

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

Official Records



**THIRD COMMITTEE, 1658th
MEETING**

Monday, 6 October 1969,
at 4.15 p.m.

NEW YORK

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Chairman: Mrs. Turkia OULD DADDAH
(Mauritania).

AGENDA ITEMS 62 AND 92

Education of youth in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms: report of the Secretary-General (continued) (A/7603, chap. IX, sect. I; A/7662, A/C.3/L.1660, A/C.3/L.1661)

The problems and needs of youth and its participation in national development (continued) (A/7603, chap. VIII, sect. C and chap. XI sect. I; A/7680/Rev.1, A/C.3/613, A/C.3/L.1660, A/C.3/L.1661)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

1. Mr. SHERIFIS (Cyprus), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/L.1660, on behalf of the sponsors, said that the latter had submitted the draft because they felt that the United Nations should deal with the problems of the young and establish contact with them in order to involve them significantly in the work of development and the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. If the present frustration and powerlessness of the young, which led them to do battle with the "establishment", could be changed to enthusiasm and energy committed to the advancement of the world they lived in, the world of tomorrow would be a better place.

2. Part A of the draft resolution related to youth and human rights. Because the sponsors believed that youth had duties as well as rights, primarily with respect to the establishment of a new and better international order, paragraph 3 appealed to youth to solemnly affirm its full faith in international law and the principles and objectives of the United Nations Charter. Paragraph 4 drew attention to the need to take full advantage of the fact that the year 1970 would be marked by the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations and the observance of International Education Year. Paragraph 5 recommended that the resources of the United Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights

should be utilized generously for the realization of the purposes of the draft resolution.

3. The sponsors had submitted part B of their text, relating to youth and development, because they believed that the concern of the young should be recognized and that their yearning to be heard, should be satisfied; that they should be given appropriate opportunities to participate in the efforts of Governments to achieve economic and social advancement; that the co-ordination of national and international policies was essential for the achievement of the objectives of the draft resolution; that channels of contact with youth should be established; that it was not advisable to put forward certain other proposals which they (the sponsors) had had in mind until a number of studies requested earlier had been completed; and that the problems of youth differed from country to country and, certainly, between the economically advanced and the developing countries. Paragraph 4 requested the Secretary-General to take the last-mentioned fact into account, and paragraph 6 requested that the Secretary-General should study the problem of establishing channels of contact with youth.

4. The sponsors did not believe their draft resolution to be controversial and hoped it could be adopted unanimously.

5. Mrs. DUMITRESCU-BUSULENGA (Romania) said that the main concern of the sponsors, including Romania, had been to produce a text that could commend the widest possible support, representing a broad range of different outlooks. The draft had been conceived in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples. The sponsors had tried to reflect in their draft the major aspirations of youth throughout the world and the suggestions made during the general debate. Stress had been placed on the aspirations of youth and its potential of energy and enthusiasm in almost every paragraph of the preamble, and the fifth paragraph reflected the sponsors' belief that the unprecedented progress of science and technology made it more necessary than ever to take effective action with respect to educational methods and programmes for youth.

6. As a firm believer in the perfectibility of man, she felt that the first duty of adults was to provide young people with the system of values they were seeking, and paragraphs 2 and 3 of part B of the draft resolution were concerned precisely with the balance that must be struck between the system of values offered by those responsible in each country and the pressing needs and aspirations of youth. Youth must learn to respect the values of others, and in particular the sacred principles of sovereignty, indepen-

dence, non-intervention and mutual respect. Responsibility for achieving the objectives of the draft resolution with regard to the training of youth rested with States and, so far as international co-operation was concerned, paragraph 6 of part B sought to identify ways and means through which the United Nations and the specialized agencies could help; in that connexion, increased co-operation between specialists, universities, youth organizations and research institutions in different countries could make an important contribution to the solution of the specific problems of youth.

