

1985th meeting

Wednesday, 3 October '73, at 10.55 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Yahya MAHMASSANI (Lebanon).

A/C.3/SR.1985

AGENDA ITEM 53

Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (*continued*) (A/9003, chaps. XXIII, sect. A.1 and A.2 and XXX, sect. B; A/9094 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/9095, A/9139, A/9177, A/C.3/L.1995):

(a) **Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*)** (A/9003, chaps. XXIII, sect. A.1 and XXX, sect. B; A/9094 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/9177, A/C.3/L.1995)

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. Miss CAO PINNA (Italy) commended the section of the draft programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/9094 and Corr.1, annex I) relating to research and study and, in particular, the various well-conceived pilot studies called for in paragraph 15 (*d*). Such studies would be of great scientific value and could make an important conceptual contribution to the implementation of the programme as a whole at all levels. Accordingly, her delegation considered that the section in question should be adopted and implemented. It was true that in the recent past the United Nations had placed increasing emphasis on educational activities, but no real effort had been made to use scientific studies in support of such activities. The recent studies undertaken by UNESCO were perhaps the only exception to the descriptive approach to the problem of racism and racial discrimination taken in the United Nations, in so far as they addressed themselves to the basic questions of the reason for the persistence of those evils and the best means to eradicate them.

2. Before the programme as a whole was adopted, it was essential that the Committee should consider the question of the timing of its various parts, and that the recruitment of outside consultants and the use of existing research centres should be given priority by the Secretariat over the establishment of additional professional posts. Her delegation was particularly anxious to ensure that sociologists and other social scientists participated in the programme from the outset.

3. With regard to the proposal, in paragraph 13 (*a*) of the draft programme, that a world conference on combating racism and racial discrimination should be convened by the General Assembly as a major feature of the Decade, she noted that the main concern underlying the proposal seemed to be the need to secure the universal implementation of the United Nations resolutions on racial discrimination, *apartheid* and decolonization. Such resolutions were legion, but many of them had not been adopted unanimously and were either not implemented at all or implemented only in part. There was no indication that the proposed conference could reverse that trend. A more imaginative approach was needed if the conference was to have a real impact on world public opinion. Her delegation shared the view

expressed by some that the Committee should strive to reach a consensus on a broader, widely acceptable formulation of the conference's terms of reference; the definition of racism and racial discrimination contained in article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination might be a useful starting point.

4. With regard to the proposal, in paragraph 18 of the draft programme, that the General Assembly should appoint a special committee to co-ordinate the programmes and evaluate activities under the Decade, her delegation considered that the several existing United Nations bodies with experience in the field of human rights, such as the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council, should be perfectly capable of assuming those responsibilities. Another possible alternative to the establishment of a special committee would be the establishment of a working group within one of the existing bodies. To take account of the concern that sufficient time should be devoted to the implementation of the programme, she proposed that the Decade should be included in the agenda of one or all of the existing bodies. She also objected to the establishment of a special committee on the ground that it would run counter to the general wish of Member States to expand the role of the recently enlarged Council. Under the Charter, the Council was uniquely empowered to conduct activities relating to the struggle against racial discrimination; yet the only function envisaged for the Council in paragraph 18 of the draft programme was that of providing "relevant information". Finally, the establishment of a special Committee would impose a further strain on the regular budget of the United Nations and on the already overburdened calendar of meetings of United Nations bodies.

5. Miss STOKES (New Zealand) said the existence of racial discrimination was rightly one of the major preoccupations of the United Nations. Her delegation would co-operate fully in the effort to ensure that the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was a success.

6. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights would provide an occasion for each country to take stock of its own internal racial situation. New Zealand intended to strengthen its multi-racial community and to ensure that its various racial and cultural groups could live together in harmony. The internal racial situation in New Zealand was a very good one, though not perfect. In June 1973 a Special Rapporteur, appointed under resolution 8 (XXIV) of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,¹ had been invited to visit the country and observe all aspects of its racial situation. Her Government looked forward to receiving his

¹ See E/CN.4/1970, chap. XII.

report with a view to improving the situation even further. By inviting scrutiny by the international community, New Zealand hoped to set an example for others.

