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Agenda item 95

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mre. Ani SANTHOSO (Indonesia)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1987, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-second 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 Discrimination against Women: report of the Secretary-General"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item jointly with items 96 and 97 at its 22nd, 24th to 30th, 44th and 49th meetings, on 23, 26 to 30 October and 12 and 17 November 1987. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/42/SR.22, 24-30, 44 and 49).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documentation:

(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council (A/42/3), 1/ chapter III, sections C and E;

1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/42/3).

(b) Report of the Committee on the Elimination 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/42/627) ;

(d) Letter dated 1 July 1987 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/383) .

4. At the 22nd meeting, on 23 October, the Director of the Branch for the Advancement of Women, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/42/SR.22).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/42/L.44

5. At the 44th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Rwanda, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden and Viet Nam, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/42/L.44) entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" and orally revised operative paragraph 14 by replacing the word "Geneva" with "Vienna".

6. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee drew the attention of the Committee to the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (see A/C.5/42/16, annex) .

7. At the 49th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of the sponsors, joined by Panama, orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 14, the words "the Committee and" were added after the word Invites) and the word "meetings" was replaced with the word "sessions";

(b) In operative paragraph 15, the words "within existing resources" were added after the word "servicing".

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.44 as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 10).

9. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States of America made statements (see A/C.3/42/SR.49) .

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

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

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,

Racalling its resolution 34/180 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, 40/39 of 29 November 1985 and 41/108 of 4 December 1986,

Aware of the important contribution that the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 3/ can make to eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and to achieving legal and de facto equality between women and men,

Noting the emphasis placed by the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace on the ratification of and accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its sixth session, 4/ notably general recommendations 2, 3 and 4 on ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention, 5/

3/ See Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/42/38).

5/ Ibid., sect. IV.

1. Welcomes the ratification of or accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by an increasing number of Member States;
2. Urges all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible;
3. Emphasizes the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligation under the Convention;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit annually to the General Assembly a report on the status of the Convention;
5. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention; 6/
6. Takes note of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its sixth session;
7. Urges State parties to make all possible effort to submit their initial implementation reports in accordance with article 18 of the Convention and the guideline of the Committee;
8. Takes note of the views on the report of the Committee expressed by delegations at the first regular session of 1987 of the Economic and Social Council;
9. Decides that no action be taken on decision 4 adopted by the Committee 7/ and requests the Committee to review that decision, taking into account the view expressed by delegation at the first regular session of 1987 of the Economic and Social Council and in the Third Committee of the General Assembly at its forty-second session;
10. Takes note of the general recommendations adopted by the Committee pursuant to its discussions at its sixth session on ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention; 5/
11. 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 the Committee to intensify its discussion on ways and means of dealing with this problem, including possible adjustment of the reporting system, and to formulate in an appropriate way suggestions to that effect for consideration by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

6/ A/42/627.

7/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/42/38), sect. V.

12. Welcomes the efforts made by the Committee to rationalize its procedures and expedite the consideration of periodic reports, and encourages the Committee to continue its endeavours to those ends;

13. Decides, on an exceptional basis, that the Committee may use no more than eight additional meetings for its session in 1988 in order to advance consideration of reports already submitted to the Committee;

14. Invites the Committee and the States parties to consider the question of holding future sessions of the Committee at Vienna, taking into account the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and all relevant factors)

15. Requests the Secretary-General to make all efforts to ensure adequate servicing within existing resources for the effective functioning of the Committee;

16. Requests the Secretary-General, within existing resources and drawing in particular on funds available to the Department of Public Information, to provide, facilitate and encourage public information activities relating to the Committee and the Convention, giving priority to the dissemination of the Convention in the official languages of the United Nations!

17. Also requests the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Committee to the Commission on the Status of Women for information.

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