7. Mr. SCHUURMANS (Belgium) observed that, today, more than in any other age, youth apparently sensed—confusedly perhaps, but with obvious anguish—the problems that lay before it in a world changing with dizzying rapidity. The fact that the malaise of youth was general had been demonstrated by student disturbances in many cities throughout the world. The dissatisfaction of young people seemed to arise from the fact that little attention was paid to them; their advice was not sought, their voice was not heeded, their influence seemed negligible. While they were physically more mature than ever before, they were kept in school for a much longer time. Their natural aggressiveness and vitality being without an outlet, they developed feelings of frustration, scepticism and revolt; their defiance of society ranged from eccentric styles of hair and dress to a passionate concern with the crucial problems of the age. Their worst excesses were engineered by a handful and might even be due to the inadequacies of adults. Their causes were often perfectly unselfish; violations of human rights, barriers to individual freedom, discrimination and racial conflict offended their sense of justice and brotherhood. They were particularly concerned with social equality and the gap between the industrialized and the developing countries.

8. Belgium had already carried out reforms which indicated an awareness of the problems of youth and a willingness to do everything possible to solve them. It had established a National Youth Council to advise the Government on problems related to youth. The minimum voting age had been reduced, and some 800 young people had gone abroad to work in many developing countries. However, national action should be supplemented at the international level, particularly by the United Nations. Governments and social, economic and cultural groups should ponder what institutional reforms were necessary to bring youth into the fabric of society; international organizations, especially the United Nations, must consider how they could help to ensure that youth took its rightful place and played its proper role in the new society.

9. Since the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1660) largely addressed itself to the considerations he had outlined and assigned precise objectives to all those—Governments, teachers and economic and social leaders—who would have special responsibility for carrying out urgently needed reforms, his delegation was favourably disposed to it, although it felt it could be improved in both form and content.

10. Mr. NAGENDRA SINGH (India) drew attention to paragraph 3 of part A of the draft resolution, of which India was a sponsor. In his view, youth had an important

part to play in the unification, consolidation and strengthening of the international community. The international youth movement, which, like water, was a tremendous but sometimes destructive force, should be channelled towards the ideals of brotherhood and the essential oneness of the human family. The young, who had a naturally international outlook, saw better than their elders that the salvation of man lay in world unity, and the Third Committee should draw their attention specifically to the need for such unity.

11. With regard to the consolidation of the international life of the world community, he observed that throughout history mankind had tried to achieve peace in many ways—for example, through philosophical, political and religious systems—but had failed. Since the signing of the Charter of the United Nations, mankind had looked to international organizations for solutions to its problems, realizing that it was only through such organizations that lasting world peace could be achieved. Young people were already fascinated by the possibilities offered by international organizations, and they should be called upon to play an effective role in the consolidation of the life of the world community.

12. The last point he had mentioned was the strengthening of the international community. Respect for international law was the force that was needed to evolve a close-knit community and to eliminate the differences dividing its members. Without respect for international law, no progress would be possible. Youth should accept such legal discipline and should be called upon to put its faith in international law as a means of strengthening the world community. Member States would be failing in their duty if they did not educate youth in respect for international law. He therefore commended the Cypriot delegation for including the paragraph to which he had referred in its original draft of the text under discussion.

13. Miss CAO-PINNA (Italy) welcomed the draft resolution, which pointed the way for future action relating to youth problems at both the national and the international levels. However, she would like to suggest certain changes in the structure and content of the draft resolution which might enable it to be adopted unanimously.

14. The President of the General Assembly, in her statement at the opening of the current session (1753rd plenary meeting), had spoken of the limited impact of some resolutions on the course of affairs in the world at large, in certain cases because they had little possibility or probability of being implemented. Should one further elaborate on resolutions, a second type could be singled out, namely those which added little or nothing to what had already been said in previous ones or to the action already taken or which was being taken. The only new point in the draft resolution before the Committee was the distinction made in paragraph 4 of part B between the problems and the needs of youth in developed and developing countries—a point which had been stressed in the general debate. In view of the importance of distinguishing between the problems in developed and developing countries, a similar paragraph should be added to the preamble.

