



General Assembly

Seventy-third session

First Committee

32nd meeting

Tuesday, 4 June 2019, 11 a.m.

New York

Official Records

Chair: Mr. Jinga. (Romania)

The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

Agenda item 5 (continued)

Election of the officers of the Main Committees

Election of the Chair and the Bureau of the First Committee

The Chair: In accordance with rules 99 (a) and 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, this meeting has been convened to elect the Chair and other officers of the First Committee for the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly.

We shall first take up the election of the Chair of the First Committee for the forthcoming seventy-fourth session. Members will recall that, pursuant to resolution 72/313, of 17 September 2018, which established the pattern for the rotation of the Chairs of the Main Committees for the seventy-fourth to the eighty-third sessions, the Chair of the First Committee at the seventy-fourth session is to be nominated by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. In that regard, I understand that an agreement has been reached by the Group to nominate His Excellency Ambassador Sacha Sergio Llorentty Solíz of the Plurinational State of Bolivia for the position of Chair at the seventy-fourth session.

Ambassador Llorentty Solíz is a most accomplished diplomat of his country, having served as the Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations since 2012. Prior to his current assignment, he served as Minister of Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Vice-Minister

of Coordination with Social Movements and Civil Society, Dean of the Social and Humanistic Science Faculty and Director of the Law Faculty of Aquino University in Bolivia. As such, he also has a very strong academic background.

Here at the United Nations, Ambassador Llorentty Solíz served as President of the Security Council in June 2017 and October 2018, Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), Vice-President of the General Assembly at its the seventy-second session, Vice-Chair of the Group of Landlocked and Least Developed Countries, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Sovereign Debt Restructuring Processes and Chair of the Group of 77 and China.

Since there are no other nominations from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, may I take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and established practice, the First Committee wishes to dispense with a secret ballot and to elect by acclamation Ambassador Llorentty Solíz of the Plurinational State of Bolivia as the Chair of the First Committee for the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly?

It was so decided.

The Chair: I hereby declare Ambassador Llorentty Solíz of the Plurinational State of Bolivia elected by acclamation as Chair of the First Committee for the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly. On behalf of all delegations, I warmly congratulate Ambassador Llorentty Solíz on his election. I am

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certain that he will receive the support and cooperation of each and every delegation in executing his mandate to guide the work of the First Committee throughout the seventy-fourth session.

We will now proceed with the election of other officers of the First Committee for the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, beginning with the Vice-Chairs. It is my pleasure to present to the Committee the following nominations. The Group of Asia-Pacific States has endorsed Her Excellency Ambassador Amal Mudallali of Lebanon, and the Group of Western European and other States has endorsed Mr. Peter Horne of Australia.

Bearing in mind rule 103 of the rules of procedure and recalling paragraph 16 of decision 34/401, may I take it that the Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to elect the candidates by acclamation?

It was so decided.

The Chair: With respect to the position of Rapporteur, the Group of Eastern European States has endorsed Mrs. Szilvia Balázs of Hungary.

May I take it that the Committee wishes to elect Mrs. Szilvia Balázs of Hungary by acclamation as Rapporteur of the First Committee for the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly?

It was so decided.

The Chair: On behalf of the Committee, I should like to express my warmest congratulations on their election to Ambassador Amal Mudallali of Lebanon and Mr. Peter Horne of Australia as Vice-Chairs of the First Committee, and to Mrs. Szilvia Balázs of Hungary as its Rapporteur.

Regarding the remaining vacancy from among the Group of African States, the Committee will hold elections upon notification by the Group concerned.

I now give the floor to the Chair-elect of the First Committee of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, Ambassador Sacha Sergio Llorentty Solíz of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Mr. Llorentty Solíz (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to take this opportunity, first and foremost, to thank the States Members of the United Nations for the support they have given to my country and to me in entrusting to me the role of Chair of the First Committee of the General Assembly at its

seventy-fourth session. Likewise, I wish to express my particular thanks to the members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for having placed their trust in Bolivia through their endorsement. It will be an unparalleled honour to represent our region — the first to have declared itself a zone of peace free of nuclear weapons.

I wish also to thank you, Mr. Chair, and the members of the Bureau of the First Committee for the work done during the seventy-third session of the General Assembly. The quality of your leadership has clearly been reflected in the achievements registered during this session.

Multilateralism is crucial to overcoming the serious challenges facing humankind and life on Earth itself. We must overcome these challenges in a manner that promotes full respect for the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations; this is a legacy that we owe to future generations.

We have stressed the fact that lasting peace must be achieved by political means so that we can find negotiated solutions. Bolivia, as a defender of multilateralism and of the peaceful resolution of disputes, is therefore aware of the challenges facing the international community. We issue a fervent appeal to all Member States to work for peace through the use of the mechanisms available to us under international law.

The major challenges facing humankind include the imminent threat of the use of nuclear weapons, which represents a crime against humanity and a violation of international law and international humanitarian law and therefore the Charter of the United Nations itself.

Bolivia is committed to strengthening the disarmament and non-proliferation regime and actively supports the strengthening of multilateralism and its goal of achieving universal, definitive and complete disarmament, as reflected in its unreserved support for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of the legal non-proliferation regime, and nuclear disarmament as a means of promoting international peace and security. Bolivia has signed and is currently ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Finally, we are aware of the fact that the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly will be a busy one; in the case of the First Committee this will in no

way be exceptional, all the more so given that we are coming up to the NPT Review Conference.

We therefore reiterate our commitment to continuing to work to discharge the mandate given us, in full compliance with the purpose and principles of the United Nations.

The Chair: I wish Ambassador Llorenty Solíz the best of success in his new and important responsibilities.

Before adjourning the meeting, I would like, on behalf of all delegations, to thank the members of the bureau of the First Committee at the seventy-third session, particularly the Vice-Chairs, Ms. Marissa Edwards of Guyana, Mr. Noël Diarra of Mali and Mr. José Ataíde Amaral of Portugal, as well as the Rapporteur, Ms. Muna Zawani Idris of Brunei Darussalam, for their

remarkable contribution in guiding the work of the Committee to a successful conclusion.

I would like also to take this opportunity to extend heartfelt thanks once again to all delegations for their support and cooperation throughout my tenure as Chair of the First Committee at its seventy-third session. It has been an immense privilege to be at their service as Chair of the First Committee. As it has consistently done so far, Romania will continue to make concrete contributions, as a solid and reliable State Member of the United Nations, to finding solutions to the major issues affecting our common peace and security. We will do so within all roles and organisms in which Member States honour Romania through their vote to act on their behalf.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.