

United Nations  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

Official Records



**FIRST COMMITTEE, 1494th  
MEETING**

(Opening meeting)

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at 5 p.m.

**NEW YORK**

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*Temporary Chairman: Mr. Corneliu MANESCU  
(Romania).*

**ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN**

1. The **TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN** (*translated from French*): Rule 105 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly provides that each Committee shall elect its Chairman on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence of candidates. Are there any nominations for the office of Chairman of the First Committee?

2. Mr. BENITES (Ecuador) (*translated from Spanish*): Mr. President, I am greatly honoured to find myself the first speaker on this rostrum immediately following upon your well-deserved election. I therefore have both the honour and the privilege to welcome you, on behalf of my delegation, most warmly and most enthusiastically.

3. For a Latin American, the election of a representative of Romania represents a close link with our own traditional origins; for we cannot forget that our culture stems from the same source, the roots of the Latin civilization which was planted in Latium many, many centuries ago and has spread its branches over three continents.

4. I should also like to point out the auspicious significance of your election as a new milestone in the life of the United Nations. This is the first time that an Eastern European has held this important post, and it reaffirms not only the notion of universality, but also that of co-existence, and even more than the limited notion of coexistence, the active notion of co-operation. To coexist is to live together, to co-operate is to work together, and it is precisely this notion of co-operation that is reflected in the encouraging words you have just spoken, to the effect that in order to be respected, one must learn to respect others.

5. I should like now to turn to the basic task I have to perform, not only as a tradition, but also as an honour and a pleasure. It is a long-standing tradition that the retiring Chairman of a Committee has the privilege of nominating a successor. In submitting the name of Mr. Ismail Fahmy, the representative of the United Arab Republic, I am not only

continuing a tradition; I am also paying a debt of gratitude. I should like to state publicly that while he was Vice-Chairman of the Committee over which I had the honour to preside, namely the First Committee, the co-operation I had from Mr. Fahmy was always sound, well-timed and sincere, and it greatly facilitated my task in presiding over the Committee.

6. I should like to say also that Mr. Fahmy has a long career behind him which eminently qualifies him to preside over the work of the First Committee, as I am now proposing. He served as an outstanding and able Rapporteur of the First Committee during the twentieth session and as Vice-Chairman during the twenty-first session of the General Assembly. He has special knowledge of the problems relating to the most important of the topics to be discussed in the First Committee: that of disarmament and especially of nuclear weapons.

7. Mr. Fahmy was political adviser to his Government at the First and Second International Conferences on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. He represented Egypt at the International Atomic Energy Conference in New York. He represented Egypt on the Preparatory Committee of the International Atomic Energy Agency. He was alternate representative of the United Arab Republic on the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and representative of Egypt in the International Atomic Energy Agency from 1957 to 1970. He was a Governor representing Egypt, and then the United Arab Republic, on the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency in those years, and he has been a member of the delegation of the United Arab Republic at the International Conference on Atomic Energy. He was Chairman of the Administrative and Legal Committee of the First Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency and Vice-Chairman of the Second Conference, and he was Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors in 1959/1960.

8. It would be a long process to go back over all that Mr. Fahmy has done to serve the cause of peace and disarmament. I trust that his outstanding qualifications, his personal qualities and his long experience will be recognized by the First Committee and that he will be elected Chairman for the present session.

*The printed official records of the meetings of the First Committee of the General Assembly are published in fascicle form, the record of each meeting being issued separately. A prefatory fascicle is issued for each session, containing a table of contents, the agenda and other prefatory matter. The fascicles are subsequently bound in volumes by session.*

9. Mr. TOMOROWICZ (Poland): It is a great honour and a particular pleasure for me to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election to the highest post in the Assembly. In taking the floor at this early stage of the session, I feel privileged in having this opportunity to state how happy we are to see you, an outstanding statesman of the Socialist Republic of Romania, occupying this most responsible post.

10. It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to second the nomination of Mr. Ismail Fahmy for the post of Chairman of the First Committee, as proposed by the representative of Ecuador. There can be no doubt that almost all the items on the agenda of the First Committee concern problems that will have a direct and decisive bearing on the lines along which international relations will develop. Today perhaps more than ever before we need a consistent effort in the search for mutual trust and concrete progress towards disarmament in all its aspects. We must use all available ways and means to strengthen adherence to the principles of the Charter by paving the way for fruitful co-operation both here and in outer space.

