

Commemorating that special day went from Puerto Pinasco to other towns and cities until, very soon the tradition spread throughout the entire country, highlighting values such as solidarity, reconciliation and understanding and making friendship a way of life for Paraguayan society. That celebration was so beneficial that it prompted the wish of the people and Government of my country to share the positive experience with all States Members of the United Nations.

We believe in the goals of the International Day of Friendship, which, in short, are, first, well-deserved international recognition of the relevance and importance of that noble sentiment in the lives of millions of human beings in order to promote dialogue among people, culture and countries; and, secondly, but no less important, to complement and contribute to the efforts already undertaken by the United Nations to promote a culture of peace.

For humankind, unique in its origin and diverse in its cultural expression, dialogue is the only way to seek peace and to overcome the injustice and violence that demean it.

For those reasons, the delegation of Paraguay fervently calls for appropriate support for the adoption of the draft resolution.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/65/L.72, entitled “International Day of Friendship”.

I give the floor to the representative of Secretariat.

Mr. Zhang Saijin (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of draft resolution A/65/L.72, in addition to those delegations listed in the document, the following countries have become sponsors of the draft resolution: Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine.

The Acting President: May I take it that the General Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/65/L.72?

Draft resolution A/65/L.72 was adopted (resolution 65/275).

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil, who wishes to make a statement following the adoption of resolution 65/275.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to congratulate the Mission of Paraguay and all the sponsors of resolution 65/275, which establishes 30 July as the International Day of Friendship.

In that regard, I would like to point out that Brazil attributes great importance to the dawn of an international culture of peace, friendship and democracy, to which we are firmly committed. Similarly, we fully support efforts undertaken by the United Nations system, regional organizations and Member States to implement programmes of action that promote peaceful coexistence and the ideals of friendship and mutual understanding.

Brazil is a nation with a large multicultural and ethnically diverse population that has managed to build a society based on the principles of conviviality and mutual cooperation. We firmly acknowledge such ideals, examples of which are harmony and stability in relations with our neighbours. Because of the special meaning of peace and friendship for Brazil, we will continue to support initiatives undertaken within the framework of the United Nations to strengthen international relations in their multicultural and human dimensions.

We therefore welcome the initiative to designate 30 July as the International Day of Friendship, convinced that its celebration will promote universal values of coexistence and cooperation.

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of agenda item 15.

Agenda item 120 (*continued*)

Strengthening of the United Nations system

Draft resolution A/65/L.64/Rev.1

The Acting President: Members will recall that the Assembly considered this item in a joint debate with agenda items 13 and 115 at its 52nd plenary meeting on 23 November 2010. Under this item, at its 60th plenary meeting, the Assembly adopted resolution 65/94.

I now give the floor to the representative of Hungary to introduce draft resolution A/65/L.64/Rev.1.

Mr. Körösi (Hungary): It is an honour for me to appear before the General Assembly today to introduce, on behalf of the members of the European Union (EU), the draft resolution on the participation of the European Union in the work of the United Nations, contained in document A/65/L.64/Rev.1. I would like in particular to thank the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy for being here today at a moment of great significance for the European Union.

As my colleagues will recall, the member States of the European Union brought this issue to the attention of the General Assembly last September. At that time, the General Assembly concluded that more time was required to give consideration to all requests. Following that decision, the European Union and its member States launched a further phase of consultations to reach out to all of the United Nations membership through informal consultations of the whole, meetings with regional groups and bilateral encounters.

The process of consultations continued until the last moment, including last night. Today, I have the pleasure to announce that, on the basis of those very extensive consultations with, among others, the Caribbean Community, the members of the European Union wish to introduce an oral revision to the text, which we believe could lead to a decision by consensus on the draft resolution.

The changes concern only the annex. In that connection, paragraph 1 (b) of the annex would read as follows:

“Invited to participate in the general debate of the General Assembly, in accordance with the order of precedence as established in the practice for participating observers and the level of representation”.

Paragraph 1 (d) of the annex would read as follows:

“Permitted to present proposals and amendments orally as agreed by the Member States of the European Union; such proposals and amendments shall be put to a vote only at the request of a Member State”.

Paragraph 1 (e) of the annex would be deleted.

The current paragraph 1 (f) of the annex would then become paragraph 1 (e) and read as follows:

“Allowed to exercise the right of reply regarding positions of the European Union as decided by the presiding officer; such right of reply shall be restricted to one intervention per item”.

