



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 13th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 74: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/36/75, A/36/116 and Corr.1 and A/36/515; A/C.3/36/L.3)

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- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/36/18; A/C.3/36/L.8)
- (b) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/36/453; (A/C.3/36/L.7))
- (c) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID (continued) (A/36/454 and Add.1; A/C.3/36/L.9)

1. Mr. DYRLUND (Denmark), speaking also on behalf of Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, said that the Nordic Governments and peoples were strongly opposed to and condemned all forms of racial discrimination and any ideology based on such discrimination. Consequently, the Nordic countries had consistently supported the endeavors of the United Nations to promote and encourage respect for human rights for all without distinction as to race, color or ethnic origin. In keeping with that objective, much had been accomplished over the years under the auspices of the United Nations. However, in spite of United Nations efforts, many instances of racial discrimination still existed in the world. The apartheid policies of the Government of South Africa were particularly objectionable because they represented an institutionalized and systematized practice of racism and racial discrimination. In September 1981, the Nordic Ministers for Foreign Affairs had jointly reaffirmed their intention actively to pursue their policy in favour of the abolition of the system of apartheid and to continue their economic and humanitarian aid to the victims of the apartheid in southern Africa. The new forms of oppression imposed by the South African régime on the majority of the population made it more imperative that the United Nations Security Council decide on binding economic sanctions against South Africa as soon as possible. International pressure on South Africa must be intensified and made more effective. Meanwhile, the Nordic countries intended to continue and increase their humanitarian and educational assistance to the victims of oppression in southern Africa.

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(Mr. Dyrlund, Denmark)

2. If the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was to have a positive outcome, its mandate must be carefully worked out. The Nordic countries hoped that the preparations for the Conference would be conducted on the basis of the original aims and goals for action to combat racism and racial discrimination as set forth in General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) and that the divisive issues which had lately been brought into the context of the Decade would be avoided.

3. In the United Nations work to promote and protect human rights, the Nordic countries had persistently emphasized the importance of establishing legal and binding treaties and setting up suitable forms of international control. In that connexion, it was encouraging to note that more than 100 States had ratified or acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/36/18) illustrated the crucial importance of country reports to CERD's task. The Nordic countries regarded the dialogue established between the States parties and CERD as extremely useful. It was therefore with some concern that they had noted the considerable number of reminders which had been sent to States parties from which one or more periodic reports were due. There was a risk that failure to submit reports in good time might erode the control procedures stipulated in the Convention and the Nordic countries therefore supported the endeavors of CERD to bring the reporting up to date. It was essential for a balanced and equitable evaluation of the Convention that State parties should comply with the guidelines for country reports. With regard to improvement of the working methods of CERD, it should be stressed that it was not within the competence of CERD to impose on States parties obligations which they had not accepted through ratification of the Convention.

4. The promotion of the interests of indigenous peoples was of particular interest to the Nordic countries and they commended CERD for taking up the difficult and sensitive problems of discrimination which those people faced. The Nordic countries believed that CERD could contribute substantially within the framework of the Convention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of indigenous peoples.

5. Mr. TE SUN HUA (Democratic Kampuchea) said that his delegation noted with satisfaction that an increasing number of Governments were acceding to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. At the national level, the Government of Democratic Kampuchea had made every effort to ensure that the substance of the Conventions, and of others to which it was a party, received the widest possible dissemination and application among the people. The Government of Democratic Kampuchea was against racial discrimination in all its forms and, most particularly, the retrograde form of apartheid.

6. Kampuchea believed that no people should be deprived of its right to self-determination, which was a sine qua non for human dignity. The acts

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(Mr. Te Sun Hua, Democratic Kampuchea)

of aggression against Kampuchea and Afghanistan perpetrated respectively by Viet Nam and the Soviet Union were the most flagrant and revolting examples of the denial of that right.

7. The people of Kampuchea were deprived of their right to self-determination by the occupation troops of the Hanoi Government. The pretext used by Hanoi to justify that invasion could not hide its deep-rooted cause, namely, the ambition of the leaders of Hanoi to absorb Kampuchea into an "Indo-Chinese Federation" under Vietnamese domination and to use it as a spring-board to extend its regional expansion throughout South-East Asia.

