The United States rejects that effort and has called for a vote on draft resolution III, contained, for the time being, in document A/C.5/75/L.19, to make clear that we stand by our principles, stand up for what is right and never accept consensus for its own sake.

As a firm believer in the United Nations, the United States is and always has been its largest and most reliable partner. That includes providing 25 per cent of all peacekeeping expenditures and more than \$9 billion a year in support of humanitarian operations. That commitment will not change as a result of my vote. The United States is determined to properly implement the budget, while ensuring efficiency, cost-effectiveness and more rationalization. I just know that we can all do better. The members of this body have subscribed to its founding principles and yet many, far too many, actively undermine those principles in the Hall and across the United Nations system.

Human rights abusers are rewarded with protection in the General Assembly and seats on the Human Rights Council. Authoritarian regimes enjoy a cosy embrace and the sort of back-slapping hypocrisy that should sicken us all. We need a United Nations that fulfils its founding purpose of maintaining peace and security, promoting global cooperation and advancing human rights. Just as the United States played a pivotal role in establishing the United Nations 75 years ago, along with its Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we will work hand in hand to put human dignity and decency at the centre of our action.

This flawed budget makes it glaringly obvious that membership of the Organization has ceased to require a moral centre, and the United States will not let it pass without registering that uncomfortable truth. In specific terms, I turn your attention to the budget’s support for an official event during the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly commemorating the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. For two decades, both Republican and Democratic Administrations in the United States have urged other Member States to recognize the fatal flaws in the Durban Declaration and join us in its rejection. I am reminded of a quote from a legendary human rights proponent and Holocaust survivor, United States Representative Tom Lantos, who was a member of the United States delegation to the original Durban Conference and remarked that it “provided the world with a glimpse into the abyss of international hate, discrimination and, indeed, racism”.

Twenty years on, there remains nothing about the Durban Declaration to celebrate or endorse. It is poisoned by anti-Semitism and anti-Israel bias. It encourages restrictions on freedom of expression. It exists to divide and discriminate and runs contrary to the laudable goal of combating racism and racial discrimination. The United States has consistently registered its firm objections to the Declaration over the years, including calling for a similar vote on the budget in 2007. I should not have to point out the irony here. While this body is eagerly endorsing two decades of dishonesty and division, the Trump Administration is bringing nations together and bridging age-old divides between people through the Abraham Accords.

Having just recently returned from Israel, I can attest that the Abraham Accords offer a real path towards reversing the tide of conflict and misunderstanding. In this instance, as in others, the world is moving forward while the United Nations is stuck in the past. In addition, the United States is deeply disappointed with the failure of the United Nations to implement the snap back of previously lifted sanctions on Iran, as outlined in Security Council resolution 2231 (2015). The United States made clear both in statements and in a letter to the President of the Security Council that those sanctions are now reimposed. The Trump Administration could not be clearer on that matter. The Islamic Republic of Iran is an enemy of peace and security, not only in the world but for its own citizens, and will exploit the inaction of the United Nations to extend its violent influence, fuel additional discord and

inflict even more terror on vulnerable communities across the region. Decisions taken on the budget by this body have real-world consequences. As I stated in September when the Trump Administration announced the restoration of sanctions on Iran, the United States does not need a cheering section to validate its moral compass. We do not find comfort based on the number of nations voting with us, particularly when the majority have found themselves in an uncomfortable position of underwriting terrorism, chaos and conflict. We refuse to be members of that club.

I would also like to note that in spite of very serious flaws, there are some important accomplishments within the budget, particularly funding for investigative mechanisms in Syria and Myanmar. The tens of millions of people suffering human rights abuses in those countries and elsewhere deserve our attention, support and assistance. I have met with Syrian refugees, displaced Venezuelans, displaced South Sudanese and Rohingya who have fled their homes. I understand the human toll of today's conflict and crises, and the United Nations must focus its attention on those urgent needs.

