



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 56th MEETING

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The meeting was called to order at 7.20 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. Mr. BELL (Canada) noted that the practice which had evolved over the years in the Committee disregarded the requirement under the rules of procedure that written notice of an amendment should be given at least 24 hours prior to its consideration. He therefore wondered whether amendments submitted at the current meeting would be considered during the course of the meeting.
2. The CHAIRMAN said that such amendments would be considered, although some of them might need to be circulated before action could be taken on them.
3. Mr. DERESSA (Ethiopia) said that in view of the large number of draft resolutions before the Committee, delegations should be allowed to speak on any draft resolution without any fixed order.
4. The CHAIRMAN said that, as a compromise, delegations could speak on any draft resolution under a particular item when it was being considered.

AGENDA ITEM 91: UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE
(continued) (A/C.3/38/L.20, L.21, L.22, L.27, L.28/Rev.1 and L.42)

5. Mr. FURSLAND (United Kingdom), speaking on draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.27, said that women's issues were among the most important subjects being considered by the Committee. The 1985 Women's Conference would afford an excellent opportunity to promote the elimination of discrimination against women and the participation of women in all spheres of activity. For the Conference to be a success, however, its preparation must be based on consensus and there must be maximum participation. A reasonable compromise must therefore be found which would reflect the views of all regional groups and all delegations. He noted that the preparation of the draft resolution had begun on the basis of consensus. The draft had many good features which his delegation endorsed, but there was one feature which posed problems for his and other delegations and would make it difficult for the draft to be adopted without a vote. The difficulty lay with paragraph 4. It was not that his delegation feared that political issues would be raised at the 1985 Conference, for it believed in free speech; it simply felt that there was no need for the General Assembly to take decisions on the issues raised in paragraph 4 so far in advance of the 1985 Conference. He would prefer the deletion of that paragraph, although, in the interest of consensus, he would not insist on his position. He had discussed with other delegations alternative formulations, but if no agreement could be reached, then the Committee should postpone consideration of that question until the following year when it was to be hoped that a resolution could be adopted without a vote.
6. Mr. HAMER (Netherlands) said that although he appreciated the effort put into the draft by the Group of 77, he was disappointed that the final text raised difficulties and regretted that his delegation had not been involved in the drafting process. He agreed with the representative of the United Kingdom that

(Mr. Hamer, Netherlands)

consideration of the question dealt with in paragraph 4 should be deferred, and suggested that the Group of 77 should remain open to informal discussions with other groups such as his own in order to secure the support which the draft both required and deserved.

7. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) drew attention to certain discrepancies between the administrative and financial implications of recommendations II, III and V of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women as the Preparatory Body for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women (A/C.3/38/2/Add.1) and the financial implications of draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.43 concerning the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women held at Copenhagen in 1980 (A/C.5/33/97). For instance, with regard to Secretariat support, although there was already a provision for staff travel in the regular budget of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, paragraph 11 (f) of document A/C.3/38/2/Add.1 requested a provision of \$90,000 because of the need to maintain close collaboration with appropriate officials of Member States and other relevant organizations. Yet the statement submitted by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of the Copenhagen Conference (A/C.5/33/97, para. 16) stated that the cost of official travel of staff, including the trips to be undertaken by the Special Representative to consult with Governments, the regional commissions and the specialized agencies had been estimated at \$20,000 in 1979 and \$6,000 in 1980. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) had reduced the appropriations requested, recommending that all possible efforts should be made to effect savings by rational planning of itineraries. At that time, no other appropriation for travel had been foreseen by the Secretary of the Conference. Consequently, her delegation considered the provision requested in paragraph 11 (f) of document A/C.3/38/2/Add.1 unjustified.

8. With regard to consultants, in 1978 the amount estimated for the services of consultants to prepare the regional reports had been calculated on the basis of five work-months for each regional commission, and those services, including the relevant travel and subsistence expenses, had been estimated at \$14,800, that amount being financed by savings made on the appropriation for the services of consultants under section 4.2 of the Centre's programme for 1978/1979. However, in document A/C.3/38/2/Add.1, paragraph 8, she noted that not only were the services of consultants not calculated on the basis of five months but also that the different regional commissions were treated differently. It might be wondered why ECE was entitled to 10 work-months of consultancy whereas the ECA, which covered 50 countries, would be entitled to only four.

9. For the regional preparatory meetings prior to the Copenhagen Conference, two working languages had been allowed, except for ESCAP, which had only one, although the report of each meeting was to be issued in six languages. However, in the provisions for the forthcoming Conference, ECWA, where only Arabic was spoken, was also entitled to English and French, three languages were to be allowed for ECLA and three - English, French and Russian - for ECE.

