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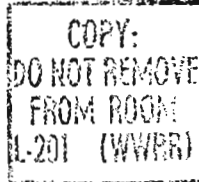
**FORTIETH SESSION**

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THIRD COMMITTEE  
49th meeting  
held on  
Thursday, 21 November 1985  
at 6 p.m.  
New York

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 49th MEETING**

Chairman: Mr. ZADOR (Hungary)

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The meeting was called to order at 6.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 99: INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/C.3/40/L.30)

Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.30

1. Mr. VILLAGRA DELGADO (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.30 on behalf of the sponsors and said he hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.
2. Mrs. DOWNING (Secretary of the Committee) said that Barbados, Cameroon, Comoros, Senegal and Swaziland had become sponsors of the draft resolution.
3. Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.30 was adopted without a vote.

AGENDA ITEM 100: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (continued) (A/C.3/40/L.35)

Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.35

4. Ms. BOGARDE (Sweden) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.35 on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Peru. She pointed out that in the English version of the draft resolution the word "Racial" should be deleted from the title.
5. Mrs. FLOREZ PRIDA (Cuba), Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica), Mrs. TIRONA (Philippines) and Ms. BASNYAT (Nepal) announced that their delegations had become sponsors of the draft resolution.
6. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) said that although her delegation, as in previous years, reserved its position on the draft resolution in question, it did not oppose adoption of the draft by consensus.
7. Mr. HACKETT (Department of International Economic and Social Affairs) said that, should draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.35 be adopted, the Secretary-General would make the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA) responsible for dealing with the request in paragraph 7. DIESA would do so under its existing budget, and that would not affect the implementation of the programme of work that had been adopted.
8. Mrs. DOWNING (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cuba, Finland, Nepal and Peru had become sponsors of the draft resolution.
9. Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.35 was adopted without a vote.

AGENDA ITEM 92: UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE  
(continued) (A/C.3/40/L.33 and L.41)

10. Mr. QUINN (Australia) said that he thought draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.33, adopted at an earlier meeting, could have been improved by, inter alia, broadening paragraph 5 to include all appropriate United Nations organs and not merely UNESCO and WHO. He also would have liked more time to study the two new operative paragraphs of the draft resolution.

11. Mrs. ALVAREZ (France) said that her delegation had joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.41, which had been adopted at an earlier meeting, on the understanding that paragraph 4 had no financial implications.

AGENDA ITEM 105: OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES  
(continued) (A/C.3/40/L.38, L.42, L.43 and L.44)

Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.42

12. Mr. RAMLOGUN (Mauritius) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.42 on behalf of the Group of African States, and expressed the hope that the Committee would adopt it by consensus.

13. Mrs. DOWNING (Secretary of the Committee) said that the draft resolution had no financial or programming implications.

14. Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.42 was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.43

15. Ms. RYGH (Norway) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.43 on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Bolivia and Honduras. The draft resolution had been drafted in consultation with the group of sponsors and followed the outline of General Assembly resolution 39/139, which had been adopted by consensus. It was therefore hoped that the current draft resolution would meet with the same approval. She proposed that in the penultimate line of the twelfth preambular paragraph the word "frequently" should be replaced by the phrase "in some cases".

16. Mrs. MOIZ (Pakistan) supported that proposal.

17. Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) thanked Norway for introducing draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.43 and called particular attention to operative paragraphs 1 to 10. Costa Rica was the headquarters of one of the UNHCR offices, and it reiterated its wish to co-operate in the agency's humanitarian work. It therefore wished to join the sponsors of draft resolutions A/C.3/40/L.42, L.43 and L.44.

18. Mr. MADAR (Somalia) said that, thanks to the change of wording in the twelfth preambular paragraph, Somalia could support draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.43.