Finally, let me underscore that today's vote is indeed to reinforce the commitment of the United States to a United Nations that functions effectively and in line with its founding principles. Anyone who would suggest otherwise is comfortable with a status quo that undermines the very purpose of the Organization. That should not be considered a criticism of our Secretary-General, who has proved to be a good steward of our taxpayer dollars, especially in unprecedented times such as these. The American people would expect nothing less of me. I have high esteem for the work and reform agenda of the United Nations, and we are going to continue working hand in hand with the Secretary-General towards achieving those goals. We must strive for a United Nations that lifts humankind in the twenty-first century. Our constructive protest against inequities in the budget is a necessary part of the journey. It is a part of the journey that builds a better world and strives for a United Nations that lifts humankind in the twenty-first century.

I wish the Assembly a happy new year.

**Mr. Tan** (Canada): Canada is taking the floor again today to once again call on all delegations to vote against the oral amendments put forward by the representative of Cuba with regard to the Office of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the

Responsibility to Protect, as we have done every year since 2015.

**Mr. Bayley Angeleri** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): Venezuela supports the amendments proposed by the representative of Cuba to draft resolution II, contained in document A/C.5/75/L.18, on estimates in respect of special political missions. Venezuela reiterates its opposition to the allocation of resources for the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect. The responsibility to protect is a concept that lacks consensus among the States Members of the United Nations and resources should not be allocated for that Adviser, especially at a time when our Organization has financial liquidity problems.

**Mr. Nam Hyok Kim** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea supports the oral amendments proposed by the representatives of Cuba and the Russian Federation and reiterates its positions on the responsibility to protect and on the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 (IIIM).

As was already mentioned at the Fifth Committee meeting yesterday, we do not yet have an integral intergovernmental agreement on the concept of the responsibility to protect, and it is unacceptable to sponsor and fund such activities from the regular budget of the United Nations. The responsibility to protect is nothing but a pretext for justifying interference in the internal affairs of small and weak countries.

The IIIM constitutes a clear violation of the sovereign equality and right to self-determination of sovereign States and of the principle of non-interference in their internal affairs, which are basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of international relations. For that reason, my delegation will vote in favour of the oral amendments proposed by the representatives of Cuba and the Russian Federation.

**Mr. Alshahin** (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation supports the representative of the Russian Federation's proposal for an oral amendment concerning the establishment of the illegitimate International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of

Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 (IIIM).

I want to emphasize the steadfast and principled position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding its non-recognition of the Mechanism for the reasons I mentioned in my statements yesterday. In the meantime, I support Cuba's proposed amendments regarding the responsibility to protect.

I would like to respond to the statement made by the representative of the United States, who claims that she is keen to put an end to the humanitarian suffering and apply accountability in my country. However, that position is inconsistent with the stance of her own country, the United States, as it continues to support terrorism and separatist militias in Syria, which represent the main reason for the suffering of the Syrian people, not to mention the policies of occupation and aggression against Syrian territories. The humanitarian suffering has been exacerbated by unilateral and coercive measures, the most recent of which is the Caesar Act, enacted by the United States and described as designed to protect civilians in Syria. It should have another name, however, because it is designed to strangle Syrians by preventing them from getting food and medicine. The United States Congress is now working on a draft text to impose additional sanctions as part of the political agendas aimed at putting pressure on my country.

**Mr. Erdan (Israel):** Twenty years ago, the Durban Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance convened with the worthy goal of combating racism. But, like many United Nations initiatives, it was promptly hijacked by organizations and Member States interested in attacking Israel and delegitimizing its right to exist. They are not interested in human rights. The Conference became a hate fest. It was a shameful event that hurt the very cause it sought to promote. Israel was left with no other choice but to pull out of it. Today we must all speak out against commemorating the disgrace that was the Durban Conference. Israel opposes any measure aimed at allocating a budget for that purpose. We all know that such funds will not be used to support human rights but to spread even more anti-Semitism and hate towards Israel. I call on the States here that share our vision of a world free of racism and intolerance to join us.

Since Durban, the anti-Semitism that coursed through the corridors of that Conference has been given multiple opportunities to rise again. At the Durban Review Conference, President Ahmadinejad of Iran spewed vile hatred from the podium as the highest-ranking officials of the United Nations looked on. On the tenth-year anniversary of the Conference, the Assembly sponsored Durban III in New York. Once again, the Iranians and other anti-Semites were handed a microphone and the victims of racism were the losers. Durban also served as the launchpad of the campaign to delegitimize Israel. The real aim, of course, which is boycotting, divesting and sanctioning Israel, is challenging the very existence of the world's only Jewish State. It is therefore an outrage that the General Assembly wants to convene and fund yet a fourth iteration of that disgraceful meeting.