(Mrs. Warzazi, Morocco)

10. Similarly, in 1978 the pre-session and in-session documentation had been estimated at 64 pages for each region, whereas for the 1985 Conference, 98 pages were provided for.
11. With regard to recruitment of temporary staff, in 1978 ACABQ had considered that the cost of Secretariat staff should be covered by the existing resources of the Branch for the Advancement of Women. It had also reduced the studies requested by the Secretary-General for 1979 by almost 50 per cent.
12. Her delegation therefore concluded that some aspects of the financial implications in document A/C.3/38/2/Add.1 were unrealistic and even contrary to the practices of the Copenhagen Conference. It could therefore not accept document A/C.3/38/2/Add.1.
13. The CHAIRMAN said that delegations were free to express their views on the question of the financial implications of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.27, but he hoped that the substantive discussions on that question would take place in the Fifth Committee.
14. Mr. BRAUN (Federal Republic of Germany) supported the position of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands on draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.27. The preparatory body for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women had produced a balanced draft agenda which had been endorsed by the Economic and Social Council earlier that year. He would therefore have welcomed a resolution by the Committee which would have endorsed the draft agenda without addressing itself to divisive political issues which had created difficulties for a number of delegations, including his own, and which had resulted in the adoption of a document at the previous World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women in Copenhagen which had not commanded the support of all participants. He had hoped that the Committee's adoption without a vote of a resolution on the second Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would have been a good example of the spirit of co-operation and understanding, and he regretted the introduction of divisive political elements in paragraph 4 of the draft. He urged the sponsors of the draft to delete paragraph 4 in the interest of a consensus.
15. Mr. ALKALBASH (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the Group of 77 had held a large number of meetings and had agreed on the inclusion of paragraph 4. He could not accept its deletion, but would have no objection to any compromise which would ensure the adoption of the draft. He could not support postponement of consideration of the draft, since the date of the Conference was quite close.
16. Mr. BELL (Canada) said the fact that action on draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.27 had been delayed so long showed that it dealt with a very important and sensitive subject. The African Group and later the Group of 77 had taken on the difficult task of preparing a draft resolution on that subject and, although consultations had not been very extensive, his delegation was satisfied with the results. The Conference was one of the important subjects before the Committee and its

(Mr. Bell, Canada)

preparation must be based on consensus. Although the problem concerned only one paragraph, in view of the likelihood that it might cause negative votes to be cast he thought it might be advisable to postpone consideration of the draft until a later time, when representatives would be free from the pressures of the General Assembly.

17. Mr. AL-HADDAWI (Iraq) said that the Group of 77 had spent two weeks in constant efforts to achieve a balanced draft resolution which would satisfy all members of the Group. He therefore could not agree that a decision on that draft resolution should be postponed or that paragraph 4 should be amended. If goodwill was demonstrated by all parties, the 1985 Conference would be a success. His delegation would prefer that the draft resolution should be put to the vote if a consensus was not possible.

18. Mr. RIETJENS (Belgium) said that his delegation agreed with most of the ideas set forth in draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.27 and hoped that it could be adopted by consensus. It had supported the recommendations of the preparatory body on the themes and sub-themes of the Conference and its agenda. The implementation of those recommendations would be a useful contribution to the resolution of the political, social, economic and cultural problems which were specific to women, leaving general political questions to be dealt with by the appropriate organs of the United Nations. He regretted the formulation of paragraph 4, which made it impossible for it to be adopted without a vote.

19. Mr. VOICU (Romania), speaking as a member of the Group of 77, said that he supported the draft resolution in its current form and hoped that it could be adopted by consensus. His delegation had not participated in the preliminary work of the preparatory body for the 1985 Nairobi Conference and he wished to make a number of observations on the financial implications of the draft resolution. Firstly, the amount of money spent for the five regional preparatory meetings for the Nairobi Conference should not exceed the amounts spent for the five regional meetings for the International Youth Year. Secondly, the number of pages of documentation for the five meetings should be limited to what was strictly necessary. Thirdly, the additional staff which the Centre had requested for the preparation of the Conference should be reasonable. The same applied to similar requests from the Department of Public Information. Fourthly, his delegation had grave reservations concerning the request for consultancy services for the five meetings. Lastly, he would welcome a revised document from the Secretariat on the financial implications of the recommendations from the preparatory body for the Nairobi Conference.

20. He hoped it would be possible to revise the draft resolution on the basis of the informal discussions held so far and the observations made during consideration of the text.

