



General Assembly

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General Committee

Summary record of the 1st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 18 September 2019, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Muhammad Bande (President of the General Assembly) (Nigeria)

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adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the
Secretary-General

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

Organization of the seventy-fourth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/74/1)

II. Organization of the session

1. **The Chair**, drawing attention to paragraph 6 of chapter II of the memorandum, said that he trusted that he would shortly receive from each of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly a letter concerning the designation of a liaison person for the duration of the session. He also drew attention to paragraph 31 concerning holidays and observances and the request that all intergovernmental bodies observe applicable decisions regarding the pattern of conferences when planning their meetings.

2. *The Committee took note of all the information contained in chapter II of the memorandum, and decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to that information and to recommend to the Assembly that it take action on all the proposals made in that chapter. It also decided to draw the attention of the Assembly in particular to paragraph 35, concerning the timing of the plenary meetings of the General Assembly regarding the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization and the report of the Security Council; paragraph 36, concerning the need to limit the number of high-level events held in the margins of the general debate and the urgent need to preserve the primacy of the general debate; paragraph 37, concerning the fact that the General Assembly held a single debate on the items on its agenda, and that a specific mandate from the Assembly was needed for any additional debates; paragraph 44, setting out information concerning the conduct of meetings of the plenary Assembly; paragraph 53, containing information on sponsorship of draft resolutions and decisions; paragraph 54, concerning rights of reply to addresses made by Heads of State; paragraph 75, concerning the timely submission of draft proposals for review of their programme budget implications; and paragraph 82, concerning the views of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the use of the phrase "within existing resources" and the report in which the Advisory Committee emphasized the responsibility of the Secretariat to inform the Assembly thoroughly and accurately about whether there were enough resources to implement a new activity.*

III. Adoption of the agenda

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

4. Since the draft agenda was organized under nine headings, the Committee might wish to consider the inclusion of items under each heading as a whole. However, it might wish to take separate decisions on certain items, where it was deemed appropriate, including in some cases on the placement of items under appropriate headings.

5. The draft agenda contained six new items or sub-items, namely sub-item 22 (d) under heading A, and items 132, 172, 173, 174 and 175 under heading I.

Paragraphs 92 to 95

6. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 92 to 95 of the memorandum, concerning the standard practice of the General Assembly.*

Paragraph 96

7. **The Chair**, drawing attention to paragraph 96, which listed items to be included in the agenda, noted that items 1 to 8 did not fall under any heading, that the General Assembly had already dealt with items 1 and 2, and that items 3 to 8 related to organizational matters.

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

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

Item 22 (d). Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

9. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 22 (d) under heading A.*

10. *The Committee further decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of all the items listed under heading A, taking into account the decision taken regarding item 22 (d).*

Heading B. Maintenance of international peace and security

Item 38. Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte

11. **The Chair** recalled that the General Assembly, at the 107th plenary meeting of its seventy-third session, had decided to include item 38 in the provisional agenda of the seventy-fourth session.

12. **Mr. Balé** (Republic of the Congo) proposed, on the basis of consultations held by the delegations of the Comoros and France, that the Committee recommend to the General Assembly that the item be included in the provisional agenda of the seventy-fourth session, on the understanding that there would be no consideration of the item at the session.

13. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 38 under heading B, on the understanding that there would be no consideration of the item at the seventy-fourth session.*

Item 60. Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India

14. **The Chair** recalled that the General Assembly, at the third plenary meeting of its seventy-third session, had decided to include item 60 in the provisional agenda of the seventy-fourth session.

15. **Mr. Ben Said** (Tunisia) proposed, on the basis of consultations held by the delegations of France and Madagascar, that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of item 60 be deferred to its seventy-fifth session and that the item be included in the provisional agenda of that session.

16. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of item 60 be deferred to the seventy-fifth session and that the item be included in the provisional agenda of that session.*

Item 64. The situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine

17. **The Chair** recalled that the General Assembly, at the 107th plenary meeting of its seventy-third session, had decided to include item 64 in the provisional agenda of the seventy-fourth session.