8. Since the foundation in 1930 of the Indo-Chinese Communist Party (originally the Vietnamese Communist Party), the goal of the Vietnamese expansionists was to absorb Kampuchea without arousing world public opinion as it had absorbed Laos through the so-called "Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation" of 18 July 1977. Throughout the years, Vietnamese agents had succeeded in infiltrating the civil and military organs of power. It was thus that Hanoi had been able, during the period 1975 to 1978, to intensify its subversive activities and to commit many odious crimes against the patriotic population despite the severe measures taken by the Government of Democratic Kampuchea against their perpetrators. Those crimes, co-ordinated with constant aggression on the border, had been aimed at overthrowing the legal Government of Democratic Kampuchea and replacing it by a puppet régime. When its latest attempt to destabilize the Government of Democratic Kampuchea failed, Hanoi had signed a military treaty with the Soviet Union on 3 November 1978 and launched its invasion on 25 December 1978.

9. Many debates in the United Nations had clearly pointed the finger of guilt at the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for the international crime of depriving the peoples of neighbouring countries, particularly the people of Kampuchea, of their right to self-determination and of the brutal violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights had adopted by overwhelming majorities resolutions demanding the withdrawal of all Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea in order to enable the people of Kampuchea to decide their own destiny through general and free elections under United Nations supervision. The International Conference on Kampuchea in its declaration of 17 July 1981 (A/CONF.109/5) had indicated the path of a just and lasting solution to the problem. The Non-Aligned Movement had adopted a similar position and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the non-aligned countries had reaffirmed that the people of Kampuchea had the right to determine their own destiny without foreign interference, subversion or coercion.

10. The people and Government of Democratic Kampuchea wished only to live in peace and security and to mobilize all their efforts to build a better life and in national dignity. They asked only a cessation of the war of invasion and genocide carried out by Viet Nam, for they categorically refused to live under Vietnamese rule. They were therefore compelled to wage a struggle for independence,

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(Mr. Te Sun Hua, Democratic Kampuchea)

sovereignty and territorial integrity and for the right to preserve their national identity and their ancient civilization. They would continue that struggle for national survival until they had achieved their sacred objective, thus contributing to the peace and security not only of South-East Asia but also the world.

11. Democratic Kampuchea reiterated its appeal to the international community to support it, in particular, by increasing pressure on the expansionists of Hanoi to put an end to their aggression and abandon their expansionist aims by applying the resolutions of the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Movement.

12. Miss BAZIYAKA (Rwanda) said that her delegation commended CERD for the serious manner in which it had carried out its work and for its readiness to assist States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in preparing their reports and providing complete information under article 9, paragraph 1 of the Convention.

13. The efforts of the international community and the United Nations in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination and apartheid had not yet succeeded in eliminating those phenomena.. The indigenous populations of South Africa continued to be victimized and some countries continued to co-operate politically, economically, militarily and in nuclear technology with the racist régime. Strengthened by that co-operation, the racist régime continued to occupy Namibia illegally. Had it not been for the dynamism of the United Nations, plan for the accession to independence of Namibia would have remained a dead letter following the failure of the Geneva Conference of January 1981 and the escalation of the armed conflict which South Africa was waging against the Namibian people and their sole authentic representative, SWAPO.

14. Her delegation welcomed the progress made at the recent emergency special session on Namibia and expressed the hope that the talks initiated subsequently would lead, to independence for Namibia and self-determination for its people.

15. In the Middle East, Israel continued to practise zionism which had been recognized as a form of racism by the international community, with the result that the Palestinian people were still without a country and without independence.

16. Rwanda participated in the efforts of the international community to combat racism, racial discrimination and apartheid and was convinced that the solidarity of the international community was an indispensable weapon in overcoming those evils. All peace-loving countries should exercise pressure, both political and economic, to induce the Pretoria régime to put an end to its racist and oppressive policy and its illegal occupation of Namibia. Moreover, the problem of the Middle East could not be settled without fully associating the Palestinian people and their sole and authentic representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, in the search to recover their legitimate rights.

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(Miss Baziyaka, Rwanda)

17. Her Government shared the conviction that ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, or accession to those Conventions on a universal basis and application of their provisions, were necessary for the realization of the objectives of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The Constitution of Rwanda enshrined the principle of equality for all without discrimination and since 1964, two years after the proclamation of independence, Rwanda had applied political and economic sanctions against South Africa, had taken a firm decision to establish no diplomatic or consular relations with that racist régime and had prohibited all trade with that country.

18. With regard to the report on education activities and activities of the mass media in the fight against racism and racial discrimination (A/36/75), Rwanda welcomed the efforts made by the international community and invited all Member States to intensify their efforts at the national and international level by isolating South Africa in the political, economic, military and nuclear fields. It appealed to all States, transnational corporations and banks which collaborated in any way with the inhuman and racist régime of Pretoria to discontinue that co-operation unconditionally and as soon as possible. It also appealed to Israel to free the Arab territories occupied since 1967 and to end hostilities against the Palestinian people by respecting the principles of self-determination and independence of peoples, human rights and fundamental freedoms. Thus, the peoples of South Africa, Namibia and Palestine would be able to live in free and independent countries.