21. Mr. MONTAÑO (Mexico) said that the draft resolution had been debated extensively by the Group of 77 and that States which were not part of that Group had been apprised of the negotiations. The Group of 77 considered the subject

(Mr. Montaño, Mexico)

covered in paragraph 4 to be of high priority and felt it should be given special attention in the preparations for the Conference. The Group had made intensive efforts to consolidate varying views and to arrive at a text that would be acceptable to all. He did not see any cause for reservations on paragraph 4, which reflected a mature concern for the best possible results of the Conference, and he appealed to all delegations to understand the paragraph in that light.

22. Mrs. KABA (Guinea) said that the African and Arab groups had striven to reach a consensus within the Group of 77, and that the Western group must also work to accommodate differing views. The subject of women under apartheid had been discussed at the 1980 World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, but the African group had agreed to the deletion from the Conference agenda of all items, including those relating to racial discrimination, that could have caused problems. Must it always be the African group that had to go back on its principles? It was time for the Western group to stop trying to impose its own positions. Her delegation therefore called for a vote on the resolution. If a consensus could not be achieved on the existing text, she would be prepared to propose a new formulation.

23. Miss CAO-PINNA (Italy) said that there were two years left in which to prepare for the Conference. Her delegation associated itself with the views on paragraph 4 expressed by previous speakers in an effort to convince the sponsors that to ensure the success of the Conference it would be better to avoid forcing a vote on paragraph 4. She hoped that the sponsors would take into consideration the numerous reservations expressed in that connection.

24. Mr. CHIKETA (Zimbabwe) said that since the conference was to be held in 1985, every effort must be made to prevent divisions in 1983. The issue under consideration was not restricted to the holding of the Conference in 1985 - it had far-reaching implications. He was sure that no representative wished the Conference to fail, but if delegations gave up on trying to reach a consensus now, that would be the result. He therefore strongly appealed to all delegations to spend more time attempting to agree on the agenda and programme for the Conference.

25. Mrs. KUROKOCHI (Japan) said her delegation hoped the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus, but the statements of several delegations clearly indicated that the text was not acceptable. Her delegation shared the views expressed by the representative of the United Kingdom on the inadvisability of the General Assembly's taking any stand on how the discussion at the Conference should be conducted. She appealed to the members of the Group of 77 to be more flexible and to agree to postpone the discussion of the issue.

26. Mrs. SANGO (Nigeria) said that her delegation deeply regretted the fact that the draft resolution was not acceptable to some delegations. There was no time to waste, however, and it would be unwise to postpone a decision, since the Conference was to be held in 1985. She appealed to delegations to adopt the draft resolution by consensus, but said that if that was not possible, her delegation would call for a vote.

27. Mrs. ARUNGU-OLENDE (Kenya), speaking on a point of order, said that any amendment proposed by the representative of Guinea must be submitted to the Chairman of the Group of 77 before it could come before the Committee. She suggested that the Committee should suspend its consideration of the draft resolution in the hopes of reaching a compromise.

28. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to postpone its consideration of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.27.

29. It was so decided.

Draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.28/Rev.1

30. Mr. DERESSA (Ethiopia) said that his delegation wholeheartedly supported the revised version of the draft resolution, but that the topic related more to item 85 than to item 91. His delegation also had some reservations about the proposal to include the topic on the agenda of the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly. He proposed that the word "sexual" in the sixth preambular paragraph should be deleted, for that concept was covered under "exploitation", which referred to any acts committed under duress or with the threat or use of force. Furthermore, men too were the victims of prostitution.

31. Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) endorsed the views of the representative of Ethiopia concerning the item under which the draft resolution should have been submitted and the term "sexual exploitation". She objected to the use of "suppression" in the title and in paragraph 3, for it implied violence, and suggested that "means to combat the exploitation of prostitution" would be a better formulation for the title, that "to ways of combating it" should replace "means for its suppression" in paragraph 3, and that "and young people of both sexes" should be inserted in the sixth preambular paragraph, after "children".

32. Mr. BELL (Canada) said that his delegation endorsed the comments made by the representative of Costa Rica, especially those concerning the word "suppression". It was an ambiguous term which could suggest actions that were unlawful and involved coercion and violence. He suggested that the title should be deleted, as draft resolutions did not have to have titles.

33. Mr. ZARIF (Iran) said that the sponsors would give serious consideration to and attempt to accommodate the comments that had been made on the draft resolution.

AGENDA ITEM 94: HUMAN RIGHTS AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS
(continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.38

34. Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) observed with regard to the sixth preambular paragraph that the right to life was first and foremost the prerogative of individuals and only then of peoples. She therefore proposed that that paragraph should be reworded to read: "Reaffirming the inherent right to life of all individuals and all peoples".