The Jewish people are sadly familiar with racism and xenophobia. Their practitioners have murdered millions of us and changed our destiny forever. Because of that tragedy, combating racism is seared into the soul of our people and our nation. We are unequivocally against a commemoration of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which will become another meeting demonizing the Jewish State. It will be used once again to slander us and launch false accusations of racism against Jewish self-determination. We refuse to vote for a budget that enables the United Nations to allocate resources for such a disgraceful event. Unfortunately, the use of United Nations resources for anti-Israel initiatives and organizations is commonplace. It is part of a wider anti-Israel bias at the United Nations.

The mishandled attempts of the United Nations to promote the important issue of human rights have also become common. Under the Assembly's watch, the issue of human rights is cynically abused. The Human Rights Council does nothing to protect human rights. Instead, it serves as an alibi for the terrible crimes of some of the world's worst violators of human rights. The Council and the Durban Conference 20 years ago both focused on attacking Israel instead of fighting for human rights. I will not stand by when such lies and incitement against Israel and the Jewish people are freely given a platform. It is time for the Assembly to ask why it continues to support hateful, anti-Semitic, anti-Israel initiatives that do nothing to promote its stated goals. It is an outrageous habit, and it must stop now.

**Mrs. Llano** (Nicaragua) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation would like to express its full support and gratitude for the amendments proposed by the representative of Cuba. The responsibility to protect is a concept that lacks consensus support among the States Members of the United Nations and has no legal basis. Resources should not be allocated for the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect, much less combined with those allocated for the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide. For that reason, we encourage other Member States to vote in favour of that amendment.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and support for the amendment put forward by the representative of the Russian Federation on the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011. As always, I would like to recall that we are of the view that there should be a political agreement that reflects the will of the people and the Government of Syria, with the support of the international community but without foreign interference. We support that amendment and hope that other members will vote in its favour.

**Mr. Bientzle** (Germany): On behalf of the European Union and its member States and the aligning countries North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, I would like to request a vote on the amendments proposed by the representative of the Russian Federation. I made a statement and an explanation of vote on this yesterday. We will vote against the amendments and call on other delegations to follow suit.

**The President:** We will now take a decision on draft resolutions I to V and the oral amendments to them, one by one.

We first turn to draft resolution I, entitled “Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for 2021”, whose text, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.14, as orally amended in the Committee.

The representative of the Russian Federation has submitted an oral amendment to draft resolution I. In accordance with rule 90 of the rules of procedure, the Assembly will first take a decision on the amendment

submitted by the representative of the Russian Federation.

A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, China, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe

*Against:*

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Yemen

*Abstaining:*

Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, South

Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam

*The oral amendment was rejected by 93 votes to 17 votes, with 53 abstentions.*

**The President:** 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 75/252).*

**The President:** Draft resolution II is entitled “Special subjects relating to the proposed programme budget for 2021”, the text of which, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.18.

The representative of Cuba has submitted an oral amendment to section XVIII of draft resolution II. In accordance with rule 90 of the rules of procedure, the Assembly will first take a decision on the amendment submitted by the representative of Cuba.

A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, Cambodia, China, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe

*Against:*

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal,

Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Togo, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay

*Abstaining:*

Algeria, Angola, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

*The oral amendment to draft resolution II was rejected by 81 votes to 19, with 58 abstentions.*

**The President:** 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 75/253).*

**The President:** We now turn to draft resolution III, entitled “Programme budget for 2021”, the text of which, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.19, as technically updated in the Fifth Committee.

A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea,

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

*Against:*

Israel, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

None

*Draft resolution III was adopted by 168 votes to 2 (resolution 75/254).*

[Subsequently, the delegation of Zambia informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

**The President:** Draft resolution IV is entitled "Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for 2021", the text of which, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.20. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 75/255).*

**The President:** Draft resolution V is entitled "Working Capital Fund for 2021", the text of which, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.21. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 75/256).*

**The President:** I now give the floor to those representatives wishing to speak in explanation of vote after the voting.