19. Miss LORANGER (Canada) said that the efforts of the United Nations since its inception to promote the widespread acceptance and implementation of the principle of self-determination of peoples, one of the basic principles of the Charter, constituted one of the most encouraging chapters in its history. The threefold increase in United Nations membership testified to that success. The admission of two new members into the Organization, Vanuatu and Belize, was further proof that the final remnants of the colonial era were fast fading away.

20. Having fully endorsed resolution 1514 (XV), Canada continued to play as practical and as active a role as possible in the promotion of national self-determination. There was, however, no denying that work remained to be done, the most notable case being the efforts to move Namibia towards its legitimate and long denied independence. Because of its belief in the justice of that cause, Canada had assumed an active role in the Five Member Namibia Contact Group. Although few tangible results had been achieved to date, recent events had made it possible to identify more clearly the problems associated with the issue and to establish a process which would fulfil in 1982 the provisions of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). At the end of October 1981, a high level mission of the Contact Group would visit Africa to promote a settlement. The Group did not, intend to be deflected from its objective. It was the opinion of her Government that, for the first time in many months, it was possible to embark upon negotiations with more realistic expectations. She assured the Committee that Canada would continue to play a more active role to promote progress towards the independence of Namibia and expressed the hope that all other countries would do likewise.

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(Miss Loranger, Canada)

21. She stressed the importance of General Assembly resolution 35/35 B which placed the denial of self-determination, traditionally linked to a colonial situation, in another, equally legitimate, context: the context of foreign military intervention and foreign occupation. She regretted that, in Afghanistan and Kampuchea, the United Nations was confronted with two flagrant examples of the denial of the right to self-determination through the machinery of military occupation and oppression. Concern for the fate of the peoples of those two countries stemmed not simply from humanitarian considerations but from fear that both situations could represent a threat to world peace and security of the kind that the United Nations was meant to prevent. It was a tragic commentary that in the year marking the twentieth anniversary of the Non-Aligned Movement, the principle of self-determination continued to be so blatantly flouted in both Afghanistan and Kampuchea. Recalling the statement of Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs in the General Assembly, she described such situations as an affront to the principles of the Organization.

22. The continuing existence of the abhorrent system of apartheid in South Africa was no less an affront to the ideals of the United Nations. That system had been condemned by successive Canadian Governments, who had backed up their position of principle by a series of very practical measures, particularly in the area of trade, diplomatic representation, arms embargo and private Canadian investment in South Africa.

23. Turning to agenda item 82, she complimented the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on its report (A/36/18). In submitting its fifth periodic report to the Committee, Canada had appreciated the opportunity to have a frank and open exchange of views with members of the Committee and had felt that the comments they had made would be very useful in the implementation of policies aimed at the elimination of racial discrimination in Canada.

24. The encouraging and impressive figure of a 108 States which had ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by the close of the twenty-fourth session of the Committee, underscored the prime importance of the objectives of the Convention. It was, however, disconcerting to note that, according to the Committee's report, national reports from 39 States parties were overdue, some by a number of years. She endorsed the comment in the report that the increasing delay in submitting reports hindered the effective implementation of the Committee's central mandate under article 9 of the Convention and that, unless States parties intended to amend that article, a special effort should be made to ensure that periodic reports were submitted as punctually as possible.

25. In view of the concerns expressed by a number of delegations at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly that the Committee had on occasion tended to exceed its terms of reference, her delegation was pleased to note the generally balanced approach in its current report. She was, however, concerned that the possible study mentioned in paragraph 32 of the report might duplicate the effort of other United Nations organs, since the Commission on Human Rights had established a working group for the elaboration of a draft declaration of the

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(Miss Loranger, Canada)

rights of minorities and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities had, some time previously, commissioned a report on the problem of discrimination against indigenous populations. The first installment of that report had recently appeared and the conclusions should follow next year. It was not, therefore, necessary for the Committee to consider another report on the same subject.

26. In conclusion, she reiterated her delegation's commitment to the obligations undertaken in ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Her country would continue to offer maximum co-operation with the international organizations established to eliminate that evil. It would also continue to ensure that the national mechanisms it had instituted would more effectively discharge their responsibilities.

27. Mr. SCHLEGEL (German Democratic Republic), speaking on agenda items 74 and 82, said that racism and racial discrimination were among the most revolting forms of imperialist power policy, threatening the peaceful co-existence of peoples and constituting a major obstacle to independence, self-determination, equality and social progress.