11. Mr. Ismail Fahmy has been known to us for a long time, almost from the very beginning of the existence of the United Nations. He is an outstanding diplomat and represents a country engaged in the work of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament. He has been an experienced "old hand" in the work of the United Nations ever since the fourth session of the General Assembly and has contributed significantly to the activities of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Last year Mr. Fahmy proved himself to be a most competent and objective Vice-Chairman of the First Committee.

12. It is my deep conviction that, with his considerable experience and personal ability, Mr. Fahmy will make an excellent Chairman of the First Committee.

13. Mr. NSANZE (Burundi) (*translated from French*): Mr. President of the Assembly, it is a great honour for me, on behalf of the delegation of Burundi to be among the first to congratulate you on your election. The head of the delegation of the Republic of Burundi will have the opportunity later on to dwell on your abilities and to congratulate you more fully; meanwhile I should like merely to call attention to the special significance of your election to the presidency of the General Assembly's twenty-second session. In these congratulatory remarks, I wish to stress the wisdom of the United Nations, as corroborated by the demonstration just given that the Organization must act in accordance with its ultimate goal of universality. This is the very first time that a representative of a socialist country has been chosen to fill the Presidency of the supreme United Nations body, and the choice made must be regarded as a tribute paid to your personal efforts and to your country's policy.

14. The wisdom and the faith with which you have spoken, and your resolve to serve this General Assembly with the utmost devotion, are a source of inspiration to us and augur well for the results we have every reason to expect from the session that has just opened.

15. In answer to your appeal, the delegation of Burundi pledges itself to give its full co-operation and do all it can to contribute to the tasks that lie ahead, so that your efforts and those of the General Assembly may meet with success.

16. I turn now to the purpose of my assignment, which is to support the nomination of Mr. Ismail Fahmy put forward by the representative of Ecuador and seconded by the representative of Poland. The choice of the delegation of Burundi to join in seconding the nomination may be regarded as dictated by the special zeal with which Burundi follows the policy of the United Arab Republic and the attention my country's Permanent Representative has devoted to the candidate's activities in the course of earlier Assembly sessions.

17. As has been said, Mr. Fahmy has served as Rapporteur and as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for which he is now nominated as Chairman. As a senior career civil servant, Mr. Fahmy has vast experience of which we shall be happy to take advantage once he is elected to the Chair in this Committee. His title as his Government's Director of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences, would suggest that his professional career has given him a mastery of the matters handled by the Committee over which he will be presiding. His career up until now has trained him to cope successfully with the Political Committee's exciting and complex tasks. There can be no doubt as to the effectiveness of his efforts, since we have on a number of occasions and in various bodies had the opportunity to see him at work, both in the United Nations Headquarters and at other international conferences.

18. The United Arab Republic of which he is a native is a powerful and effective defender of the United Nations cause. This lends a special note and a quite unique stamp to the person whose candidature my delegation has the privilege of seconding. The foregoing factors combined with the competence and professional qualifications that go to create Mr. Ismail Fahmy's merit as a diplomatist, argue strongly in his favour, and his election to the Chairmanship of the First Committee will serve not so much the candidate's personal interest as the cause of the Organization. His election by the members of this Committee will stand as an objective acknowledgement of his ability and a well-deserved tribute both to his talents and to his devotion to the cause of which the United Nations has become the champion—the cause of peace the goal of the most cherished aspirations of us all.

19. In the light of the candidate's varied human and diplomatic qualifications of which the Assembly is well aware, I am sure the Committee will agree that my delegation could not have advocated a better candidate.

20. In conclusion, I should like to say that there is reason to hope that in such capable hands the First Committee will be able to achieve positive results; and if the Committee members do their share and lend their co-operation, we can be certain that the skill and the energies of Mr. Ismail Fahmy will redound to our benefit.

21. The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (*translated from French*): Mr. Ismail Fahmy of the United Arab Republic

has been nominated by the delegation of Ecuador and seconded by the delegations of Poland and Burundi.

him and express to him my good wishes for complete success in the performance of his duties.

22. Since only one candidate has been nominated, in accordance with the established precedent in this regard I now declare Mr. Ismail Fahmy of the United Arab Republic elected Chairman of the First Committee. I congratulate

*Mr. Fahmy (United Arab Republic) was elected Chairman by acclamation.*

*The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.*