**Mr. Tozik (Belarus) (spoke in Russian):** I would like to comment briefly on some of the decisions regarding the programme budget for 2021.

First, we supported the amendments proposed by the Russian Federation. The Republic of Belarus believes that the decision to establish an investigative mechanism for Syria runs counter to the existing prerogatives of the Security Council. In our view, issues related to the establishment of such international bodies come under the purview of the principal organ of the United Nations responsible for the maintenance of peace and security, that is, the Security Council.

Resolution 71/248, which established the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011, was adopted by the General Assembly without a consensus and with significant disagreements among the parties concerned. For that reason, we do not support the inclusion in the budget resolution of the section that has to do with the funding of the Mechanism, which seems counterproductive when considered against the backdrop of the serious financial challenges facing the Organization.

Secondly, the Republic of Belarus supported the oral amendment proposed by Cuba, as we believe that the concept of the responsibility to protect is not universally supported. It was adopted without a consensus, it is controversial in nature and the issues around its practical implementation are complicated. There is no legal foundation for its financial functionality.

Thirdly, we welcomed the programme budget's adoption of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions concerning the need to introduce proposals to increase

assessments for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. We support a gradual increase in financing for UNRWA, including the provisions of resolution 65/272.

Fourthly, we have consistently emphasized the counterproductive nature of the adoption of country-specific resolutions in the General Assembly, including those for additional financing for mechanisms created within the framework of such resolutions, which we see as an attempt to impose pressure on sovereign States. We are opposed to resolution 75/252 where it concerns the situation in Myanmar.

**Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian delegation supported the consensus-based adoption of the budget resolutions. However, we would like to make the following points.

For the reasons I that I outlined at the meeting of the Fifth Committee, the Russian delegation dissociates itself from the paragraph in resolution 75/252 related to the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011.

The Russian delegation welcomes the consensus adoption of the instructions for the Secretary-General on developing proposals to increase the share of the regular budget for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and to report on the financing of UNRWA in general.

With regard to paragraph 54 in resolution 75/252, relating to the evaluation of the activity of the staff support provided to treaty bodies, we believe staff should engage solely in activities prescribed in the relevant conventions, covenants and pacts. We believe that such evaluations would help to optimize and reduce the resources, not to scale up the resources.

**Mr. Zaw** (Myanmar): My delegation supports the whole package of budget appropriations for 2021. However, for the same reasons that we expressed in the Fifth Committee yesterday with regard to the illegitimate mandate on the so-called Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, my delegation dissociates itself from the decision of the General Assembly to appropriate any resources for 2021 for the Mechanism under section 8 of resolution 75/252.

On a separate note, my delegation also dissociates itself from the decision of the General Assembly to approve resources for the implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 43/26 under section 7 of resolution 75/253.

**Mr. Alshahin** (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): My country's delegation dissociates itself fully from the consensus on financing the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 (IIIM) from the regular budget. Based on that, my Government will only fulfil its minimum financial obligations vis-à-vis the United Nations in 2021.

Furthermore, we dissociate ourselves from and have reservations concerning the financing of the Human Rights Council, with regard to resolutions 43/28 and 44/21, related to the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. That is based on our principled position rejecting the politicization and exploitation of humanitarian issues in order to serve the interests of certain States and interfere in the domestic affairs of other States under various pretexts, which runs counter to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

My delegation also dissociates itself from the allocation of any financial resources regarding the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic. That Mechanism is illegitimate for the following reasons. My Government stresses the importance of refraining from politicizing humanitarian and relief issues, while it reiterates its determination to continue its efforts to provide assistance, support and services to those in need across the Syrian Arab Republic in collaboration with the United Nations, friendly countries and partners in humanitarian work. All the funding for the Monitoring Mechanism should have been redirected to increasing the humanitarian assistance provided by the relevant United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners, such as the Syrian Red Crescent and the International Committee of the Red Cross, in addition to the more than 40 foreign non-governmental organizations authorized to work within Syrian territory, also in full cooperation and coordination with the Syrian Government, especially given that in previous years the transboundary assistance has been shown to be inadequate and to cover less than 5 per cent of humanitarian needs. It

has also been shown that the Monitoring Mechanism has failed to ensure that the humanitarian assistance reaches those in need, and that it has in fact fallen into the wrong hands, ending up with armed terrorist groups such as Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham, the former Al-Nusra Front. Those groups also levy taxes on the aid coming through the Bab Al-Hawa border crossing, action that is considered equivalent to financing terrorism and that violates the relevant Security Council resolutions.