28. The growing awareness that the elimination of all racist evils was one of the most urgent requirements of the modern world could be seen from the protests against the further escalation of brutal practices by the apartheid régime, the grave violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories and the discrimination against national minorities and the foreign labour force in the capitalist world, as well as the increasingly frequent warnings of the dangers of growing fascist and neo-fascist activities. Such protests and warnings demonstrated a resistance to the exacerbation of the international situation by the most aggressive forces of imperialism. It was evident, for example, that the dangerous course pursued by the United States and its allies against détente, peace and security gave immediate encouragement to the activities of racists. There were numerous examples of the mischief wrought by the collaboration between imperialist aggressiveness and racist brutality.

29. His country, which was born out of the people's struggle against fascism and war, considered it a special duty to work actively against the revival and strengthening of the most extreme forms of racism. It also considered it important to counter the extremist advocates of war and hatred among nations by taking resolute action, in particular against fascist activities, within the framework of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. His delegation, therefore, strongly supported the appeal to all States contained in operative paragraph 9 of resolution 35/33.

30. He drew attention to news reports that in Johannesburg several fascist organizations had formed an alliance called "Movement for the Salvation of White South Africa", the avowed aim of which was to combat by all means the slightest deviation from the apartheid policy. Another Western newspaper had reported that the movement had close relations with the neo-fascists in the United States and Western European countries. Such reports only confirmed the fact that apartheid was a form of fascism, racism raised to the level of official State policy.

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(Mr. Schlegel, German  
Democratic Republic)

31. It was important to remember that the continuation of apartheid, which suppressed the rights of the majority of the African population in South Africa, the illegal occupation of Namibia and the escalation of the aggressive acts of the apartheid régime were only possible because of the attitude of imperialist States and monopolies. It was those so-called protagonists of human rights who blocked effective coercive measures in the Security Council in order to safeguard their military, political and economic interests and who courted the apartheid State as an ally in containing the people's struggle for independence, equality and self-determination in Africa.

32. His country unconditionally supported the struggle against the last bulwark of colonialism in Africa, against racism and apartheid. It also felt that it was high time for the Security Council to impose comprehensive sanctions against South Africa pursuant to chapter VII of the Charter, as demanded by the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa and by the emergency special session of the General Assembly on Namibia.

33. The German Democratic Republic had outlawed the dissemination of ideas and theories based on the superiority of one race or one group of persons of a specific colour and ethnic origin. In the social order of socialism there was no room for race hatred or racial discrimination. The United Nations International Seminar on Publicity and the Role of Mass Media in International Mobilization against Apartheid, recently held in Berlin, which unmasked and condemned the racist propaganda of the apartheid régime and the support it received from mass media in Western countries, was a very important contribution in that connexion. The Berlin Declaration adopted by the Seminar represented an important guide for the media in its struggle against racism and apartheid. It clearly explained the dual task of a responsible media policy in that field: first, to keep the media free or stop them from propagating racist ideas, and secondly, to use the media for mobilizing the forces engaged in the struggle against apartheid and racism.

34. The people and Government of his country had always unreservedly supported the struggle against racism and race hatred, for independence, self-determination and the granting of equal civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights to all citizens. That was a fundamental principle of socialist State policy and was reflected in the manifold commitment of his country within the framework of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. It found expression in far-reaching actions of solidarity for the racially suppressed and colonially exploited people and in the continued effort to strengthen the legal instruments for the struggle against apartheid and racism. The German Democratic Republic together with co-sponsors from 24 States, had again submitted a draft resolution on the Status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, and shared the co-sponsors' view that it was precisely because of South Africa's continued racist excesses that the Convention had to be strengthened by the accession of more States.

35. His country welcomed the convening of the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, as an opportunity to decide upon further measures for liquidating racism wherever it was practised. He had no doubt that it would

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(Mr. Schlegel, German  
Democratic Republic)

contribute to the mobilization of new forces against racism and apartheid. He assured the Committee that, as a member of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference, the German Democratic Republic would devote all its efforts to that end.

36. Mr. VOICU (Romania), speaking on agenda item 81, said that the documents submitted under that item were a sound basis for an in-depth examination of the organic link between the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination. He recalled that, in its resolution 35/35 B, the General Assembly had clearly reaffirmed the conviction that the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, national sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples were indispensable conditions for the full exercise of all human rights, and that the movement toward national independence and the establishment of a free and worthy existence was, and always had been, a basic aspiration of all people.

37. It was only natural to conclude from the documents concerning item 81 that the principle of self-determination was a fundamental principle of international law. It followed that respect for the sovereignty of peoples was an essential element in the right to self-determination, the right of peoples to live their own lives. As a country which had suffered from foreign domination, Romania supported the struggle of peoples everywhere for freedom, national independence, against colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and the policy of apartheid.

