

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTIETH SESSION

Official Records



**THIRD COMMITTEE, 1291st
MEETING**

Friday, 1 October 1965,
at 3.15 p.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Agenda item 53:</i>	
<i>Assistance in cases of natural disaster.</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Agenda item 57:</i>	
<i>Measures to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: report of the Secretary-General</i>	<i>13</i>

Chairman: Mr. Francisco CUEVAS CANCINO
(Mexico).

AGENDA ITEM 53

Assistance in cases of natural disaster (A/5803, chap. X, sect. IV, A/5845, A/5883, A/5984, A/6003, chap. XIV, sect. III)

1. Mr. GARCIA (Philippines) said that he wished to place on record the deep appreciation of his Government and people for the expressions of sympathy with the victims of the volcanic eruption in the Philippines which had been voiced at the preceding meeting. He was particularly grateful for the approach to the Secretary-General which the Committee had authorized its Chairman to make. The united will to act expeditiously in order to help the victims would inspire in the people of the Philippines a new dedication to the ideals of the United Nations.

2. Mr. BELTRAMINO (Argentina) said that in the Economic and Social Council his delegation had already expressed its full support for Council resolution 1090 C (XXXIX), which contained the text of a draft resolution recommended for adoption by the General Assembly and reproduced in the annex to the note by the Secretary-General (A/5984). His delegation was very pleased that the United Nations was about to enter the field of assistance in cases of natural disaster, for Argentina had a long tradition of helping sister countries in such situations and had for many years possessed the kind of national machinery referred to in paragraph 1 (a) of the draft resolution.

3. Mrs. BARISH (Costa Rica) observed that her country had had a most satisfactory experience of what United Nations assistance meant in connexion with the continuing volcanic eruption in Costa Rica. Her delegation therefore considered the establishment of a system of permanent assistance to States which suffered natural disasters to be of great importance, and it would support the draft resolution, paragraphs 1 and 2 of which covered all aspects of international

assistance that could be studied and co-ordinated in order to make such assistance more effective.

4. Mr. JOEI (China) said that the Republic of China was perhaps better placed than any other country to understand the need for United Nations action in cases of natural disaster, since Taiwan, the provisional seat of his Government, had often suffered from typhoons, earthquakes and floods. His delegation therefore fully supported the draft resolution before the Committee (A/5984, annex).

5. Mrs. DABCEVIC-KUCAR (Yugoslavia) said that the experience of Yugoslavia, where the capital of Macedonia had been destroyed by an earthquake in 1963, showed how valuable international assistance could be. Although assistance in the first stages of a disaster had a great material and psychological effect, the manifestation of international solidarity should not be confined to emergency aid but should include long-term action to reduce the effects of natural disasters, particularly in countries which lacked sufficient funds of their own for the purpose. Although the financial provision recommended in the draft resolution was minimal, she regarded the various measures mentioned in the text as a first step towards broader action, and one which merited unanimous support. In conclusion, she hoped that the humanitarian feelings which were manifested whenever a natural disaster occurred would be similarly aroused with respect to war, the greatest disaster threatening mankind.

6. Lady GAITSKELL (United Kingdom) noted that the task confronting the Committee was to provide for orderly practical measures enabling the international community to deal with the effects of natural disasters wherever they might strike. The most important steps were to ensure that co-ordination between the specialized agencies and such bodies as the Red Cross was as close and efficient as possible, and that Member States throughout the world had resources readily available for an emergency. Because the United Kingdom had made the necessary preparations, it had been able to supply prompt aid to Italy, Yugoslavia, Iran, East Pakistan and Chile when major disasters had occurred during the past three years. She urged other Governments to make similar arrangements, and drew attention to the valuable work of voluntary organizations in her own country. Her delegation would support the draft resolution, which took the right practical line.

7. Miss KING (Jamaica) said that her country, which was prone to earthquakes, hurricanes and other natural disasters, fully supported the draft resolution before the Committee. Her delegation would have wished paragraph 5 to go rather further, but it

nevertheless endorsed the financial provision as drafted, in the hope that it would be kept under constant review and that increased aid to individual countries would be considered if circumstances warranted it.

8. Mr. DAYRELL DE LIMA (Brazil) observed that, although in the past his delegation had frequently opposed the creation of new organs, because it believed that proliferation might impair efficiency, the establishment of a United Nations fund for assistance in cases of natural disaster, to be financed through voluntary contributions, would be fully justified. He would like such phenomena as the recent severe floods in southern Brazil and the recurrent periods of devastating drought in the north-eastern part of that country to be made the subject of a United Nations study.