In that regard, we ask that the Gaziantep office be closed and that promotion of the so-called transboundary assistance cease. Improving the humanitarian situation would require certain Western countries to lift the unilateral coercive measures they have imposed on Syria, which are adversely and significantly affecting humanitarian and development work as well as the socioeconomic situation of the Syrian people, in addition to the ability of the Syrian Government to confront the dangerous threat of the coronavirus disease pandemic.

**Mr. Bayley Angeleri** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation has asked for the floor to address the report contained in document A/75/588 entitled “Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its forty-third, forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions”, which was adopted by consensus as resolution 75/253 and which my delegation supported.

However, my delegation dissociates itself from Human Rights Council resolution 45/20, contained in the report, based on the following principled positions. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela voted in favour of resolution 75/165, regarding the report of the Human Rights Council at its 2020 session, in accordance with its principled position affirming the importance of this subsidiary body of the General Assembly as the ultimate authority for addressing such an important subject, with a view to ensuring cooperation and dialogue among States. Nevertheless, Venezuela reiterates its condemnation of the adoption of resolutions, special procedures and any other mechanisms that address the human rights situation in specific countries.

Furthermore, my country rejects the selective manner in which this issue has been dealt with for politically motivated reasons, as it constitutes a violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. In that regard, Venezuela reiterates that it dissociates itself from the aforementioned resolution as a demonstration of its rejection of the imposition

of instruments and mechanisms established without the consent of the Venezuelan State, which, as in this case, instrumentalize and politicize human rights by producing inconclusive documents lacking methodological rigour or secondary sources in order to promote a programme of internal destabilization that the international community has rejected.

A more extensive statement will be sent to the Secretariat so that it can be included in the record of this meeting.

**The President:** The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 141.

### **Agenda item 139**

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

##### **Report of the Fifth Committee (A/75/683)**

**The President:** The Assembly has before it a draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft decision, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/75/L.23.

We will now take a decision on the draft decision, entitled “Questions deferred for future consideration”. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*The draft decision was adopted (decision 75/553).*

**The President:** The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 139.

The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the Fifth Committee before it.

### **Agenda item 92 (continued)**

#### **Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia — residual functions**

##### **Draft resolution A/75/L.51**

**The President:** The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/75/L.51, entitled “Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia — residual functions”.

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

**Mr. Nakano** (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): This oral statement is made in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

Under the terms of paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/75/L.51, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly during the resumed part of the seventy-fifth session and by 15 May 2021 on the implementation of the resolution. With regard to the request for documentation in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, it is understood that the cost to translate the reporting in six languages could be funded by voluntary contributions received by the Extraordinary Chamber in the Courts of Cambodia, on the assumption that a sufficient amount of voluntary contributions would be received. Accordingly, the adoption of draft resolution A/75/L.51 would not entail any budgetary implications with regard to the programme budget.

The statement that I just read out will be made available in the *Journal* and the e-statements for the meeting.

I should also like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution and, in addition to the delegations already listed in the document, the following countries have also become sponsors of A/75/L.51: Angola, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic and the United States.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/75/L.51?

