



General Assembly

Sixty-eighth session

First Committee

26th meeting

Wednesday, 11 June 2014, 3 p.m.
New York

Official Records

Chair: Mr. Dabbashi (Libya)

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

Agenda item 5

Election of the Officers of the Main Committees

Election of the Chair and the Bureau

The Chair (*spoke in Arabic*): In accordance with rule 99 (a) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, this meeting has been convened to elect the Chair of the First Committee for the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

Before we proceed, on behalf of all delegations, I would like to thank the other members of the Bureau of the sixty-eighth session of the Committee — the three Vice-Chairs, Mr. Miloš Nikolić of Montenegro, Mr. Fernando Luque Márquez of Ecuador and Mr. Peter Winkler of Germany, and the Rapporteur, Mr. Khodadad Seifi Pargou of the Islamic Republic of Iran — for their remarkable contribution in guiding the work of the Committee to a successful conclusion.

Members will recall that, pursuant to decision 68/505, of 1 October 2013, the Chair of the Committee for the sixty-ninth session is to be from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

I have the honour to nominate the candidate of that Group, His Excellency Ambassador Courtenay Rattray, Permanent Representative of Jamaica, for the post of Chair of the First Committee for the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

Ambassador Rattray is an accomplished diplomat of his country. He has dealt extensively with various issues relating to the broad area of international peace and security and has made many presentations on disarmament questions on the United Nations agenda. Prior to his appointment, in June 2013, as the Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations, he served at different times as his country's Ambassador to China, Director of the Bilateral Relations Department at the Jamaican Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, and Deputy Chief of Jamaica's Embassy in Washington, D.C. Ambassador Rattray holds a Master of Science degree in international business and a Bachelor of Arts degree in international studies. He also has a Master of Arts degree in law and diplomacy.

Given his vast experience and impressive credentials, I am delighted to submit today his candidature for the post of Chair of the First Committee for the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

As 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 the secret ballot and to elect by acclamation Ambassador Courtenay Rattray of Jamaica as the Chair of the First Committee for the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly?

It was so decided.

The Chair (*spoke in Arabic*): On behalf of all delegations, I congratulate Ambassador Rattray

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on his election. I am certain that he will receive the support and enthusiastic cooperation of each and every delegation in executing his mandate to guide the work of the sixty-ninth session of the First Committee to a successful end.

We will now proceed with the election of the other officers of the First Committee for the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, beginning with the three Vice-Chairs. Accordingly, it is my pleasure to present to the Committee the following nominations: for the Group of Asia-Pacific States, Mr. Saad Abdullah Al Saad of Saudi Arabia; for the Group of Western European and other States, Ms. María Victoria González Román of Spain; and for the Group of Eastern European States, Ms. Narcisa Daciana Vlădulescu of Romania.

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 declare them elected as Vice-Chairs of the First Committee for the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly by acclamation?

It was so decided.

The Chair (*spoke in Arabic*): For the position of Rapporteur, the African Group has nominated Mrs. Saada Daher Hassan of Djibouti. May I also take it that the Committee wishes to elect Ms. Daher as the Rapporteur for the First Committee for the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly by acclamation?

It was so decided.

The Chair (*spoke in Arabic*): On behalf of the First Committee, I would like to express our warm congratulations to Mr. Saad Abdullah Al Saad of Saudi Arabia, Ms. María Victoria González Román of Spain and Ms. Narcisa Daciana Vlădulescu of Romania on their election as Vice-Chairpersons, and Mrs. Saada Daher Hassan of Djibouti as Rapporteur of the First Committee for the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

I now give the floor to the Chair-elect of the First Committee for the sixty-ninth session, Ambassador Courteney Rattray of Jamaica.

Mr. Rattray (Jamaica): It is an honour for Jamaica, and for me personally, to be elected as the Chair of the First Committee. I appreciate the trust placed in me by Member States and thank my regional group, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, for presenting my nomination for the chairmanship. The Committee can be assured of my commitment to contributing to advancing the work of this important body in the current disarmament machinery at this time of major challenge. With renewed determination we can move the disarmament agenda forward by bring our respective political capital to bear on realizing our shared goals of achieving peace and security for humankind.

Next year will be crucial to multilateral disarmament issues. The 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the third Conference of States parties and signatories of treaties that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia will both take place next year. Later this year, on 26 September, we will mark the first International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Furthermore, there is moment to revitalize the Conference on Disarmament and take forward multilateral disarmament negotiations. The anticipated entry into force of the historic Arms Trade Treaty in a few months is a positive illustration of the fact that through our collective political will and concerted action the United Nations can play a crucial role in advancing our goals of peace and security and development.

I look forward to working with all Member States and, with the support of the Bureau and the Secretariat, feel confident that I will be able to effectively fulfil the duties of the Chair in achieving our shared objectives.

The meeting rose at 3.15 p.m.