15. The main aspects of the question of youth could be more strongly emphasized in the draft resolution. Para-

graph 6 of part B, and to some extent the last preambular paragraph, dealt with the question of contact with youth, which was of vital importance for a better understanding of their needs and for stimulating their co-operation. The sponsors might therefore consider giving more emphasis to the ways and means of establishing contact with youth. In that connexion, the Italian Government's reply to the Secretary-General's request for information regarding action taken on the national level in implementation of General Assembly resolution 2447 (XXIII) (see A/7662, annex) stated that the main public and private agencies concerned with youth education—youth associations, trade unions and youth sections of political parties—had been invited to take part in the definition of an institutional structure which would allow youth to participate in the solution of their problems.

16. The need to implement programmes designed to solve specific problems had been stressed by several delegations. The draft resolution might therefore include a request to the Commission for Social Development to give careful consideration to the various proposals made in the general debate and to formulate recommendations on each one of them. The Third Committee would thus be able, at the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly, to consider a number of concrete proposals for future action. That procedure would be more likely to further a definition of the approach the United Nations should take to youth problems than would another general debate. It was, indeed, extremely difficult to discuss so complex a problem as youth without some preselection of the specific points to be considered. United Nations work was usually based on general debate, and working groups were seldom established; until recently, there had been no recourse to expert groups. However, her delegation considered that the various proposals which had been put forward should be studied first by interdisciplinary groups of experts or specialists and then by the competent United Nations bodies.

17. Lastly, the first preambular paragraph and paragraph 1 of part A might include a reference to General Assembly resolution 2445 (XXIII), which dealt with the question of the teaching in schools of human rights and had been adopted on the basis of an Italian proposal.

18. Mrs. DE PINOCHET (Chile), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, welcomed the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1660) but noted that one fundamental aspect of the crisis of youth had been overlooked; that was the fact that the younger generation was aware that it lived in a society where principles were at variance with reality. The delegations for which she spoke therefore suggested that the sponsors might wish to consider inserting after paragraph 3 of part B the following paragraphs:

"Draws the attention of the Governments of Member States to their responsibility for maintaining a policy consistent with the principles of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and of effective struggle for peace and justice, in order to ensure youth's faith in those values;

"Draws the attention of the Governments of Member States to the need to ensure for youth the greatest equality of opportunity in access to education at all levels and to employment;"

19. Since the suggestion was in keeping with the spirit of the draft resolution, the delegations concerned did not feel that it was necessary to submit it as a formal amendment and trusted that the sponsors would have no objection to incorporating it in their draft.

20. Mr. IDDIR (Algeria) noted with regret that the draft resolution contained no reference to the needs of youth in countries still under colonial domination. Most delegations recognized that the colonial system led to the depersonalizing of young people. Furthermore, General Assembly resolution 2447 (XXIII), paragraph 4, requested the Secretary-General to arrange for an exchange of information on action taken by States in their efforts to ensure that young people were educated and brought up in a spirit of respect for human rights everywhere and given the opportunity of playing their part in the implementation and protection of human rights. Political freedom was one of those rights. His delegation was therefore submitting an amendment (A/C.3/L.1661) designed to meet the need to devote particular attention to the problems of youth in countries still under foreign domination.

21. Mrs. BARISH (Costa Rica) said that her delegation, as one of those which had advocated taking up agenda items 62 and 92 as a first priority, welcomed the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1660), which fully reflected the various views expressed in the debate and stressed the need for effectively promoting throughout the world the ideals of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and various international instruments, so that youth could have faith in them and put them into practice in due course. She therefore requested that Costa Rica should be added to the list of sponsors.

22. The protests of youth against injustice took different forms in different circumstances: sometimes the struggle was against discrimination in education and employment or the lack of opportunity for participating in national politics; sometimes it went as far as self-immolation in protest against the occupation of a country or the denial of self-determination. In many cases the young were a prey to unscrupulous activities and fanatical ideologies. But a common thread ran through the protest movement, since, irrespective of differences in systems of government, all human beings had the same aspirations, and human rights ought to be equal in all areas of the world. Hence, efforts to provide young people with training in those vital principles with a view to their full participation in national life would represent a genuine implementation of what might otherwise be merely good intentions. In that connexion, her delegation was prepared to agree to the suggestion made by the Chilean and other delegations, which set a supplementary goal.

23. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) pointed out that the Committee could do no more than suggest the main guidelines to be followed, pending the completion of the studies which were being undertaken. The text of the resolution needed to be concise and directly related to the

concerns of young people. It would be better to concentrate on a key passage containing a specific idea, rather than list too many resolutions passed by international bodies with which young people were not always familiar.

24. As many representatives had stressed, it was important for the older people, the policy-makers, to set an example to youth. She would therefore like to suggest a new preambular paragraph on the following lines, to be inserted between the first and second paragraphs of the existing text:

“Recognizing the importance of the responsibility assumed by the family and by the leaders towards young people concerning human rights and fundamental freedoms and in the realization and implementation of those rights and freedoms,”.

That was, in essence, the idea expressed by the representative of Chile.

25. Again, since there should be a link between the preambular part of the resolution and the operative parts, young people might take the resolution more seriously if a *mea culpa* on the part of their elders was expressed before paragraph 3 of part A. That could be done by inserting a paragraph urging the leaders to solemnly affirm their faith in international law and the principles and objectives of the United Nations Charter and to make every effort to ensure that the principles of the Charter and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were respected and implemented.

26. Paragraph 4 of part B rightly emphasized that the problems and needs of youth were not everywhere the same. However, she wished to propose an addition at the end of that paragraph, reading as follows: “and to propose solutions appropriate to each problem”.

27. Her delegation supported the Algerian amendment (A/C.3/L.1661).

28. Mr. SANON (Upper Volta) reminded the Committee that at the 1653rd meeting he had advocated drafting a short resolution stating that every effort should be made to obtain the participation of youth in all sectors of economic life, that increased United Nations aid should be provided for all projects concerning youth and that the interim report of the Secretary-General (A/7662) should be completed. Unfortunately, the draft resolution submitted was rather lengthy.

29. In paragraph 4 of part A, the wording “recommends that full advantage be taken” was somewhat ambiguous, and he wished to know to whom the recommendation was addressed. The same comment applied to the following paragraph, where the impersonal, passive form was again used. In connexion with that paragraph, he wondered whether sufficient resources were available to the United

Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights.

30. Paragraph 4 of part B appeared to meet the concern for tackling the problems in the most urgent areas first. He therefore assumed that the paragraph was to be interpreted as a tacit encouragement to the regional economic commissions to organize seminars on problems related to youth at the regional level.

31. The French translation of paragraph 6 of part B could be improved. In order fully to reflect the English words “ways and means”, both of which were needed, the wording in French should perhaps be “*les voies et moyens*”. He would prefer some such word as “*dialogue*”, instead of “*courants de contacts*”, to express “channels of contact”. A better equivalent in French of the words “and to report thereon” might be found.

32. He suggested that the sponsors of the draft resolution, and all those who had proposed or suggested amendments, should consult together informally with a view to producing a single revised text for submission at the following meeting.

33. Mr. SCHREIBER (Director, Division of Human Rights), replying to the question put by the representative of the Upper Volta concerning financial resources, said that paragraph 5 of part A of the draft resolution should no doubt be taken in the context of the corresponding paragraph of General Assembly resolution 2447 (XXIII). Operative paragraph 5 of that resolution had requested the Secretary-General to organize not one but several seminars with the participation of “persons specially qualified in subjects of particular concern to youth, including youth leaders”. It was the understanding of the Secretariat that those meetings would bring into contact representatives of youth or representatives of younger generations together with older persons with special experience or knowledge of their problems; under present arrangements seminars could only be held when Governments offered to act as hosts. Some Governments had expressed interest in seminars of special interest to youth, but so far there had been no specific invitation. It might be that a seminar could be held in 1970 and possibly also in 1971. He thought that sufficient resources would be available, although it was not absolutely certain. The funds came from the regular programme of technical assistance, which so far made it possible for three seminars in the field of human rights to be held every year. It might therefore be possible to organize a fourth seminar dealing with youth problems in 1970. Should no invitation be forthcoming from Governments, if the Assembly so wished an attempt might be made to organize seminars or other meetings of interest to youth at the headquarters of one of the regional economic commissions.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.