38. The effective exercise of human rights, including the right to self-determination, required the elimination of domination of one people by another, the abolition of colonialism, the prohibition of the use or threat of force, and the establishment of a weapon-free world of peace.

39. The United Nations had a major role to play in the final and complete liquidation of colonialism. It must follow-up the implementation of all its resolutions on the subject and act resolutely to free peoples from every form of foreign oppression and to eliminate neo-colonialism. On the economic level, an essential condition of the realization of the right to self-determination was the exercise by all States of the right to control their natural resources and to use them in the interests of their own economic development, the elimination of under-development being a prerequisite for political independence.

40. He noted that the study by Mr. Aureliu Cristescu, a Romanian expert, on self-determination and human rights stressed that, because of the right of peoples to self-determination (E/CN.4/Sub.2/404/Rev.1), and to the exercise of all human rights, the various aspects of development were interlinked and interdependent and only international peace and security created the possibility of sustained development at all levels. The study stressed that independence and sovereignty and the free development of political institutions were basic factors in economic, cultural and social development. Some of the ideas put forward in the study were inevitably reflected in the conclusions and recommendations of the recent United Nations seminar on the relationship between human rights, peace and development.

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(Mr. Voicu, Romania)

41. He drew particular attention to the conclusion developed in the study that, if the right to self-determination was to be achieved, efforts made at the national level had to continue. Particularly important measures included the promotion of a more equitable distribution of income and wealth, the elimination of hunger and malnutrition, the reduction of unemployment and underemployment, improvement in the distribution of social services and the broad democratic participation of people in the management of the political, economic and social life of their country. He fully endorsed the ideas put forward in the study, which were reflected in General Assembly resolution 35/35 B and in the new draft resolution submitted by the African Group under agenda item 81.

42. Mrs. KHAPARDE (India) said that the United Nations had discussed the issues of racism and racial discrimination ever since its inception. That was quite understandable since a number of countries, particularly those which had emerged as independent as a result of the decolonization process, had experienced the evils of racism and racial discrimination in one form or another. Nowhere were those evils more barbarously manifested than in the abhorrent and inhuman system of apartheid in South Africa, which had been institutionalized as an instrument of State policy and had perhaps irreparably damaged the psychological, social and economic well-being of the black population. In spite of continuous pressure from the world community, the racist régime of South Africa continued brazenly to ignore all appeals to eliminate the practice, which had been universally recognized as a crime against humanity.

43. In India, the struggle against apartheid was not new, dating back to the organization by Mahatma Gandhi of a non-violent resistance movement in South Africa against the unjust and discriminatory laws of the racist régime some 80 years ago. One of the first acts of the independent Indian Government had been to break off relations with South Africa in protest against its racist policy. Following the break in diplomatic relations, India had imposed comprehensive sanctions against South Africa in July 1946. That was long before General Assembly resolution 1761 (XVII) and Security Council resolutions 181 (1963) and 418 (1977). The intransigence of the racist régime in South Africa over the years had reinforced India's conviction that peaceful change in South Africa could only come about with the imposition of comprehensive sanctions against the Pretoria régime by the United Nations Security Council.

44. The system of apartheid could not have been maintained without the support of certain affluent countries. It was impossible in any way to condone the maintenance of ties with the racist régime in South Africa. Ironically, while little progress had been made in eradicating apartheid, a task to which the international community was fully committed, increasing concern was being expressed about the enjoyment of human rights throughout the world. The international community could not expect to succeed in its efforts in the field of human rights unless there was a common commitment to guarantee those rights. In that connexion, she drew attention to the words of Mahatma Gandhi to the effect that the situation in South Africa represented a loss of dignity not only for the victims of apartheid but also for those who were directly or indirectly encouraging it.

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(Mrs. Khaparde, India)

45. Referring to South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia, she pointed out that its attempts to suppress the legitimate struggle of the Namibian people for self-determination and independence and its escalation of acts of aggression against the front-line States revealed the danger that the system of apartheid represented for international peace and security. India would always support the oppressed people of South Africa and Namibia in their legitimate struggle to achieve their rights; its support had been reaffirmed in the message which the Prime Minister of India had sent to the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women of South Africa and Namibia.

46. However, racial discrimination also existed in other parts of the world, as discussions in the Commission on Human Rights showed. The discriminatory practices of Israel in the occupied Arab territories were but one example. In the effort to eliminate racial discrimination wherever it existed, the universalization of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid offered guarantees of success.

