



General Assembly

Sixty-eighth session

First Committee

1st meeting

Tuesday, 1 October 2013, 3 p.m.
New York

Official Records

Chair: Mr. Dabbashi (Libya)

Mr. Ashe, President of the General Assembly, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Permanent Representative to the United Nations since January 2009, including on the Security Council in 2008 and 2009. In March 2009, he served as President of the Security Council.

Agenda item 5

Election of the Officers of the Main Committees

Election of the Chair and the Bureau

The Acting Chair: This meeting has been convened to elect the officers of the First Committee at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly. Before we proceed, I would like to thank, on behalf of all delegations, the members of the Bureau of the Committee at the sixty-seventh session: Ambassador Percaya of Indonesia, Chair of the Committee, three Vice-Chairs, Mr. Aquino of Peru, Mr. Salim of Kenya and Mr. Špokauskas of Lithuania, as well as the Rapporteur, Mr. Langeland, of Norway, for their remarkable contributions in guiding the work of the Committee to a successful conclusion.

For the election of the Chair of the Committee at the sixty-eighth session, I have the honour to nominate the candidate endorsed by the African Group, Ambassador Ibrahim Dabbashi, Permanent Representative of Libya to the United Nations.

Ambassador Dabbashi is an accomplished diplomat of his country, who has made remarkable contributions to the work of the United Nations in many respects. Prior to his appointment in July as the Permanent Representative of Libya to the United Nations, Ambassador Dabbashi had served as the Deputy

Between 2002 and 2007, Ambassador Dabbashi held other leadership positions, also at the ambassadorial level, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Libya, including as Acting Director of the Department of International Organizations and head of the division of that Department in charge of political, disarmament and international security issues. In addition, he served as an eminent diplomat of his nation in a number of other countries and as a distinguished executive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Libya, which he joined in 1975.

Ambassador Dabbashi held the post of Rapporteur of the Fourth Committee at the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly, in 1981. He has participated in 15 General Assembly sessions, held between 1979 and 1985 and from 2004 to now, taking part proactively in numerous international meetings relating to disarmament and international security questions. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in French and Literature from the University of Tripoli, Libya, and a professional diploma in refugee law from the Institute for Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy. Ambassador Dabbashi is multilingual and speaks Arabic, French and English fluently.

Given his vast experience and impressive credentials, I am delighted to submit his candidature for the Chair of the First Committee at the sixty-eighth session.

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Since there are no other nominations, 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 the secret ballot and to elect by acclamation Ambassador Dabbashi of Libya as Chair of the First Committee at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly?

It was so decided.

The Acting Chair: On behalf of all delegations, I congratulate Ambassador Dabbashi on his election. I am certain that he will receive the support and enthusiastic cooperation of each and every delegation in the execution of his mandate to guide the work of the First Committee at the sixty-eighth session to a successful end.

We will now proceed with the election of other officers of the First Committee for the sixty-eighth session, beginning with the three Vice-Chairs. It is my pleasure to present to the Committee the following nominations: from the Group of Eastern European States, Mr. Miloš Nikolić of Montenegro; from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, Mr. Fernando Luque Márquez of Ecuador; and from the Group of Western European and other States, Mr. Peter Winkler of Germany.

Bearing in mind that the aforementioned candidates for the position of Vice-Chair have been endorsed by their respective regional groups, may I take it that the Committee wishes to elect them by acclamation?

It was so decided.

The Acting Chair: For the position of Rapporteur, the Group of Asia-Pacific States nominates Mr. Khodadad Seifi Pargou of the Islamic Republic of Iran. May I take it that the Committee wishes to elect Mr. Seifi Pargou by acclamation as the Rapporteur of the First Committee for the sixty-eighth session?

It was so decided.

The Acting Chair: Allow me to express, on behalf of the Committee, warm congratulations to Mr. Luque Márquez of Ecuador, Mr. Nikolić of Montenegro and Mr. Winkler of Germany on their elections as Vice-Chairs of the First Committee, and Mr. Seifi Pargou of the Islamic Republic of Iran on his election as Rapporteur. I am confident that given their wealth of experience on disarmament and international security issues and their political wisdom and invaluable knowledge, the First Committee will forge ahead in its work during the sixty-eighth session.

Statement by the Chair

The Chair (*spoke in Arabic*): It is indeed an honour that the States Members of the United Nations have indicated their confidence in me by electing me to the chairmanship of the First Committee. I assure all Committee members that I will abide by the rules of procedure of the General Assembly in guiding the Committee's deliberations. I count on the cooperation of all Member States, the Bureau and the Committee secretariat in achieving the results that we all strive for.

The First Committee is meeting at this session at a time marked by major challenges as well as renewed determination on the part of the international community to move forward on disarmament issues. I look forward to working with all delegations to confront those challenges together. I am confident that we will ultimately prevail, with the support of the Bureau members that have just been elected, and that we will achieve the objectives we have set for ourselves.

I recognize that we are preparing for the session at a later time than usual, but I am certain that the Committee will actively implement its programme of work within the established time frame. I will cooperate closely with the secretariat to turn that objective into reality.

The meeting rose at 3.15 p.m.