19. Mrs. ALVAREZ (France) said that she would like a better translation into French of the word "Welcomes" at the beginning of paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.43. She believed that "Constate avec plaisir" was not a very appropriate expression in a draft resolution on refugees and suggested that it should be replaced by "Constate avec satisfaction".
20. Mr. FARAH DIRIR (Djibouti) proposed that the Committee should defer its decision on the draft resolution, since Djibouti had difficulties in accepting the change of wording in the twelfth preambular paragraph.
21. Ms. RYGH (Norway) said that her delegation would prefer the decision to be taken at the current meeting.
22. Mr. DIRAR (Sudan), speaking as a sponsor of the draft resolution, asked the representative of Djibouti to accept the consensus on the change of wording.
23. Miss ATTWOOD (United Kingdom) said that when draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.43 had been submitted, it had been stated that document A/C.3/40/L.38 dealt with its financial implications. She asked for clarification on the link between the two documents, because it was not readily apparent how the one related to the other.
24. Ms. CLARK (New Zealand) said that she favoured taking an immediate decision on draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.43, which was acceptable to her delegation with the revision introduced by the representative of Norway.
25. Ms. PEARCE (Australia) endorsed what had been said by the representatives of Norway and New Zealand. Her delegation believed that the twelfth preambular paragraph did not impute responsibility but simply indicated that Governments must be sensitive to the vulnerable situation of refugee women. A similar formulation had been adopted at Geneva and Nairobi. She asked the representative of Djibouti to take those precedents into consideration.
26. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) proposed that the meeting should be suspended for a few minutes in order to enable the Committee to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.43 at the current meeting.
27. Mr. MADAR (Somalia) seconded the proposal.
28. The meeting was suspended at 7.20 p.m. and resumed at 7.35 p.m.
29. Mrs. GRIFFIN (Office of Financial Services), responding to the question raised by the representative of the United Kingdom on the connection between documents A/C.3/40/L.43 and L.38, said that the object of the latter was to inform the Third Committee, in connection with the review of the report on the work of the thirty-sixth session of the Executive Committee of the Programme of UNHCR (A/40/12/Add.1), of the programme budget implications of a decision contained in that report. Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.43 as such did not call for a statement of financial implications.

30. Miss ATTWOOD (United Kingdom) said that the decision of the UNHCR Executive Committee had been "to request the General Assembly to allocate the necessary resources", a request which was now before the Committee. If that request was approved by the Committee, it would have financial implications; yet she was unable to find any document which stated that the Third Committee had taken note of the report in which that request was made. In fact, the request to the General Assembly was one on which the Committee had not yet taken action.
31. Mrs. GRIFFIN (Office of Financial Services) said that the statement in document A/C.3/40/L.38 was intended for the information of the Third Committee and would be the basis for submitting the request to the General Assembly through the Fifth Committee in an A/C.5 document.
32. Miss ATTWOOD (United Kingdom) asked whether it was the Fifth Committee that would decide on the allocation of those funds, with the Third Committee uninvolved except to take note of the matter.
33. The CHAIRMAN replied that that was the case.
34. Ms. RYGH (Norway) said that agreement had been reached on the new amendment to the twelfth preambular paragraph. The final part of the paragraph, which began with the words "which frequently exposes them ... discrimination", should be replaced with the words "which in many cases exposes them to a variety of difficult situations affecting their physical and legal protection, as well as their psychological and material well-being".
35. Mrs. TOURE (Mali) asked the Secretary of the Committee to read out the paragraph again.
36. Mrs. DOWNING (Secretary of the Committee) read out the proposed amendment.
37. Mr. FARAH DIRIR (Djibouti) thanked the representative of Norway for having accommodated his suggestion and said he supported the text as a whole, as amended.
38. Mrs. DOWNING (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Bolivia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Morocco and Pakistan had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.
39. Miss ATTWOOD (United Kingdom) asked the Secretary of the Committee to confirm that draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.43 had no financial implications.
40. Mrs. DOWNING (Secretary of the Committee) recalled that the representative of the Office of Financial Services had stated that document A/C.3/40/L.43 had no financial implications.
41. Mrs. TOURE (Mali) asked the Secretary of the Committee what changes had been made in the French text of paragraph 4.
42. Mrs. DOWNING (Secretary of the Committee) said that the representative of Morocco had proposed that the words "se félicite" should be substituted for the words "constate avec plaisir".

43. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution.

44. Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.43, as amended, was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.44

45. Mr. DIRAR (Sudan) said it was a pleasure for his delegation to introduce the draft resolution, which expressed appreciation to Mr. Poul Hartling, who would shortly be relinquishing his duties as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for his work. China, Indonesia, the Philippines and Zaire had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

46. Twenty-five years of experience in the area of material and humanitarian assistance to refugees had enabled Sudan to appreciate fully the significance and value of Mr. Hartling's efforts during his difficult and noble mandate. In recent years, the work of the High Commissioner had grown considerably as a result of the increase in the number of refugees and the resulting pressures placed on receiving countries, which had reached a critical level. In addition, much hard work had been required to rationalize the Office's activities, especially those in the field, so that the international community might meet its obligations to refugees. Such efforts were all the more welcome in that the High Commissioner, in carrying out his mandate, had always sought to approach the question of refugees as a humanitarian question which must be shared by the international community. It was particularly satisfying to note that all who had taken part in the debate on agenda item 105 had emphasized the importance they attached to that humanitarian aspect of the question. In the draft resolution before the Committee, specific reference was made to the progress achieved under Mr. Hartling's guidance in promoting humanitarian solutions to the problems of refugees in various parts of the world. His efforts to alleviate the suffering of refugees through his humanitarian tasks were also commended, and he was wished much success in his future undertakings.

47. The Sudan, like the other sponsors, was confident that the draft resolution would be adopted by the Committee unanimously.

48. Mr. MADAR (Somalia) pointed out that the first preambular paragraph of the Arabic version of the draft resolution was incomplete; it ought to contain a specific reference to the current High Commissioner, and he suggested that such a reference should be included.

49. Mr. DIRAR (Sudan) said that his delegation considered the amendment suggested by the representative of Somalia to be a useful one and thus approved it.

50. Mr. IBRAHIM (Djibouti), Miss EMARA (Egypt), Mrs. ALVAREZ (France) and Mrs. KOUMBA (Gabon) announced that their respective delegations joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

51. Mrs. DOWNING (Secretary of the Committee) said that draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.44, which had no financial implications, was also being sponsored by China, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Gabon, Indonesia, the Philippines, Rwanda and Zaire.

52. Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.44 was adopted without a vote.

53. Miss ATTWOOD (United Kingdom), speaking in explanation of vote, said she was still somewhat confused as to the interpretation given to the decision contained in document A/C.3/40/L.38.

54. Nevertheless, her delegation was prepared to accept the request of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for an additional five working days for its sessions, even though it seemed unlikely that the Third Committee would have an opportunity to express its opinion on that subject. When that subject had been discussed at Geneva earlier in 1985, the hope had been voiced that the Department of Conference Services would furnish the additional necessary resources through a rescheduling of its calendar; her delegation hoped that that would be done, and was therefore concerned that, in paragraph 10 of the draft resolution, the Secretariat confined itself to stating that the resource requirements requested for conference-servicing costs could not be absorbed from within the resources allocated for the 10-day session of the Executive Committee. Her Government wished to reaffirm its position that the Secretariat ought to do everything possible to absorb such additional costs, and would insist on that point in the Fifth Committee.

55. Her delegation did not wish to impede the important work of the Executive Committee, but did wish to make it clear that the granting of additional days to that Committee should be really justified. She wished to reiterate that her explanation of vote in no way detracted from her Government's full support for the work of UNHCR, as had been made clear in her recent statement before the Third Committee.

56. Ms. BYRNE (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote, said that, although her delegation had joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.43, she wished to place on record the fact that it had done so on the understanding that the condemnation of all violations of the rights and safety of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office, particularly military or armed attacks against refugee camps and settlements, was a condemnation of those attacks against camps and settlements that constituted a violation of international law governing the use of force. Her delegation's support for the draft resolution should not be construed as support for the proposition that the use of force against refugee camps or settlements was unlawful under any circumstances, even when such camps or settlements were being used in a manner inconsistent with their lawful and civilian purposes. That proposition, which her delegation had consistently maintained during meetings of the UNHCR Executive Committee at Geneva, clearly contradicted the principle of self-defence contained in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, which had been recognized in other international instruments.

(Ms. Byrne, United States)

57. With regard to the statement of programme budget implications contained in document A/C.3/40/L.38, it was her delegation's understanding that the UNHCR Executive Committee's decision to extend its annual meetings for an additional five days would be reviewed at the next meeting of the Executive Committee, scheduled for early 1986. She did not believe it was necessary to extend the duration of the Executive Committee's session; on the contrary, it should be shortened.

58. Miss ITO (Japan) said that her delegation did not intend to oppose the decision of the Executive Committee contained in document A/C.3/40/L.38, since the decision had been taken in order that questions of vital importance might be considered in greater detail. Nevertheless, the additional costs entailed by that decision ought to be absorbed within existing resources.

The meeting rose at 8.05 p.m.