47. India had long been associated with the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and had been encouraged by the praise expressed in connexion with the latest of the six periodic reports it had submitted; those reports reflected its full co-operation with the Committee.

48. In addition, she expressed her delegation's appreciation for the work of the Group of Three, set up under the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, and for the kind words it had expressed in connexion with the report submitted by India.

49. With regard to preparations for the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, she agreed with previous speakers that the implementation of the Programme for the Decade had been less than satisfactory and that efforts must be intensified to that end. In India, several measures had already been taken with that goal in mind. In that connexion, she expressed her delegation's appreciation to the Secretary-General for the study on education activities and activities of the mass media (A/36/75) and to the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations for their role in the implementation of the Programme for the Decade. The mass media had a very important role to play both in reflecting public opinion and in moulding it. Since racial stereotypes and pejorative portrayals of racial groups had a lasting impact on attitudes, it was important to ensure that such portrayals in the mass media did not create prejudices or make existing prejudices more pronounced. The responsibility for ensuring objectivity in the media rested not only with Governments, and the people concerned but also with the owners of the media.

50. Referring to paragraph 185 of document A/36/75, she agreed with the view expressed by the experts on the need to find new ways to combat racial prejudice and explained that, in India, a variety of techniques were being used to combat racial prejudices through the education system.

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(Mrs. Khaparde, India)

51. In conclusion, she drew attention to the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/36/L.3, of which her delegation was a sponsor, and expressed the hope that the Preparatory Sub-Committee for the Second World Conference would be able to begin its work as scheduled in 1982. Her delegation would extend its fullest co-operation in all preparatory activities.

52. Miss STREDEL (Venezuela) said that a constant principle of Venezuela's foreign policy was to defend the right of peoples to self-determination. Accordingly, Venezuela was also a firm advocate of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. As the President of Venezuela had declared in his statement in the plenary Assembly, the United Nations must continue to encourage the struggle, not only against the classic forms of colonialism but also against new, subtle forms of pressure exerted by one State on another, forms of disguised colonialism, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean.

53. Venezuela enjoyed friendly and good-neighbourly relations with several newly independent States, particularly in the Caribbean region, and pledged its support for their efforts to become the masters of their own destiny, to resist colonization from within and to become not merely politically but also economically independent. Venezuela firmly believed that international economic relations must be transformed on the basis of the new international economic order, because political independence could not be complete until international economic structures had become fully democratic.

54. With regard to the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, Venezuela was determined to help to achieve the total and unconditional elimination of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, which seriously obstructed progress and the strengthening of international peace and security. As an expression of its firm determination in that regard and in the hope that, by the end of the Decade, the objectives of the Programme would be achieved, Venezuela had supported the proposal for the convening of a Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The Conference should not only review the activities undertaken during the Decade, but should also formulate ways and means and specific measures aimed at ensuring the full and universal implementation of United Nations resolutions and decisions on racism, racial discrimination and apartheid.

55. With regard to the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (A/36/453), her country noted with concern the small number of new ratifications and accessions, which somewhat undermined the objectives set for the Decade. Venezuela had signed and ratified the Convention in 1967 and co-operated with CERD by submitting the necessary periodic reports on a regular basis. She appealed to all States which had not yet done so to accede to or to ratify the Convention.

56. The Government of Venezuela strongly condemned policies of racial discrimination and had always unconditionally complied with all the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions condemning racism and apartheid.

(Miss Stredel, Venezuela)

Moreover, Venezuela had made efforts to assist the victims of racial discrimination, not only through its participation in the United Nations Council for Namibia but also through the financial assistance it provided to various United Nations trust funds and to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa.

57. The mass media had an important role to play in the struggle against all forms of racial discrimination and apartheid and the report submitted by the Director-General of UNESCO on the role of the mass media in the struggle against racism made a significant contribution towards the true attainment of the objectives of the Decade.

58. Mrs. MASMOUDI (Tunisia) said that, although her country had been a melting pot of diverse cultures, its population was very homogeneous. That homogeneity was a built-in protection against racial discrimination, reinforced by the first article of the Tunisian Constitution proclaiming the equality of all citizens before the law, without distinction as to race, colour, sex or religion. However, for the 75 years before the Constitution was established in 1957, Tunisians had endured colonialism and discrimination in all its forms. After independence, the Tunisian people had resolutely set about achieving economic, social and cultural development in order to give effect to that equality before the law.

59. On the other hand, Tunisia had only limited natural resources and, despite its efforts, some of its citizens were obliged to seek employment abroad. Therefore, although Tunisians had been freed from colonial domination and discriminatory practices at home, they still suffered from racial discrimination against emigrant Tunisian workers in the host countries. In that connexion, her country was following with interest the recent measures adopted by the French Government to improve the working and living conditions of emigrant workers.