7. Her delegation was equally committed to active participation in the campaign to eliminate racial discrimination at the international level. The New Zealand Government had in 1973 contributed to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa. In pursuance of United Nations resolutions, her Government had banned a tour of New Zealand by a South African rugby team selected on a racially discriminatory basis.

8. Her delegation supported the proposal for a Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, but stressed that such action should be a continuing process rather than being limited to one decade. With regard to the draft programme for the Decade, she wished to make the general comment that the proposals it contained should be streamlined so as to ensure that there was no overlapping with existing programmes and research activities within the United Nations. In the case of paragraph 17 in particular, her delegation would welcome the establishment of an international fund to help the peoples struggling against racial discrimination and *apartheid* but would like to see a more precise definition of the aims of such a fund, to avoid overlapping with other United Nations funds. She supported the proposal in paragraph 13 that a world conference on combating racism and racial discrimination should be convened by the General Assembly, but felt that the terms of reference for the conference should be more precisely defined in the draft programme; ideally, they should be related to article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

9. Her delegation considered that the Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council was the body best suited to assume responsibility for co-ordinating the programmes and evaluating activities during the Decade.

10. Mr. POJANI (Albania) said that his delegation had on various occasions condemned racial discrimination and *apartheid* as crimes against humanity and flagrant violations of inalienable human rights and the principles of the Charter. The struggle of the African people and other peoples of the world against racial discrimination was part of the great anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist struggle, which had the support and solidarity of all freedom-loving peoples and countries. The decisions taken at the Tenth Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held at Addis Ababa in May 1973, and the Fourth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Algiers in September 1973, testified to that solidarity.

11. Most of the resolutions adopted in various United Nations bodies condemning racial discrimination and *apartheid* and suggesting measures aimed at the eradication of all forms of racial discrimination had proved ineffective. Imperialist forces stubbornly continued to implement their policies of colonial and racial oppression and exploitation. The Fascist régimes of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia were intensifying those policies, thus denying the non-white people their most

elementary rights. Those States also served as the bases from which international imperialism was combating the national liberation and anti-colonial movements in Africa and undermining the political and economic independence of new African States. The recent aggression of Southern Rhodesia against Namibia and the massacres perpetrated in Mozambique and elsewhere by Portuguese colonialists illustrated that fact.

12. The imperialist Powers, particularly the United States, continued to give political, economic and military assistance to the racist régimes of southern Africa and Portugal, as well as to Israel and other reactionary régimes which were openly violating United Nations resolutions. Far from being subdued, the African and other peoples suffering under racial and colonial domination had intensified their resolute struggle for freedom, national independence and social progress. His delegation congratulated the people of Guinea-Bissau for the great victory represented by the establishment of their independent State through armed struggle against the Portuguese colonialists. Their victory provided encouragement to all peoples who were combating colonial and racial oppression. He hoped that those peoples too would soon attain their legitimate national aspirations and embark on the road to free and independent development.

13. Albania would support any concrete measure to promote the struggle for the eradication of all forms of racial discrimination and *apartheid*. His delegation vigorously condemned the imperialist Powers which were supporting the racist régimes of southern Africa and Portugal and reactionary forces in other parts of the world. The Albanian people stood staunchly behind the national liberation and anti-colonial struggle of the peoples of Namibia, Azania, Zimbabwe, Guinea-Bissau, Angola and Mozambique and would always resolutely support the just struggle of other peoples for freedom and national independence.

14. Mr. PAPADEMAS (Cyprus) reaffirmed his country's consistent and whole-hearted support for any action designed to eradicate racial discrimination. His delegation was on record as having supported all United Nations resolutions in the field of human rights, including those condemning racial discrimination. It had been among the first to sign and ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and had supported the idea of a Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination in the Third Committee at the preceding session.

15. It was to be hoped that the implementation of the draft programme for the Decade would greatly reduce racial discrimination in the world, particularly in southern Africa, where it had become a way of life. The measures to be implemented should be flexible enough to cover all parts of the world, including those where discrimination was based on factors other than colour.

