

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTIETH SESSION

Official Records



**THIRD COMMITTEE, 1289th
MEETING**

Wednesday, 29 September 1965
at 3.20 p.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
Statement by the Chairman	3
Tribute to the memory of the Reverend Father Beaufort, representative of the Netherlands	3
Election of the Vice-Chairman	3
Election of the Rapporteur	3
Organization of work	3

Chairman: Mr. Francisco CUEVAS CANCINO
(Mexico).

Statement by the Chairman

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the work done by the Third Committee to secure protection of the individual as a human being and to establish a system of rights and obligations of the individual, United Nations goals with which the Committee was particularly concerned, would largely determine the success or failure of the United Nations itself.

2. Although it was seventeen years since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights had been adopted, the Committee still had many unfinished items on its agenda. Moreover, the Committee's prestige had fallen. The very fact that the General Committee had referred agenda item 63 (Draft Declaration on the Right of Asylum) to the Sixth Committee indicated a lack of confidence in the Third Committee's ability to take action. He therefore appealed to all members of the Committee to make a special effort during 1965, the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations, to complete action on most of the items on the agenda and so do much towards restoring the Committee's prestige.

Tribute to the memory of the Reverend Father
Beaufort, representative of the Netherlands

3. The CHAIRMAN on behalf of the Committee, paid a tribute to the memory of the late Father L. J. C. Beaufort, who had represented the Netherlands in the Third Committee during the past nineteen sessions.

4. Mr. MOMMERSTEEG (Netherlands) thanked the Committee for its expression of sorrow and affection, which he would convey to his Government and to Father Beaufort's religious order and family.

Election of the Vice-Chairman

5. Miss GROZA (Romania) nominated Mrs. Halima Warzazi (Morocco) as Vice-Chairman.

6. Mr. BENITES (Ecuador) and Mr. TEKLE (Ethiopia) supported the nomination.

Mrs. Warzazi (Morocco) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

Election of the Rapporteur

7. Mr. MALIKI (Nigeria) nominated Mr. R. St. John Macdonald (Canada) as Rapporteur.

8. Mr. HENIG (Austria) and Mr. REDONDO (Costa Rica) supported the nomination.

Mr. Macdonald (Canada) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

Organization of work (A/C.3/598, A/C.3/L.1191)

9. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should set 14 December 1965 as the target date for the conclusion of its work.

It was so decided.

10. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, since the many sections of the reports of the Economic and Social Council (A/5803, A/6003) which had been referred to the Committee related to questions forming independent items of the Committee's agenda, those sections should be considered in conjunction with the corresponding items.

It was so decided.

11. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the fact that the General Assembly had requested the Committee to give its comments on three matters which had been referred to the Second Committee, those related to agenda item 96 (Review and reappraisal of the role and functions of the Economic and Social Council) and two sections (Land reform and Population questions) of agenda item 12. The Committee might wish to comment on those questions in connexion with its discussion of agenda item 54 (World social situation).

12. With reference to the order of discussion of the items allocated to the Committee and listed in the letter dated 24 September 1965 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Third Committee (A/C.3/598), he drew the Committee's attention to paragraphs 8 to 11 of his note (A/C.3/L.1191).

13. Miss ADDISON (Ghana) observed that requests for priority discussion of certain items had caused the Committee serious problems in the past.

14. Since agenda items 57, 59, 60, 61, 62 and 53 which had been allocated to the Committee involved reports or resolutions and could be disposed of

quickly, the Committee might do well to take up those items first. It might then proceed to consider item 58 relating to the draft International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. A general discussion on that item having taken place at the eighteenth session, the Committee might wish to forgo further general debate at the present session and proceed directly to consideration of the text of the Convention. It could then take up items 65, 12 and 54 together, 66, 67, 98, 56 and 64. Alternatively, it could intersperse the former group of items with those items that required longer and more substantive consideration.