Mrs. Warzazi (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

9. Mr. SIRI (El Salvador) said that his country, which had suffered many natural disasters throughout its history, would strongly support any measures to promote international co-operation for assistance in the event of such disasters and, in particular, the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council. He took the opportunity of expressing his Government's gratitude for the aid given by many countries and by the United Nations Special Fund on the occasion of the earthquake of May 1965.

10. Mr. ABDEL-RAHIM (Sudan) expressed full support for the draft resolution, and also for the Yugoslav representative's comments on the need for long-term action.

11. Mrs. RAMAHOLIMIHASO (Madagascar) said that her delegation whole-heartedly supported the draft resolution before the Committee, not in the hope of deriving material benefit under paragraphs 4 and 5 - although Madagascar in fact suffered periodic devastation by cyclones - but out of sympathy for other countries which had suffered more severely. Although the financial authorization recommended was a modest one, her delegation could only defer to the wisdom of the Economic and Social Council, which had acted in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

12. Mrs. VILLGRATTNER (Austria) said that there had always been very intensive co-operation between her Government and the national and international Red Cross organizations; a constitutional law made it possible for equipment and personnel to be placed at the disposal of the Austrian Red Cross Society by the Austrian police and armed forces in the event of a natural disaster. Austria tried to help suffering individuals, whoever and wherever they might be, and it therefore supported the draft resolution and would lend its full assistance in implementing it.

13. Mr. TAYLOR (New Zealand) agreed with the conclusions reached by the Secretary-General in his report (A/5845) and endorsed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report (A/5883). The establishment of national machinery to undertake contingency planning against natural disasters was clearly necessary if outside

aid was to be effective, and his delegation welcomed the suggestion, in paragraph 21 of the Secretary-General's report, that the United Nations in collaboration with the League of Red Cross Societies might prepare a manual on pre-disaster planning. New Zealand, which had experienced earthquake disasters, and was close to hurricane areas, was pleased to support the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council.

14. Mr. INCE (Trinidad and Tobago) remarked that his country was no stranger to natural disasters and fully comprehended the suffering they caused. He wished to acknowledge the useful assistance given by the United Nations and related agencies at the time of the 1963 hurricane, following which a national relief organization had been established in his country. His delegation could not fail to give unstinting support to the draft resolution.

15. Mr. SHARAF (Jordan) said that, although the financing arrangements proposed in the draft resolution were considerably less than one would have wished, the spirit of the text and the practical measures envisaged were such that his delegation would support adoption of the draft as recommended by the Economic and Social Council.

16. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) said that the Committee should give its unanimous support to the draft resolution. Considering the increasing frequency of natural disasters, however, he thought that the draft resolution could be more strongly worded. It would be useful to have more details of the assistance referred to in the fifth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution. The assistance given at present was for the most part bilateral, not multi-national. The fundamental concern of the United Nations was to provide a stimulus so that the international assistance offered after any disaster would be commensurate with the damage caused. The United Nations should also place particular emphasis on the task of reconstruction. That aspect of the problem would be examined by the Committee when it discussed the report of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning. The financial provision proposed might not be sufficient, although it should be considered in conjunction with the aid given by the specialized agencies. The World Food Programme for instance, had recently been extended for a further three years. He thought, however, that the ceiling of \$20,000 per country in the case of any one disaster was inadequate in comparison with the size of the United Nations budget to be approved at the present session.

17. Mr. COX (Canada), expressing support for the recommendations made by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1090 C (XXXIX), said that his delegation was in complete agreement with the strong case made by the Secretary-General in his report (A/5845) against the establishment of a United Nations disaster fund through voluntary contributions, and supported the proposal that the Secretary-General should be allowed to draw on the regular budget of the United Nations for relief and assistance in cases of natural disaster. He agreed that the funds made available should be used on the advice of the Red Cross and the United Nations resident representative in the area of the disaster, and that the latter should be

responsible for the co-ordination of all United Nations relief activities in the field. He hoped that such information as the Secretary-General was able to collect under operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution would eventually produce a complete inventory of the human, financial and material resources available internationally through national disaster programmes, international agencies and the funds established by Governments for bilateral emergency aid. He suggested that the role of the United Nations should be to support, where appropriate, the work and activities of donor Governments and the League of Red Cross Societies, and that the latter should retain the primary responsibility for co-ordinating disaster relief assistance. The League of Red Cross Societies should also continue to act as a centre of information in individual emergency situations, particularly in the early stages of rescue operations; it would not be practical or profitable for the United Nations Secretariat to take over that task. Lastly, his delegation thought that the United Nations should give high priority to the provision of technical assistance in advance of natural disasters. There was also considerable merit in the Secretary-General's suggestion that the United Nations should provide assistance, immediately after a disaster, in drawing up comprehensive plans for rehabilitation and reconstruction.