16. The success of the programme would depend on the determination of all Member States to strive to attain its objectives and on the availability of the financial means to implement it. His delegation would go along with the majority view as to whether the task of co-ordination, review and appraisal and reporting

should be entrusted to a new special committee of the General Assembly or to an existing body of the Economic and Social Council. It would support a programme which received the resources necessary for its success, as well as other measures devised in the course of the Decade to expand the programme and ensure the participation of all Member States and the specialized agencies. In that connexion, he commended the ILO and UNESCO for their past and promised contributions. His delegation hoped that the programme could be launched on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

17. Mr. LÜTEM (Secretary of the Committee) drew attention to the suggestions concerning the draft pro-

gramme by Iraq, the Philippines, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as contained in documents A/9094 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

18. Mr. COSTA COUTO (Brazil) suggested that the Committee should adjourn its meeting and continue the discussion of the suggested amendments in an informal working group to be presided over by the Chairman.

19. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee endorsed the Brazilian representative's suggestion.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

1986th meeting

Wednesday, 3 October 1973, at 3.10 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Yahya MAHMASSANI (Lebanon).

A/C.3/SR 1986

AGENDA ITEM 53

Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (*continued*) (A/9003, chaps. XXIII, sect. A.1 and A.2 and XXX, sect. B; A/9094 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/9095, A/9139, A/9177, A/C.3/L.1995):

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GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. Mr. KABINGA (Zambia) reiterated the resolute opposition of the Government and people of Zambia to racism and racial discrimination in all their forms and manifestations, whatever the justification and whether practised by a minority against the majority or vice versa. That firm and basic principle was embodied in the Constitution of Zambia which, *inter alia*, provided in article 25 that no law should make any provision that was discriminatory either in itself or in its effect. The Constitution also stated that the fundamental rights and freedoms embodied in it could not be withheld from any race or ethnic group on a discriminatory basis, provided that the members of that racial or ethnic group were citizens of the country. While aliens did not enjoy the same constitutional rights as citizens, they did enjoy the normal status of aliens generally accepted in progressive international law. In actual practice, great progress had been made in the course of the preceding decade in moving Zambia from a position of institutionalized racism which had existed during the colonial era to one of racial harmony under the humanist philosophy of the Zambian Government.

2. In the light of those considerations, his delegation condemned in the strongest terms the blatant manifestations of racism and racial discrimination that existed in South Africa and Zimbabwe and the colonialism practised by Portugal in Angola and Mozambique. It welcomed the defeat of Portugal in Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands, and was sure that the heroic

people of the new Republic would eradicate the last vestiges of Portuguese colonialism. As the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Zambia had indicated in his statement to the General Assembly (2130th plenary meeting), the massacre of innocent people at Wiriyamu and in other parts of Mozambique by the Portuguese forces had horrified the people and Government of Zambia. The systematic repression of the African majority in South Africa by the racist minority aroused similar indignation. The Carletonville massacre, which would go down in history as a patent act of racial bigotry, cruelly dramatized the economic exploitation of which Africans in South Africa were victims. Racism expressed itself in that country not only in economic terms; the theorists of *apartheid* continued to propagate artificial political, cultural and social differences between the races and ethnic groups.

3. With regard to Namibia, which continued to be occupied by South Africa, he pointed out that the United Nations must fulfil its responsibility to the oppressed people, and deplored the complicity of certain countries, especially Western countries, which continued to provide the South African régime with arms for reasons of ethnic, economic and military interest. For its part, Zambia would continue to honour its obligations under the Charter, by providing help to the refugees and scholarships to young people and by disseminating information about the cause for the benefit of the oppressed peoples of southern Africa.

4. The evils of racism and racial discrimination manifested themselves in their crudest form in southern Africa, but they also existed in other parts of the world, such as in the ghettos of North America and in some countries in South America, Europe, Africa and the Middle East, where they assumed various forms. Zambia did not accept the view that each State should solve its own racial problems, in the light of its own historical circumstances. Racism and racial discrimination were crimes against humanity and as such deserved the attention of the international community.