(Mrs. Castro de Barish, Costa Rica)

35. In the seventh preambular paragraph, she proposed the addition at the end, after "the nuclear arms race", of the phrase "as well as trade in and proliferation of arms".

36. Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he would reply to that question after consulting the other sponsors.

AGENDA ITEM 96: INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.35

37. Mr. AL-HADDAWI (Iraq) requested the deletion of the phrase "and the Sessional Working Group of the Economic and Social Council" in the fourth and fifth lines of the operative paragraph, for technical reasons.

38. The draft resolution had been prepared on the understanding that there would be no additional financial implications and that if there were any, they should be met from the regular budget of the United Nations.

Draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.39

39. Mr. RUSI (Finland) announced that the delegation of Canada had asked to join the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.41

40. Miss CAO-PINNA (Italy) announced that Canada had also joined the sponsors of that draft resolution.

AGENDA ITEM 98: OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (continued)

(a) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (continued)
(A/C.3/38/L.34)

41. Mr. DERESSA (Ethiopia) endorsed the hope for a consensus on the draft resolution expressed by the representative of Denmark in his introduction and by all the other sponsors. Hardly any other draft resolution had been subjected to so much scrutiny, and it was the product of an exemplary exercise in negotiations conducted in a constructive spirit. The original text submitted by the Danish delegation had been precise and to the point. The compromise resulting from the negotiations reflected a delicate balance between common humanitarian commitments and political considerations of concern to individual States and between the limited resources of the Office of the High Commissioner and the great demands being made on its assistance on the one hand and the good will of benefactors and the needs of the beneficiaries on the other.

(Mr. Deressa, Ethiopia)

42. The amendments he was about to propose were not suggested in any spirit of criticism but rather designed to sharpen the focus of the draft resolution on the plight of the refugees, returnees and displaced persons who, through no fault of their own, had had to flee from their homes. In many documents dealing with refugees, the emphasis was slowly moving away from the actual needs of the victims to those of their hosts. Those needs were interrelated, and assistance to countries of refuge helped the refugees as well as lessening the burden on the host country itself. However, that should be regarded as a means of ensuring durable solutions to the problem rather than an end in itself. His delegation therefore emphasized the paramount importance of achieving durable solutions, in particular through voluntary repatriation, to the problems of refugees and displaced persons. That idea had been partially covered in the twelfth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

43. The text would better promote the protection and welfare of refugees if certain situations that had proved detrimental not only to their safety but also to regional peace and security were mentioned.

44. He wished to propose various amendments for the consideration of the sponsors. At the end of the seventh preambular paragraph he proposed the addition of the phrase "as well as pressures exerted on them to engage in forced labour, military and other illegal activities directed against other sovereign and independent States". The same phrase should be added at the end of operative paragraph 3, after the words "in distress at sea".

45. Paragraph 5 should be amended to read: "Reaffirms the principle of international solidarity and burden-sharing in responding to problems of refugees, returnees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner, particularly in view of the heavy burden borne by the countries concerned". In paragraph 6, the words "or permanent" should be inserted in the last line, between "temporary" and "basis". Paragraph 7 should be amended to read: "Commends all States which facilitate the attainment of durable solutions through voluntary repatriation, acceptance of refugees for resettlement, and contribute generously to the High Commissioner's programmes". In paragraph 8 the words "as appropriate, or, wherever appropriate," in the third and fourth lines should be deleted. The search for solutions to the problems of refugees must not be based on notions which prejudged situations, as was the case in operative paragraph 8 as it stood.

46. Mr. HOPPE (Denmark) agreed that the final text of the draft resolution was not completely satisfactory, but it had been a compromise acceptable to all delegations. He and the other sponsors would give careful consideration to the amendments proposed by the representative of Ethiopia, but he appealed to him not to insist on them if that would prevent action being taken on the draft at the following day's meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 100: ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.25

47. Mr. HOUFFANE (Djibouti) said that as the penultimate preambular paragraph appeared to be based on the thirteenth preambular paragraph of General Assembly resolution 37/200, he thought that it should start with the words "Reaffirming also" rather than "Reconfirming".

48. Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) proposed the insertion of the words "including trade union rights" between "work" and "health" in the third line of paragraph 13.

49. Mrs. FLOREZ PRIDA (Cuba) said that the penultimate preambular paragraph was based on article 30 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, since several other representatives had made the same comment as the representative of Djibouti, she agreed that the paragraph should start with the words "Reaffirming also". There was also a typographical error in the second line of the English text of that paragraph, which should read "group or person". She would consult the other sponsors about the proposal by the representative of Costa Rica and reply at the next meeting.

The meeting rose at 9.40 p.m.