18. **Mr. Kuzmin** (Russian Federation) said that it was regrettable that the General Assembly had agreed to the inclusion of the item, requested by the delegation of Ukraine in an attempt to predetermine the outcome of the crisis in Ukraine. Consideration of the item would undermine the implementation of the Minsk Agreement

as contained in Security Council resolution [2202 \(2015\)](#). Moreover, the language used in the title of the item, “temporarily occupied territories”, was not found anywhere in the relevant General Assembly resolution. His delegation wished to see a rapid end to the crisis in Ukraine and therefore strongly opposed the consideration by the General Assembly of item 64. It intended to disassociate itself from any consensus which might be reached on the item at the current meeting.

19. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 64 under heading B.*

20. *The Committee further decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of all the items listed under heading B, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 38, 60 and 64.*

Heading C. Development of Africa

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

Heading D. Promotion of human rights

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

Heading E. Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts

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

Heading F. Promotion of justice and international law

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

Heading G. Disarmament

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

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

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

Heading I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

Item 131. The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity

27. **The Chair** recalled that the General Assembly, at the 107th plenary meeting of its seventy-third session, had decided to include item 131 in the provisional agenda of the seventy-fourth session.

28. **Mr. Wu Haitao** (China) said that his delegation opposed the inclusion of the item in the agenda. It was regrettable that certain members of the Committee had been forcing the issue in spite of the widely diverging views on the matter.

29. **Mr. Kuzmin** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation supported the comments made by the representative of China. The inclusion of the item in the agenda would be counterproductive and would further erode the consensus that had been achieved in 2005. His delegation therefore intended to disassociate itself from any consensus which might be reached on the item at the current meeting.

30. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 131 under heading I.*

Item 132. Seventy-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War

31. **The Chair** recalled that a request for the inclusion of item 92, tentatively under heading I, had been made by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in document [A/74/290](#).

32. **Mr. Kuzmin** (Russian Federation), speaking also on behalf of the observer for Armenia, the observer for Azerbaijan, the observer for Belarus, China, the observer for Kazakhstan, the observer for Kyrgyzstan, the observer for Tajikistan, the observer for Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, said that the year 2020 would mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The resulting victory, which had inspired States to establish the United Nations and commit to saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war, was a common achievement of humanity and should serve as a unifying factor in efforts to combat current challenges and threats. The inclusion of the item in the agenda of the General Assembly could lead to the adoption of a resolution on the convening of a special solemn meeting to commemorate all victims of the War.

33. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 132, under heading I.*

Item 172. Observer status for the Group of Seven Plus in the General Assembly

34. **The Chair** recalled that a request for the inclusion of item 172, tentatively under heading I, had been made by Sierra Leone in document [A/74/214](#).

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

Item 173. Observer status for the International Organization of Employers in the General Assembly

36. **The Chair** recalled that a request for the inclusion of item 173, tentatively under heading I, had been made by France, Germany and Turkey in document [A/74/291](#).

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

Item 174. Observer status for the International Trade Union Confederation in the General Assembly

38. **The Chair** recalled that a request for the inclusion of item 174, tentatively under heading I, had been made by France, Germany and Turkey in document [A/74/292](#).

39. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 174, under heading I.*

Item 175. Observer status for the Boao Forum for Asia in the General Assembly

40. **The Chair** recalled that a request for the inclusion of item 175, tentatively under heading I, had been made by China, Cambodia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam in document [A/74/293](#).

41. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 175, under heading I.*

42. *The Committee further decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of all the items listed under heading I, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 131, 132, 172, 173, 174 and 175.*

IV. Allocation of items

Paragraphs 97 to 99

43. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 97 to 99 of the memorandum.*

Paragraphs 100 to 102

44. **The Chair** said that paragraph 100 of the memorandum listed the items of the draft agenda which had not been considered previously by the General Assembly. Paragraphs 101 and 102 contained suggestions regarding the allocation of those items.

Item 22 (d). Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

45. *The Committee decided, owing to the nature of the item, to recommend to the General Assembly that item 22 (d) be allocated to the Second Committee.*

Item 132. Seventy-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War

46. *The Committee decided, owing to the nature of the item, to recommend to the General Assembly that item 132 be considered directly in plenary meeting.*

Paragraph 103

Item 172. Observer status for the Group of Seven Plus in the General Assembly.

Item 173. Observer status for the International Organization of Employers in the General Assembly

Item 174. Observer status for the International Trade Union Confederation in the General Assembly.