18. Miss KENYATTA (Kenya) whole-heartedly supported the draft resolution. The recent droughts and floods which her country had suffered made it particularly aware of the necessity of such measures. Normal famine relief measures had proved inadequate in Kenya, and, as a result, a national disaster relief fund had been set up. Her delegation supported the idea of co-operation in cases of natural disaster and would give all help possible to stricken areas.

19. Mr. MANGWAZU (Malawi), referring to operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, observed that if in any one year there were many natural disasters and if each country qualified for assistance up to the ceiling of \$20,000, that would mean that only five countries would receive assistance. He recognized, however, that such assistance should be considered in conjunction with the aid given by the specialized agencies. His delegation fully supported the draft resolution.

20. Mrs. MIRONOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that her country had always offered assistance in cases of natural disaster. The question before the Committee had been discussed twice already, at the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions of the Economic and Social Council, and the proposals made had been endorsed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. She would not, therefore, comment on the substance of the draft resolution, particularly since the arrangements recommended were experimental and were to be reviewed at the twenty-third session of the General Assembly.

21. Miss WILLIS (United States of America), Princess NAKATINDI (Zambia), Mrs. MBOLJANA (Uganda), Mrs. BOULTON DE BOTTOME (Venezuela) and Mr. BABAA (Libya) also supported the draft resolution.

22. Mr. MURUGESU (Malaysia) thought that every Member State should contribute substantially to a

natural disaster fund, since \$20,000 might be insufficient assistance in some cases. He considered that the ceiling of \$100,000 in emergency aid proposed in operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution might unduly limit the extent of United Nations assistance. However, when the Secretary-General presented his report to the General Assembly in particular cases, the drawing of additional funds might be authorized. He therefore supported the draft resolution.

23. Mr. KEITA (Mali) said that to any State, rich or poor, developed or developing, the question under discussion was of capital importance. His own country had recently been the victim of floods, but, thanks to the assistance it had been offered, the worst effects had been avoided. His delegation strongly supported the text of the draft resolution.

The draft resolution contained in resolution 1090 C (XXXIX) of the Economic and Social Council (A/5984, annex) was adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 57

Measures to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: report of the Secretary-General (A/5698 and Corr.1, A/5698/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/5698/Add.2-4, A/5803, chap. IX, sect. VII, A/5947, A/6003, chap. XIII, sect. IV, A/C.3/L.1193-1194)

24. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) said that the only action required of the Third Committee in connexion with the item under discussion was to bring up to date the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1016 (XXXVII) and contained in paragraph 4 of the note by the Secretary-General (A/5947). He therefore proposed that in operative paragraph 3 the word "twentieth" before the word "session" should be replaced by "twenty-first" and that operative paragraph 4 should be deleted.

It was so decided.

25. Mr. SAKSENA (India) submitted an amendment (A/C.3/L.1193) whereby a new paragraph would be inserted in the draft resolution after the second paragraph of the preamble.

26. Mr. A. A. MOHAMMED (Nigeria) supported the amendment. The decision of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to undertake a special study of racial discrimination in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres was an important step since little progress had been made in implementing the Declaration. The amendment indicated the fields in which the study would be most desirable.

27. Mrs. MAKSIMENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that one of the world's major tasks was to improve international relations which were seriously disturbed by racial discrimination, apartheid and segregation. It was imperative to put an end once and for all to racial discrimination and its related phenomena. The Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was of tremendous political and moral significance; the Committee must accordingly consider what steps had been taken to implement it.

28. The information provided in documents A/5698 and Corr.1, A/5698/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/5698/Add.2-4 showed that much had been done to publicize the Declaration and that many countries had taken legislative and other measures to combat all forms of racial discrimination. However, not all Member States had transmitted information.

29. As her Government's reply (see A/5698/Add.3) showed, the political and social structure of the country precluded any possibility of racial discrimination in the political, economic or social fields and article 103 of the Constitution guaranteed equality of rights to all citizens. That guarantee was put into practice in all fields.