*Draft resolution A/75/L.51 was adopted (resolution 75/257).*

**The President:** The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 92.

### **Programme of work**

**The President:** With regard to the programme of work of the General Assembly, 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 that the Assembly has already considered and acted on a majority of items thus far, I should like to inform Members that the following items remain open for consideration, or have not yet been considered, during the seventy-fifth

session of the General Assembly: agenda items 9; 10; 11 and its sub-items (a) and (b); 12 to 15; 19; 23 and its sub-item (a); 29 to 33; 34 and its sub-items (a) and (b); 35 to 38; 40 to 49; 54; 56; 64; 65; 66 and its sub-items (a) and (b); 70 and its sub-item (b); 73 and its sub-items (a) to (d); 76 and its sub-item (a); 91; 92; 98; 103; 111; 112; 115 to 117; 118 and its sub-items (a) and (b); 119 and its sub-item (a); 120 and its sub-items (g) to (k); 121 to 127; 128 and its sub-items (a) and (b); 129; 130 and its sub-items (a), (c), (f) to (j), (l) to (n), (p), (r) to (t), (x), (z) and (aa); 131; 134 to 136; 138 and its sub-items (a) to (r); 139 to 165; 166 and its sub-items (a) and (b); and 167 to 171.

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to take note of those items that remain open for consideration or have not yet been considered during the seventy-fifth session of the Assembly?

*It was so decided (decision 75/554).*

**The President:** I will now make my statement from the rostrum.

As we draw towards the conclusion of this final plenary meeting in this historic year, I would like to thank members for their engagement during the holiday season. Their dedication throughout negotiations is a testament to their professionalism. I am profoundly grateful to the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly, the Chairs and Bureaus of the Main Committees and the Secretariat for their extraordinary work and support. Together we have continued the work of the Assembly, despite unprecedented challenges resulting from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

In 2020, the General Assembly continued to lead on the world stage and function fully in order to implement its mandates. Through innovation, the Assembly implemented mitigation measures and new working methods that ensured business continuity in order to meet the needs of the people whom we serve. The United Nations-75 poster at the entrance to the General Assembly Hall reflects the accomplishments of our Organization over the past three-quarters of a century, but, for me, it also serves as a reminder that every delegation here in New York has epitomized the very best of diplomacy throughout the greatest challenge in the history of our Organization. We have worked together to build consensus and exercised prudence and flexibility at a critical time in history. Over the course of the main session, more than 75

plenary meetings were convened here in the General Assembly Hall, including the general debate, the Summit on Biodiversity, the high-level meetings on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, as well as the thirty-first special session of the General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have prioritized inclusion, seeking ways to ensure the meaningful participation of observers, civil society and other important stakeholders. I trust that we will continue this momentum throughout the remainder of the session, including through my vaccines-for-all initiative.

This is the time for deciding on New Year's resolutions and I urge all to join me in my intentions.

First, much work remains to be done if we are to make progress on the key priorities of the seventy-fifth session. Multilateralism remains the only vehicle for ending the COVID-19 pandemic and creating a better world. We must continue to seek every opportunity in the New Year to advance the humanitarian agenda, with a focus on safeguarding and empowering the people in the most vulnerable situations. This must be done in parallel with urgent action on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including gender equality. In 2021, we must first address the needs of those furthest behind.

Secondly, in the Decade of Action to implement sustainable development, every one of us has a role to play as individuals in our communities and as the international community. We need to continue our

endeavours to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals while greening the blue. Climate change continues to destabilize the world and has not paused in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thirdly, in 2020, the General Assembly Hall has become the United Nations Hall, as it is one of the few rooms at United Nations Headquarters with the capacity to facilitate social distancing. In the New Year, we will continue to facilitate the use of the Hall by United Nations bodies to live up to our promise to create the United Nations we need for the future we want.

Lastly, I believe in the power of humankind to create a better future for all, and I hope that everyone will join me in recommitting to the Charter of the United Nations and strengthening multilateralism. Let us not forget that our work here in the General Assembly requires us to recognize the great responsibility placed upon us by the people whom we serve. It is our solemn duty to engage in constructive dialogue in the pursuit of the noble goals of the United Nations — the universal achievement of peace, human rights and sustainable development. I am confident that by continuing to work together, we will fulfil the aspirations of the founders of the Organization as they envisaged it, 75 years ago.

Our work here often requires personal and family sacrifice. Everyone should know that that does not go unnoticed. I thank everyone for their tireless efforts throughout 2020, and I hope that members enjoy a restorative break. I wish all a peaceful, prosperous, healthy and happy New Year.

*The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.*