



General Assembly

Fifty-seventh session

First Committee

26th meeting

Friday, 6 June 2003, 11.05 a.m.

New York

Official Records

Chairman: Mr. Kiwanuka (Uganda)

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Rivas (Colombia), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

Election of the Chairman of the First Committee

The Acting Chairman: This meeting has been convened in order to elect the Chairman of the First Committee for the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, as provided for in paragraph 3 of resolution 56/509, adopted by the General Assembly at its 106th meeting, held on 8 July 2002.

The election, pursuant to rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, shall be held by secret ballot, unless the Committee decides otherwise in an election with only one candidate.

It is my great honour and pleasure to nominate Ambassador Jarmo Mattias Sareva, Deputy Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations, the candidate of the Western European and Other Group of States, to the post of Chairman of the First Committee for the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

Ambassador Sareva has been the Deputy Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations since 2002. He came to the United Nations with substantial knowledge and experience of the United Nations system. Ambassador Sareva holds a master's degree in political science from the University of Turku, Finland, and a master of arts degree from the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, D.C.

Ambassador Sareva joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland in 1983. In 1990, he served as First Secretary, Trade and Economic, in Washington. In 1992 he served in the capacity of Counsellor in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. In 1995, as Director, he was in charge of the arms control and non-proliferation issues in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. In 1996, he held the post of Deputy Chief of the Mission of Finland in Moscow. In 1998, he was appointed Minister-Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations. In 2000, he held the post of Chef de Cabinet in the Office of the President of the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session. Prior to becoming Ambassador, in 2001 he was the Special Assistant to the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission.

Since there are no other nominations, may I take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure and established practice, the First Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to declare Ambassador Jarmo Mattias Sareva of Finland elected Chairman of the First Committee of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly by acclamation?

It was so decided.

The Acting Chairman: I would like, on behalf of the Committee and on my own account, to express our sincere and warm congratulations to Ambassador Jarmo Mattias Sareva on his election as Chairman of the First Committee at the fifty-eighth session. I am certain that, with his profound experience and knowledge, he will skilfully conduct the proceedings of the Committee and make a valuable contribution to the work of the First Committee.

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The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.