60. Tunisia had been among the first States to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and had also acceded to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. Her delegation expressed satisfaction at the number of States that had become parties to those two Conventions; however, it appealed to those States which had not yet done so to accede to them and, in particular, to implement the provisions they contained. Her delegation also felt that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should continue its excellent work, so that fruitful dialogue with States parties could be maintained and could continue to lead to progress and justice. In that connexion, her delegation noted with satisfaction that the Committee planned to hold a session in an African country, as had been suggested in General Assembly resolution 35/40.

61. Her delegation fully supported the text of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/36/L.3 and welcomed the progress made in preparatory activities for the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Although the Conference would mark the end of the Decade, the scourge of racial discrimination persisted, and it was important to note that the main purpose of the

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(Mrs. Masmoudi, Tunisia)

Conference was to formulate ways and means and specific measures aimed at ensuring the full and universal implementation of United Nations resolutions and decisions on racism, racial discrimination and apartheid.

62. Tunisia, for its part, had always complied strictly with United Nations decisions and resolutions and, since its independence, had always sided with peoples struggling for their political and social liberation. Tunisia had recently voted in favour of the Security Council resolution on the application of broad sanctions against South Africa and had taken an active part in the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa, held jointly by the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations in Paris in May 1981.

63. With regard to agenda item 81, her delegation welcomed the accession to independence and the admission to the United Nations of Vanuatu and Belize. Her delegation also welcomed the wise decisions taken recently at the OAU summit meeting in Nairobi; they should enable the people of Western Sahara to exercise their rights, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

64. However, despite the progress made in decolonization, too many peoples were still subjected to foreign domination and to constant violations of their sovereignty and territorial integrity. Palestine, the occupied Arab territories and Lebanon, on the one hand, and South Africa, Namibia and the neighbouring countries of southern Africa, on the other, represented especially tragic and explosive situations. They also represented a growing threat to world peace and security which could only be eliminated by withdrawal of the support which certain Powers extended, to the racist régimes of Israel and South Africa.

65. Mr. BOURCHIER (Australia), referring to agenda items 74 and 82, said that, despite United Nations efforts and the enactment of national legislation, racial discrimination remained widespread. Moreover, despite the efforts undertaken in the context of the Decade, very little had changed in the situation in South Africa, to which the Decade had rightly attached highest priority.

66. It was important to bear in mind that the United Nations was only one of many international forums that had focused attention on that situation. For example, the Commonwealth Heads of Government, meeting recently in Australia, had recalled their Declaration on Racism and Racial Prejudice, proclaimed at Lusaka in 1979, and had reaffirmed their condemnation of apartheid and of all policies designed to perpetuate that inhuman system. Moreover, their Governments had accepted the solemn and urgent duty vigorously to combat the evil of apartheid by adopting effective measures against it and assisting those struggling to eliminate it.

67. Although the international community had not yet succeeded in eliminating apartheid, it had recognized that racial discrimination also frequently took the form of prejudice between peoples of different ethnic or national origins and between peoples who spoke different languages or had different customs or beliefs. That recognition was clearly set out in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The status of the Convention

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(Mr. Bourchier, Australia)

had been progressively enhanced by the increasing number of accessions or ratifications and Australia looked forward to the day when adherence to that important human rights instrument would be universal.

68. The Australian Government attached particular importance to the international conventions on human rights, but due consideration must be given to instances where the concepts they embodied or the language they employed did not accord with the concepts on which national legislation was based. The Australian Government was firmly committed to implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and believed that the principles and practical measures it contained were consistent with Australia's aspirations to build a multicultural society in which people from all parts of the world and from different backgrounds could live together harmoniously. However, in addition to international instruments, domestic legislation was needed to ensure that the commitment to human rights was put into practice. Accordingly, legislative measures, notably the Racial Discrimination Act of 1975, had been enacted by the Australian Government to implement the Convention. In spelling out the recourse available to victims of racial discrimination, the Act emphasized conciliatory procedures, which were consistent with Australia's common law tradition. Legislation had also been enacted to establish Human Rights Commission to deal, *inter alia*, with the right to freedom from racial discrimination. However, it was most important always to be alert to discriminatory practices, and Australia therefore attached particular importance to promoting a greater understanding of the ethnic and cultural diversity of peoples through educational and information activities.