Finally, paragraph 3 of the annex would read as follows:

“The representatives of the European Union shall not have the right to vote, nor to co-sponsor resolutions or decisions, nor to put forward candidates”.

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primacy of Member States or the sovereign equality of all.

Notwithstanding the imperfections of the draft resolution, CARICOM can now consider the text, as orally revised, to be acceptable.

Mrs. Ogwu (Nigeria): Africa wishes to reiterate the inestimable value and, indeed, the critical importance of working towards consensus through negotiation as a vital tool of the General Assembly. We therefore acknowledge the perseverance that the European Union (EU) has demonstrated in negotiating with Member States and groups to finalize draft resolution A/65/L.64/Rev.1. We want to state that the African Group joins the consensus on the draft resolution. We congratulate the EU delegation and its spokesperson on this historic occasion. We look forward to similar events in the future, as Africa views the draft resolution as setting a precedent for other regional organizations.

Africa will remain engaged in the process of implementation of the draft resolution in all of its ramifications.

Mr. Osman (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): The Arab Group has followed with great attention the discussions and negotiations connected to draft resolution A/65/L.64/Rev.1 before the Assembly today, concerning the participation of the European Union (EU) in the work of the United Nations. Indeed, from the outset, the Arab Group was a party to those negotiations, during which it expressed concerns that found their way into the final text of the draft resolution.

Accordingly, since the draft resolution has covered the concerns of the Arab Group, we believe that it will set a precedent enabling the League of Arab States and other regional organizations to enjoy the same rights and privileges set forth therein.

In conclusion, I also wish to express the appreciation of the Arab Group for the reaffirmation by the EU negotiators that, in the future, the EU will support requests made by any regional organization, including the League of Arab States.

Ms. Crossen (Nauru): I have the honour to read out this statement on behalf of Ambassador Moses, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations, who is currently out of the country.

Ambassador Moses regrets that she is unable to deliver this statement herself.

Draft resolution A/65/L.64/Rev.1 is important not just for the European Union (EU), but for all States Members of the United Nations, and particularly for the smallest of us. Nauru sees serious risks that the draft resolution will change the nature of the United Nations, to the detriment of small States, which do not enjoy the political and economic influence of large developed countries. We hope that this will not eventuate.

At the outset, let me state that Nauru will continue to value and welcome the contribution of EU States members of the United Nations, both in their individual capacity and when they speak as one through the EU rotating presidency. We also appreciate the contribution of the EU observer organization.

Nauru would also like to commend the members of the Caribbean Community for their tireless and constructive engagement with the EU, which has led to amendments to the draft resolution. However, we wish to put on record a number of our remaining concerns with the draft resolution.

First, while not our primary concern, there are unresolved legal issues in relation to the draft resolution, which we hope will not cause further difficulties in the future. We of course understand that the EU considers that the draft resolution has no legal issues and is consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of procedure, and that the Office of Legal Affairs supports that position. We respect the opinion of the EU on that matter, but we do not share it.

To provide one example, under the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, only Member

however stealthily. This delegation objects to the creation of a new category of observer.

We humbly submit the following oral amendment to sub-paragraph (e) of paragraph 1 of the annex, as orally amended by the European Union (EU). Currently, it reads that they should be allowed to exercise the right of reply regarding positions of the EU as decided by the presiding officer. What we are proposing is that “presiding officer” be struck and replaced by “in accordance with rule of procedure 73”.

If we, as the General Assembly, value our own rules of procedure, it will be seen clearly that, in according the right of reply to an observer and non-member of the General Assembly, we would be in violation of our own rules of procedure. Therefore, it is our considered view that the draft resolution is a rude violation of rule 73.

My delegation is also very grateful to the European Union for the consultations it conducted in its various representations throughout this process. My

The rules of procedure make no reference to observers. However, the General Assembly has the sovereign right to rule and grant modalities to observers, as it has already done twice before. This possibility of the right of reply without limitation has been granted to two other observers. I also remind the Assembly that the rules of procedure and the Charter of the United Nations do not make legal distinctions among observers.

The European Union has been granted the possibility of exercising the right of reply in the Commission on Sustainable Development. Thus, the phenomenon that a representative — even that of the European Union — enjoying the right of reply in different bodies of the United Nations is not alien to the practice.

