

United Nations GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

Official Records



FIRST COMMITTEE, 1309th
MEETING

Tuesday, 15 October 1963,
at 10.30 a.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Expression of sympathy to the Governments and peoples of Cuba, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, and Italy in connexion with recent disasters. .</i>	5
<i>Election of the Vice-Chairman.</i>	5
<i>Election of the Rapporteur</i>	5
<i>Order of discussion of agenda items</i>	5

*Chairman: Mr. C. W. A. SCHURMANN
(Netherlands).*

Expression of sympathy to the Governments and peoples of Cuba, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, and Italy in connexion with recent disasters

1. The CHAIRMAN said that he wished to convey the Committee's condolences to the peoples of Cuba, Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago for the sufferings caused by the recent hurricane, and to the people of Italy in connexion with the catastrophe in the Piave Valley.

Election of the Vice-Chairman

2. Mr. BARNES (Liberia) nominated as Vice-Chairman Mr. Károly Csatorday (Hungary), whose work as Rapporteur at the seventeenth session had earned him the respect and admiration of the Committee.

3. Mr. BITSIOS (Greece) supported the nomination.

Mr. Csatorday (Hungary) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

4. Mr. CSATORDAY (Hungary) expressed gratitude to the Committee for the confidence it had just shown in him. He hoped that in its work the Committee would display the mutual understanding and spirit of co-operation that were essential to a further relaxation of international tension.

Election of the Rapporteur

5. Mr. DIALLO Telli (Guinea) nominated as Rapporteur Mr. Fernando Volio Jiménez (Costa Rica), who had been an able Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee on the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa.

6. Mr. ZEA (Colombia), Mr. HAJEK (Czechoslovakia) and Mr. KOIRALA (Nepal) supported the nomination.

Mr. Volio Jiménez (Costa Rica) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

7. Mr. VOLIO JIMENEZ (Costa Rica) thanked the Committee. He would exert all his efforts to make his work as Rapporteur reflect objectively the ideas of the members of the Committee and the results of their work.

Order of discussion of agenda items (A/C.1/886 and Add.1)

8. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the letters dated 20 September and 2 October 1963 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the First Committee (A/C.1/886 and Add.1), containing the list of agenda items allocated to the Committee for its consideration.

9. Discussions with a number of delegations had led him to believe that the consensus of opinion among members of the Committee was that those items should be considered in the following order: first, agenda item 73 (Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests); second, agenda item 26 (Question of general and complete disarmament: report of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament); third, agenda item 74 (Denuclearization of Latin America); fourth, agenda item 27 (Question of convening a conference for the purpose of signing a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons: report of the Secretary-General); fifth, agenda item 84 (Actions on the regional level with a view to improving good neighbourly relations among European States having different social and political systems); sixth, agenda item 28 (International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: (a) Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; (b) Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter VII, section IV)); and seventh, agenda item 29 (The Korean question: report of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea).

10. Mr. OWONO (Cameroon) pointed out that the items allocated to the Committee could be divided into groups, that relating to the atomic danger being the most urgent. With that in mind, he had some suggestions to make regarding the order of discussion.

11. At the opening of the current session, all delegations had agreed that the Assembly was meeting in an atmosphere of peace and co-operation. By taking up the item "Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests" as the first on its agenda, the Committee would be helping to maintain that spirit of co-operation; it would be following in the footsteps of the three great Powers which had initiated the Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water, now signed by most Governments, and would thus avoid the controversy which had characterized the discussions at earlier sessions. The Committee would then be able to take up the question of general and complete disarmament in an atmosphere of tranquillity and conciliation, and perhaps to reach far more substantial results than in previous years. The Committee might next take up the two other items concerned with disarmament and the

nuclear danger: as its third item, "Question of convening a conference for the purpose of signing a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons", and as its fourth item, "Denuclearization of Latin America".

12. The question "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space" could be taken fifth on the Committee's agenda. As its sixth item, the Committee could take up "The Korean question"; and lastly, the seventh item could be "Actions on the regional level with a view to improving good neighbourly relations among European States having different social and political systems".

13. Those were not formal proposals; he believed, however, that since the questions of atomic energy, disarmament and Korea were to some extent related to the ideological differences between States, the order of priorities suggested by the Chairman might lead to controversy rather than to agreement.

14. Mr. QUAISON-SACKY (Ghana), while supporting the general outline suggested by the Chairman, said that the representative of Cameroon had been right to raise the problem of the grouping of items. He suggested that the outer space item should be grouped together with the four items on disarmament and the atomic question, and that the remaining two items, which were political in nature, should be taken up last.

15. Mr. GEBRE-EGZY (Ethiopia) suggested that the Committee might adopt the order of items proposed by the Chairman, subject to the interchange of the fifth and sixth items. He urged, however, that the items should be discussed separately; his delegation could not accept the idea of discussing two, three or four items together.

16. The CHAIRMAN said that in the absence of any objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to the order of items suggested by the Ethiopian representative.

It was so decided.

17. The CHAIRMAN said a number of delegations had suggested that after the Committee had dealt with its first item, relating to a test ban, it might be convenient to have a single general debate on the other items connected with disarmament and nuclear matters. The general debate would be followed by separate discussions on the draft resolutions submitted on each item. That procedure would save the Committee twelve meetings. He suggested that representatives should think the matter over; the Committee could then decide after it had dealt with the first item on its agenda

whether the related items should be grouped or discussed separately.

18. He proposed to ask the Secretariat to draw up a tentative time-table for the Committee's work, so that representatives would be able to tell approximately when any item would be discussed and to prepare their statements and draft resolutions in time.

19. Mr. DIALLO Telli (Guinea) said the suggestion to include several items in one general debate was most useful; the saving of time achieved would be particularly valuable to small delegations. He suggested that a decision on the matter should be taken immediately, and requested the Chairman to indicate what items could be combined into a single debate.

20. The CHAIRMAN said he had suggested postponing the decision because he had found that a few delegations had certain reservations concerning the proposal. Some delegations felt it unwise to group items in one general debate, and others did not entirely agree with the suggested grouping of items. He had therefore thought that it might be wiser to allow representatives to talk the matter over and see whether some agreement could be reached.

21. In reply to the Guinean representative's question, he said that the items which could be grouped together, after the Committee had dealt separately with its first item (Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests), were the question of general and complete disarmament, the denuclearization of Latin America, and the question of convening a conference for the purpose of signing a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons. However, there was no complete agreement on the matter.

22. Another possibility would be to hold separate debates on each item, but to allow representatives who wished to deal with disarmament and nuclear matters together to do so in the general debate on disarmament; that in itself would save time.

23. Mr. DIALLO Telli (Guinea) said that in view of the information supplied by the Chairman he would not insist on an immediate decision. He felt, however, that the matter should be settled before the Committee proceeded to discuss any other subject, and that the Chairman's second suggestion—that certain representatives should be allowed to make combined statements while others made separate statements on each item—should not be considered unless the first was rejected.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.