30. Her delegation was not deceived by the reply of the Government of Portugal (see A/5698 and Corr.1), which was full of misinformation. The world knew very well that Portugal was violating the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples and was waging a colonial war in Africa against the people's struggle for independence. The wrath of humanity was also directed against racial repression in South Africa, where racial discrimination was practised as a State policy. The policy of racism and apartheid was a crime against the world and against humanity, and its perpetrators should be punished. To give expression to the world's disapproval of the police régime in South Africa the majority of delegations present at the 1342nd plenary meeting had walked out during the statement made in the General Assembly by the representative of the South African racists, whose followers in Southern Rhodesia were trying to maintain by oppression the domination of a handful of whites. The recent tragic events in Los Angeles were but one instance of the racial conflict prevailing in the United States.

31. Those examples afforded convincing proof of the need to adopt urgent and effective measures to ensure that the Declaration was implemented everywhere. Her delegation therefore supported the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1016 (XXXVII).

32. A report should be submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-first session on the implementation of the Declaration in the fields of labour, education and political rights. She welcomed the study to be undertaken by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and approved the other measures proposed by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1016 (XXXIX). The next important step to be taken should be the drafting and ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

33. Mr. FUENTES IBÁÑEZ (Bolivia) said that, although there was no problem of racial discrimination in his country and all citizens enjoyed the same rights and privileges, his Government fully supported and implemented all the measures enumerated in the Declaration.

34. Mrs. VILLGRATTNER (Austria) drew attention to the information transmitted by her Government (see A/5698/Add.2). Her delegation supported the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social

Council, as amended by India and Nigeria. (A/C.3/L.1193).

35. Miss WILLIS (United States of America) said that, in the interest of accelerating the Committee's works, she would not discuss the substance of the draft resolution at the present time, although she would have some observations to make on the measures her Government had taken to eliminate racial discrimination at a later stage, when she would bring her Government's reply (see A/5698 and Corr.1) up to date. Significant legislation had been adopted by the Congress of the United States in 1964 and 1965 to implement rights guaranteed under the United States Constitution.

36. Her delegation supported the draft resolution before the Committee and strongly condemned all forms of racial discrimination.

37. Mr. BELTRAMINO (Argentina) said that, subsequent to the provision by his Government of the information in document A/5698/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 relating to Argentina, the Argentine Penal Code had been revised to include a new category of offences consisting of activities by individuals or organizations aiming to promote racial discrimination and the incitement to violence for reasons of race.

38. He submitted an amendment (A/C.3/L.1194) whereby a new paragraph would be inserted as the fourth paragraph of the preamble of the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council. He proposed that the efforts and the measures adopted by a sizable number of States in connexion with the Declaration since the eighteenth session of the General Assembly should be noted.

39. Miss ADDISON (Ghana) hoped that the members of the Committee would not discuss the substance of the item before the Committee, so that a duplication of the debate to be held on the draft Convention might be avoided.

40. With regard to the Argentine amendment, she thought that sufficient time had not elapsed since the eighteenth session of the General Assembly for special mention to be made of the efforts made by States to implement the Declaration. Some of the efforts made antedated the Declaration and the purpose of the latter had been to encourage the adoption of new measures. Her delegation would support the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council, as amended by document A/C.3/L.1193.

41. Mr. LEA PLAZA (Chile) said that his Government had not had to adopt measures to combat racial discrimination because it was unknown in his country, which had citizens of all races and made no distinction between them. It condemned any manifestation of racial discrimination and would support all declarations and conventions to that effect.

42. Mrs. MIRONOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that many delegations would wish to discuss the substance of the item and express their views not only on the draft resolution but also on the Secretary-General's report and the replies of various Governments. The Declaration was now two years old and all delegations should be given an opportunity to express their views on its implementation.

43. She supported the amendment contained in document A/C.3/L.1193. The Commission on Human Rights should perhaps also express its views and make recommendations.

44. Mr. BELTRAMINO (Argentina) said that, to meet the objection of the Ghanaian representative, he would delete the reference to the eighteenth session of the General Assembly in his amendment.

45. Mrs. BARISH (Costa Rica) said that racial discrimination was unknown in her country. Her delegation nevertheless participated actively in United Nations organs which considered that question. She drew attention to her Government's reply (see A/5698 and Corr.1) and expressed support for the draft resolution and the two amendments submitted.

46. Miss ADDISON (Ghana) assured the Soviet Union representative that her delegation had no desire to deprive any delegation of its right to speak on a question of burning interest to Africa.

47. Mrs. BOULTON DE BOTTOME (Venezuela) drew attention to her Government's reply (see A/5698 and Corr.1) and said that there had never been any racial discrimination on either political or social grounds in Venezuela. Her delegation would welcome any proposal on or any study of the problem of racial discrimination which aimed to secure its elimination as soon as possible.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.