Last but not least, the document before us represents a very delicate balance and the result of joint work of a very broad spectrum of the membership. Their contribution was a collective effort. We think it should be honoured, and we are very grateful to all Member States that contributed to this joint effort. We thank all Member States and all groups that expressed support for our proposal. Therefore, the European Union Member States will vote against the oral amendment presented by the representative of Zimbabwe and respectfully asks all those delegations that support the European Union's draft resolution to join its members in voting no.

The Acting President: Since there is no agreement, we shall take a decision on the oral amendment. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe

Against:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, China, Congo, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic

of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav

CARICOM notes that in the annex to the resolution, on the matter of speaking among representatives of major groups, the Secretariat's description of this privilege is at variance with our understanding. CARICOM understands the right of the European Union to speak among representatives of major groups, as set out in paragraph 1(a) of the annex, to mean that, in regular plenary meetings of the General Assembly, the European Union will be allowed to make interventions prior to individual member States on the speakers' list while not taking priority over other major groups that are represented by States Members of the United Nations. The accepted priority of States over observers will dictate that, in a speakers' list containing multiple major groups, the European Union will not be able to speak prior to any major group represented by a full

resolution must be strictly construed in the light of the General Assembly's status as an intergovernmental body of States with sovereign equality. Unless a right is clearly and explicitly delineated in this resolution, it cannot be enjoyed by the European Union nor inferred by any presiding officer. Accordingly, CARICOM interprets this resolution as excluding the following rights, inter alia, of Member States: first, the right to raise points of order, in accordance with rule 71; secondly, the right to move any procedural motion, including, but not limited to, the right to (a) move adjournment of debate, rule 74; (b) move closure of debate, rule 75; (c) move suspension or adjournment of the meeting, rule 76; and (d) move that parts of a proposal or amendment be voted on separately, rule 89; and thirdly, the right to challenge any decisions of a presiding officer of a meeting is likewise not allowed.

This is CARICOM's understanding of how the resolution just adopted should be interpreted.

Mr. Nishida (Japan): Japan voted in favour of the draft resolution on the participation of the European Union in the work of the United Nations. Japan welcomes the development of the European Union under the Treaty of Lisbon, as Japan and the European Union are global partners that jointly engage on global issues.

Japan believes that the resolution must be implemented in the spirit of, and in accordance with, the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, with the consent of Member States and while genuinely taking into account the fact that the United Nations is an organization comprised of equally sovereign Member States.

Mr. Núñez Mosquera (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Cuban delegation wishes to briefly explain its position on resolution 65/276, which has just been adopted. Although I shall not go into detail about the underlying substance of the resolution, I will make some necessary clarifications.

In spite of the motion for postponement that had been made in respect of the resolution at the Assembly's previous session, the consideration of the motion was in fact limited to a few meetings in which Member States could express their views in general statements. That was evidenced by what happened this morning. The concerns expressed by States and the amendment proposed by the delegation of Zimbabwe are valid, and we must be consistent.

The provisions of paragraph 1 (e) of the resolution's annex are inconsistent with rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which in rule 73 establish that once the list of speakers has been closed only a member may be accorded the right of reply. With a view to preventing negative precedents and future difficulties, we would have preferred to have been given more time to hold consultations in order to reach consensus on this important issue.

Ms. Zainul Abidin (Malaysia): Malaysia

exercised in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the General Assembly's rules of procedure.

Finally, Argentina wishes to place on record that it understands that the resolution does not set a precedent for other cases.

Mr. Valero Briceño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation would like to acknowledge the work of the European Union in reaching agreement on resolution 65/276. In addition, my delegation would like to thank the countries of the Caribbean Community for their efforts to ensure that the text reflected the concerns of countries that are not among their members.

In our view, the resolution could have been debated in greater detail by the Member States. We believe that the resolution still contains elements that

participation of the European Union in the work of the United Nations, I have been informed that Lady Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, has requested the floor. As there is no objection to that request, I now give her the floor.

Lady Catherine Ashton (European Union): I will be very brief. I simply want to take the opportunity to thank all delegations for the extraordinary efforts that they have made to help get this resolution (resolution 65/276) into the best possible shape. I have had the privilege, in the past 24 hours, of meeting with many of them, and they have been extremely generous in giving me their thoughts, their ideas and, most important, their support.

I hold the United Nations very dear. I believe in its role. I believe in the collaboration between the

European Union and the United Nations. And I have made it part of my remit to ensure that the European Union works as closely as possible with the United Nations as we seek to rise to the challenges that we