15. At the eighteenth session a number of items which the Committee had been unable to discuss for lack of time had been postponed to the nineteenth session and the Saudi Arabian representative had suggested that some of those items might be referred to other Committees.^{1/} She wondered what the present position was with regard to those items. Item 64 of the present agenda concerning freedom of information could perhaps be referred to some other Committee. It should otherwise preferably be discussed after the reports of the Economic and Social Council.

16. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) agreed with the Ghanaian representative that the Committee should first consider those items which could be disposed of rapidly. It was difficult to decide exactly how many meetings should be devoted to each item and there was always the temptation to extend set time-limits. The Committee would probably not be able to complete all the items on its agenda. He nevertheless wished to suggest a tentative schedule of the number of meetings to be allotted to the various items.

17. The Committee should concentrate on the three items which were the core of its work: items 65, 58 and 64. Since it was imperative to complete action on the draft International Covenants on Human Rights, at least fifteen meetings should be devoted to item 65. Item 58 was timely and urgent, in a period when racial discrimination was affecting people all over the world, and fifteen meetings at least should be devoted to it also. With regard to item 64, the Convention on Freedom of Information was more than ever necessary in order to ensure that the torch of freedom remained alight and was not replaced by propaganda, which was becoming the handmaiden of certain nationalist policies. He believed that a formula could be found to allay the fears of certain Powers that the instruments drafted might be used to curb freedom. It was also important to see that freedom did not degenerate into licence. At least eight meetings should be devoted to item 64.

18. A minimum of twelve meetings should be allotted to items 12, 54 and 55, while item 56 should not require more than three meetings. Measures to accelerate the promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, which were the subject of item 60, were accessory to the Covenants on Human Rights and should need only one or two meetings. Racial and religious discrimination were topics still being considered by

subsidiary bodies and consequently only one or two meetings each should be allotted to items 57, 61 and 62.

19. Item 66 was one of the most important matters on the Committee's agenda and deserved at least four meetings. A declaration on the promotion among youth of the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples was becoming increasingly timely as youths—the pillars of the future—were being sent to wars not of their own making.

20. Three meetings should be devoted to the consideration of item 67 on the International Year for Human Rights, two meetings to item 98 on creation of the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and one or two meetings to item 53 on assistance in cases of natural disaster. Item 59 should not need more than three meetings. In his view, the registration of marriages was more important than the establishment of a minimum age for marriage. The discussion should bring out the fact that marriage by proxy did not necessarily imply compulsion or lack of consent.

21. Mr. REDONDO (Costa Rica) drew the Committee's attention to document A/5963 relating to agenda item 98, which had been proposed by Costa Rica. In proposing the creation of the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Government of Costa Rica wanted to be realistic and did not wish the post to supersede any other instruments for safeguarding human rights, such as an international court or a standing committee. It believed that the creation of the post would be the best way of ensuring total protection of human rights.

22. Because of the urgency and importance of the item, he requested that it be given priority and considered after item 58. Alternatively, the item could be referred immediately to a working group of members chosen by the Chairman and representing the main geographical areas. The group, on which his delegation would wish to be represented, could be headed by the Vice-Chairman. It could study the item for four weeks and then report to the Committee.

23. Mrs. MIRONOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) considered that due attention should be given to item 58, since in resolution 1906 (XVIII) the General Assembly had requested that absolute priority be given to the preparation of a draft international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. The Commission on Human Rights had adopted a draft Convention based on the text prepared by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. The item should therefore be given priority and, together with items 65 and 66, should have pride of place in the Committee's programme of work.

24. The items requiring less discussion should not be taken first but should be discussed whenever there was a pause in the main work of the Committee—for example, when the main items were being considered by a working group. Item 12 was fourth in importance and should also receive due attention. The Social Commission had discussed the question of the revision and reappraisal of United Nations activities in the social field.

^{1/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighteenth Session, Third Committee, 1287th meeting

25. Mr. REYES (Philippines) supported the Saudi Arabian representative's suggestion that fifteen meetings should be devoted to item 65 and an equal number to item 58. That would allow time for the Committee to complete consideration of the implementation clauses of the draft International Covenants on Human Rights and to adopt the draft International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. In his view, item 12 should be considered first since it was not controversial. In connexion with item 53, he referred to the recent disaster in his country when a volcano had erupted with considerable loss of life, and said that his delegation would like to consult the Committee concerning the possibility of taking measures similar to those taken on the occasion of other such disasters. He supported the Saudi Arabian representative's suggestion that at least eight meetings should be devoted to item 64 and thought that item 98 should be given at least two meetings.

