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Agenda item 92

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Francis AGUILAR-HECHT (Guatemala)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1986, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-first session the item entitled:

"Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women:

"(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

"(b) Status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: report of the Secretary-General"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item jointly with item 93 at its 23rd to 30th, 38th and 42nd meetings, on 23, 24 and 27 to 30 October and on 6 and 11 November 1986. An account of the discussion of the Committee is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/41/SR.23-30, 38 and 42).

3. The Committee had before it the following documentation:

(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council for the year 1986, chapter III, section B (A/41/3); 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/41/3).

(b) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; 2/

(c) Status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: report of the Secretary-General (A/41/608 and Add.1);

(d) Letter dated 11 March 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/41/216);

(e) Letter dated 12 September 1986 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/41/607).

4. At the 23rd meeting, on 23 October, the Director of the Branch for the Advancement of Women, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/41/SR.23).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/41/L.32

5. At the 38th meeting, on 6 November, the representative of Sweden introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/41/L.32) entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", sponsored by Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Sweden and Yugoslavia. Paraguay, Spain and Viet Nam subsequently joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the 42nd meeting, on 11 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/41/L.32, without a vote (see para. 7).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

7. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 45 (A/41/45 and Corr.1).

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, including distinction as to sex,

Affirming that women and men should participate equally in social, economic and political development, should contribute equally to such development and should share equally in improved conditions of life,

Recalling its resolution 34/10 of 18 December 1979, by which it adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Recalling also its resolutions 35/140 of 11 December 1980, 36/131 of 14 December 1981, 37/64 of 3 December 1982, 38/109 of 16 December 1983, 39/130 of 14 December 1984 and 40/39 of 29 November 1985,

Recalling the decision of the third meeting of the States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to request the Secretary-General to seek the views of States parties to the Convention on reservations which could be considered to come within the scope of article 28, paragraph 2, of the Convention, to request him to include these comments in his report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session and to place on the agenda of their next meeting the question of reservations to the Convention,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fifth session, 3/

1. Notes with appreciation the increasing number of Member States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

2. Urges all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit annually to the General Assembly a report on the status of the Convention;

4. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention; 4/

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/41/45 and Corr.1).

4/ A/41/608 and Add.1.

5. Takes note of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fifth session;
6. Emphasizes the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention;
7. Urges States parties to make all possible efforts to submit their initial reports in accordance with article 18 of the Convention and the guidelines of the Committee;
8. Notes with concern the Committee's account of the present constraints within which it operates with regard to the backlog of reports awaiting examination and encourages a continuing discussion on ways and means of dealing with this problem, including possible adjustment of the reporting system;
9. Requests the Secretary-General to make all efforts to ensure adequate servicing for the effective functioning of the Committee;
10. Takes note of the general recommendation and suggestion adopted by the Committee pursuant to its discussion at its fifth session on ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention; 5/
11. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the Commission on the Status of Women at its session in 1988, for information.

5/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/41/45 and Corr.1), paras. 362 and 363.