69. His delegation wished to express appreciation to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for its report (A/36/18) and for the constructive role it had played in encouraging Governments to adopt the necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to eliminate racial discrimination. Since members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had acquired a thorough understanding of the different manifestations of racial discrimination throughout the world, Australia welcomed its plan to prepare studies on specific articles of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination with a view to examining how those articles had been interpreted and whether there had been any significant progress in the promotion of the rights to which they referred. His delegation welcomed the fact that initial consideration would be given to articles 4 and 7, since information and education activities were very important aspects of the Convention. Australia would be especially interested in the conclusion reached in the study on article 4, since it had previously entered reservations on that article.

70. His delegation had also noted with interest the proposal for a study of article 5 (e), in relation to article 22, in order to examine the impact under-development had on racial discrimination, with particular emphasis on the problems of under-privileged racial and ethnic groups. Such a study seemed relevant to the problems of indigenous peoples which frequently transcended the effects of racial discrimination. Moreover, it had become increasingly apparent

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(Mr. Bourchier, Australia)

that additional thought should be given to defining appropriate norms for the special situation of indigenous peoples, taking into account their own views. Australia welcomed the fact that indigenous peoples had begun to meet at the international level to discuss such issues and was pleased that the Third General Assembly of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples had been held in Canberra in April-May 1981 and had been hosted by the National Aboriginal Conference.

71. In conclusion, he reiterated the importance Australia attached to the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and to the original purposes of the Decade. For maximum impact resolutions on those matters should be adopted by consensus.

72. Mrs. SHERMAN-PETER (Bahamas) said that, although achievements under the Decade had fallen short of original expectations, the remaining two years should be used to consolidate positive achievements, intensify further efforts and renew the political commitment to eliminate racism and to guarantee fundamental human rights and freedoms for all peoples.

73. As the Foreign Minister of the Bahamas had stated in his address to the General Assembly, nothing in modern history was so great an affront to the dignity of so many people in the world as the racial policies of the Government of South Africa. It was important not to be discouraged by South Africa's arrogance in ignoring United Nations resolutions and world public opinion; continued pressure must be applied in an effort to bring the Pretoria régime to its senses.

74. The very States which appealed for peaceful solutions to the problem of apartheid provided the economic, political, military and other forms of assistance which helped to maintain the status quo in South Africa. Accordingly, her delegation called on those States to cease their collaboration with South Africa so that its black majority could live with dignity and be assured of its fundamental human rights. It supported the convening of a Second World Conference and sincerely hoped that it would further the struggle of oppressed peoples and would not become a forum for rhetoric and confrontation.

75. In April 1981, the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid had come into force in the Bahamas, and her delegation appealed to States which had not yet done so also to become parties to it. Moreover, the Bahamas considered it to be both an honour and an obligation to be among the States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. In that connexion, she expressed her delegation's appreciation to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for its untiring efforts in monitoring the policies of Member States in that regard; the Bahamas regretted that it had not yet submitted its third periodic report, but intended to submit an objective report in the near future.

76. The Bahamas had evolved from a colonial slave society into a multiracial society, where different races and cultures were respected. Under the Constitution, fundamental human rights were guaranteed to everyone, regardless of race, origin, political opinion, colour, creed or sex, and, although there was

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(Mrs. Sherman-Peter, Bahamas)

virtually no racial discrimination, her Government consistently sought to ensure that that continued to be the case. Through the Bahamas Committee on South Africa, public awareness and involvement in the struggle against apartheid had increased. Moreover, the Bahamas Committee had maintained the contact it had established with the Special Committee against Apartheid in 1979, when members of the latter had visited Nassau. In addition, both the Bahamas Government and the Bahamas Committee on South Africa had been represented at the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa held in May 1981.

77. As a country that had become independent only eight years ago, the Bahamas welcomed Vanuatu and Belize to the United Nations and, in the case of Belize, was particularly honoured to have played a small role in the final stages of its accession to independence.

78. However, members of the United Nations must remember that sovereignty was still being denied the people of Namibia. Despite the fact that the General Assembly and world public opinion had long declared South Africa's occupation of Namibia to be illegal, it continued its occupation with impunity; Namibian natural and human resources were being systematically exploited; and attempts were being made to impose white supremacy on the Territory and its people. Moreover, South Africa was using Namibia as a spring-board to pursue its military aggression against the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the front-line States. The Bahamas deplored those activities and supported the struggle of the Namibian people for political democracy, territorial integrity, and economic and social justice. It also supported the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), as the basis of democratic rule and independence for Namibia.

79. Her country was becoming increasingly involved in the issues under discussion and its views were being more widely articulated, in keeping with its conviction that only continued condemnation of South Africa and increased support for oppressed peoples could effect change. In conclusion, she reaffirmed her country's commitment to the objectives of the Decade and to the struggle of all peoples for freedom and self-determination.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.