

United Nations  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

Official Records



**FIRST COMMITTEE, 1650th**

**MEETING**  
(Opening meeting)

Tuesday, 16 September 1969,  
at 4.55 p.m.

**NEW YORK**

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*Chairman: Mr. Agha SHAHI (Pakistan).*

*Election of the Chairman*

1. The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Rule 105 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that each Committee shall elect its own Chairman, taking into account equitable geographical distribution and the experience and personal competence of the candidates. Are there any nominations for the office of Chairman of the First Committee?

2. Mr. VINCI (Italy): Madam President, the Chairman of the Italian delegation will in a few days have the pleasure of offering you our official congratulations upon your well-deserved election. However, since I am the first speaker from this rostrum after your election, allow me to present my respectful regards and to express my happiness at the significant tribute that has just been paid to your outstanding personal qualifications, as well as to your country, a loyal and staunch Member of the United Nations since the very beginning, as you so eloquently emphasized in your inspiring statement this afternoon [1753rd plenary meeting].

3. I know that my fellow representatives wish all success to our President in the discharge of her great responsibilities, and I feel that we can see a good omen in this election at the opening of the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session. We shall be guided in our work by a lady who represents the greatest international peace corps in the world: women.

4. I now come to the reason for which I asked to speak: namely, to comply with the well-established tradition by which the outgoing Chairman of a Committee has the privilege of nominating his successor. I consider myself most fortunate that this honour has fallen to me, and it is indeed with great personal pleasure that I propose Mr. Agha Shahi, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, for the chairmanship of the First Committee during the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly. Mr. Shahi is a colleague for whom I have the highest esteem, respect and, if he will permit me to say so, affection. Furthermore, he represents a great country with which my own country has enjoyed very friendly relations in all fields—political, economic and cultural.

5. I believe that Mr. Shahi scarcely needs any introduction to this Assembly, where he has been a representative at no fewer than thirteen sessions. Before becoming Permanent Representative of his country in 1967, and a most brilliant and respected colleague, Mr. Shahi was involved almost continuously with United Nations affairs and international conferences in the course of his successful and most distinguished career, particularly during the years 1961-1964 as Director General and Assistant Foreign Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Pakistan. In this last capacity he has often acted as Foreign Secretary.

6. In the last two years Mr. Shahi has served his country with great distinction in the Security Council and as Chairman of the Pakistan delegation to the General Assembly, to the Conference of Non-Nuclear States held in 1968 at Geneva, and, most recently, to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva since his country has become a member of that Committee. In January 1969 our Pakistani colleague was elected President of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme.

7. It is my strong conviction that no better choice could be made for the chairmanship of the First Committee. His brilliant personal qualifications, his unswerving attachment to the principles of the Charter and his intellectual integrity are assets on which we can confidently rely in entrusting him with this high office of Chairman of the most important Committee of the General Assembly since it has to deal with political and security affairs. I have no doubt that the wide experience which he has acquired in all fields of international affairs, and especially in political issues, his firmness, his courtesy, his tact and understanding and his human touch will be of great help in our deliberations on the most delicate items on our agenda. This year, we can be sure that the difficult and arduous work of the First Committee will be carried out under the very best auspices.

8. I should like to conclude on a personal note and say that I would feel great satisfaction and some pride in being succeeded as Chairman of the First Committee by a colleague of such calibre. It is therefore with anticipation of his firm, impartial, constructive and efficient conduct of our work that I commend Mr. Shahi's candidature for the unanimous approval of the General Assembly.

9. Mr. TSURUOKA (Japan): Madam President, I should like to present my warmest congratulations to you upon your election to the high office of the Presidency of the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session.

10. In my twofold capacity as Chairman of the Asian Group for the current month, and as the representative of

Japan, it gives me great pleasure to have the privilege and honour of seconding the nomination of Mr. Shahi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan, for election to the chairmanship of the First Committee. Mr. Vinci of Italy has just outlined Mr. Shahi's many accomplishments and his high qualifications for the chairmanship of this most important Committee of the General Assembly. It is indeed one of the few posts of truly outstanding importance within the entire United Nations system. I whole-heartedly endorse what Mr. Vinci has said.

11. I have the highest respect for Mr. Shahi's long experience, for more than a decade, in many different aspects of work of the United Nations. He has fully demonstrated his devotion to the ideals and the purposes of the Organization and has worked tirelessly for their achievement.

12. We all know how difficult and, in many cases, sharply controversial our work in this Committee can be. I am fully confident that Mr. Shahi will, as our Chairman, guide us with complete fairness, honesty and impartiality. I am sure that he will lead us wisely to the successful accomplishment of the tasks which have been assigned to us, and I know that at the end of this session of the General Assembly we shall congratulate ourselves for having chosen him as our Chairman.

13. Mr. TOURE (Guinea) (*translated from French*): Madam President, the delegation of Guinea deems it a great honour and privilege to offer our warmest congratulations on your election to this highly responsible office. The head of the Guinea delegation, who is better qualified than I am to do so, will have the privilege of offering you the sincere congratulations of the Government and people of Guinea. But first of all, may I, as Chairman of the African group, convey to you our heartfelt congratulations; heartfelt

because you, as holder of this high office, assume for Africa a very special significance in view of the importance we attach to emancipation and more particularly to the emancipation of women. I wish, therefore, on behalf of that group, to extend to you our warmest and most sincere congratulations and to tell you how proud we feel.

14. May I also now, as Chairman of the African group in this Organization, and as representative of a country friendly to Pakistan, after the two eminent members who have preceded me here, express my warm support of the nomination of Mr. Shahi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan, for the office of Chairman of the First Committee at the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

15. The friendly relations of co-operation between the Asian and African groups and Mr. Shahi's great qualities as an experienced diplomat make it possible for us to support his candidacy, and we also wish to stress all the qualities mentioned by those who have spoken before me to justify the full and unqualified support of the African group for this nomination.

16. The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: His Excellency Ambassador Shahi of Pakistan has been nominated by the delegation of Italy and that nomination has been seconded by the delegations of Japan and Guinea. Since only one candidate has been presented, and following the precedent established in this regard, I declare Ambassador Shahi of Pakistan elected Chairman of the First Committee.

*Mr. Shahi (Pakistan) was elected Chairman by acclamation.*

*The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.*