26. The CHAIRMAN said that all the members of the Committee had been distressed to learn of the recent disaster in the Philippines.

27. Miss GROZA (Romania) suggested that items which would not require much debate, for example item 53, should be dealt with first of all, and that the Committee should then consider those items which could be disposed of at the present session, such as items 58 and 66. To give priority to item 66, after item 58, would be in keeping with the spirit of General Assembly resolution 1965 I (XVIII) and of decisions taken by UNESCO and other bodies which had approved discussion of the question on the basis of the draft Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples. She believed that item 66 could be disposed of in a minimum of ten meetings. Due attention should be paid to item 12, the reports of the Economic and Social Council, and the Committee should review its work and determine its future course of action.

28. Mr. ZULOAGA (Venezuela) suggested that the officers of the Committee should take account of all the suggestions which had been made and should submit a draft proposal at the next meeting. The Committee had been unable to act in 1964 and its members should therefore do their utmost to make up for lost time and ensure that the work progressed. The Committee should forgo general discussion on all items and should proceed at once to the substance. He also suggested that when a draft resolution was sponsored by several delegations, only one should introduce it, in order to save time. He supported the Costa Rican representative's suggestion that a working group should be established to consider item 98; the choice of members should be left to the Chairman and no time-limit should be set for the submission of the working group's report.

29. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) thought that the Committee should not fix, at the present stage, the order of consideration of all items. It should select one or two important items to be taken up immediately and decide at a later stage the order of consideration of the remaining items. The members of the Committee had heard with sympathy of the

disaster in the Philippines and, during the discussion of item 53, should consider ways of assisting the victims. His delegation would be prepared to support a suggestion that the Committee should draw the attention of the Secretary-General and of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund to the disaster. That question should be given priority. Time could be saved by grouping together similar items, for example items 57, 58 and 61, and items 65 and 98, but he feared that some delegations might not have an opportunity to express their views if the Committee dispensed with a general debate. He attached particular importance to the consideration of item 66.

30. Mr. BELTRAMINO (Argentina) said that the Committee should concentrate on the items of greatest importance and urgency, namely items 58, 98, 65, 67 and 66. Items 12, 55 and 56 would also have to be dealt with but would require less time. He suggested that consideration of items 59, 60, 61, 62 and 64 might be postponed until the following year or until the bodies concerned had concluded the preparation of draft texts.

31. Mr. TAYLOR (United Kingdom) supported the proposals put forward by the Ghanaian representative, which seemed to him the most workmanlike and comprehensive. He could agree that item 62 might be included among those items which could be disposed of quickly since, although it was of cardinal importance, it was not practicable for the Committee to take definitive action on the Convention until the Commission on Human Rights had completed its work. He suggested that item 98 should be considered between items 58 and 65. Agenda item 67 should come next; it deserved some priority not only because of its intrinsic importance, but because 1968 was to be the International Year for Human Rights and there was not much time to make arrangements. The Committee should then consider items 66, 64 and 56.

32. Miss KING (Jamaica) said that many sound suggestions had been made, especially by the representative of Ghana. Her delegation attached particular importance to items 65, 58 and 67. With regard to the latter, certain important measures, including preparations for the International Conference on Human Rights, would have to be approved during the present session if the success of the International Year for Human Rights was to be assured.

33. Mr. REDONDO (Costa Rica) agreed with the representative of Uruguay that it might be appropriate to group certain items for discussion. However, he did not think that items 65 and 98 should be discussed together since too much time would be spent on item 65. He believed that item 98 should be considered as a separate item.

34. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) said that he did not suggest that item 98 should be incorporated in item 65. He agreed that special attention should be given to item 98.

The meeting rose at 6.5 p.m.