Item 175. Observer status for the Boao Forum for Asia in the General Assembly.

47. **The Chair** recalled that, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution [54/195](#), any request by an organization for the granting of observer status in the General Assembly would be considered in plenary meeting after consideration of the issue by the Sixth Committee.

48. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that items 172, 173, 174 and 175 be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

Paragraph 104

Item 9. Report of the Economic and Social Council

49. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 104 and decided to recommend that the General Assembly, when considering item 9 in*

its entirety in plenary meeting, should take note of the clarification that, in implementing resolution [58/316](#), the relevant parts of chapter I of the report of the Economic and Social Council would be considered by the Main Committees concerned, under agenda items already allocated to them, for final action by the Assembly.

Paragraphs 105 to 113

Item 14. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Item 118. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Item 19 (a). Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Item 19 (b). Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Item 19 (f). Convention on Biological Diversity

Item 21 (b). Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

Item 66. Report of the Human Rights Council

Item 67. Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Item 69. Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

50. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 105 to 113.*

Paragraphs 114 and 115

Item 99. General and complete disarmament

51. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 114 and 115 and, with regard to the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which was to be considered directly in plenary meeting under item 89 (Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency), decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the paragraphs of the report dealing with the subject matter of item 99 should be drawn to the*

attention of the First Committee in connection with its consideration of item 99.

Paragraph 116

Item 122. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

52. The Committee took note of the information provided in paragraph 116 and decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 122 should be allocated to all the Main Committees for the purpose of discussing their working methods, as well as considering and taking action on their respective tentative programmes of work.

Paragraph 117

Item 137. Programme planning

53. The Committee took note of the information provided in paragraph 117 and decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 137 should be allocated to all the Main Committees and to the plenary Assembly in order to enhance discussion of evaluation, planning, budgeting and monitoring reports.

Paragraph 118

Item 147. Administration of justice at the United Nations

54. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 147 should be allocated to the Fifth Committee for consideration of the administrative and budgetary aspects and to the Sixth Committee for the purpose of considering the legal aspects of the comprehensive report to be submitted by the Secretary-General.

Paragraph 119

55. **The Chair** drew the attention of the Committee to paragraph 119 of the memorandum, concerning the allocation of items.

Plenary Assembly

56. The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items to the plenary Assembly, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 9, 19 (a), 19 (b), 19 (f), 21 (b), 66, 67, 69, 89, 99, 122, 132 and 137.

First Committee

57. The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items to the First Committee,

taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 89, 122 and 137.

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

58. The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 122 and 137.

Second Committee

59. The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items to the Second Committee, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 22 (d), 122 and 137.

Third Committee

60. The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items to the Third Committee, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 66, 122 and 137.

Fifth Committee

61. The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items to the Fifth Committee, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 122, 137 and 147.

Sixth Committee

62. The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items to the Sixth Committee, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 122, 137, 147, 172, 173, 174 and 175.

63. **Mr. Gafoor** (Singapore), drawing attention to paragraph 35 of the memorandum, concerning the request made by the General Assembly in its resolution [73/341](#) for the President of the General Assembly to reconsider the timing of the plenary meetings on the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization and on the report of the Security Council, said that the debate on the report of the Secretary-General should take place in the second half of January. The current practice of considering the report in early October often resulted in delegations simply repeating comments made by Heads of State during the high-level meetings of the General Assembly, since the situation had not evolved. Moreover, holding the debate while delegations were busy with General Assembly meetings meant that the report, which was probably one of the most important reports issued by the Secretary-General,

was not given the attention it was due. Moving the debate to late January would give delegations sufficient time to consider the report and would allow the report to be discussed in depth. It would be useful for the Secretary-General to attend the debate and open the discussion with an overview of the expected challenges and priorities for the year ahead.

64. If recent proposals for the report of the Security Council to be submitted in April were taken up, the plenary meetings dedicated to the consideration of the report should be held ideally in May, and no later than June.

65. **Mr. Wu Haitao** (China), referring to paragraph 54 of the memorandum, said that it should be borne in mind that the recent practice of the General Assembly had been to allow oral rights of reply to be exercised in relation to addresses made by Heads of State. His delegation would keep the matter under review.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.