

ing racial discrimination in Territories under the jurisdiction of States parties to the Convention and would like to express its satisfaction with the work of the Committee. The Committee still had some difficulties in obtaining information and was largely dependent on the willingness of Governments to co-operate. Unfortunately, the reports of States continued to reflect a certain tendency to play problems down, although the standards set by the Committee for the drafting of reports were resulting in more comprehensive information. Another positive element was the fact that a representative of the Government concerned was invited to be present when his country's report was considered, in order to be available for answering questions. The Committee's desire to obtain more comprehensive information was fully understandable, but his delegation believed that the Committee should remain within the limits of the legal provisions of the Convention and, in particular, should refrain from dealing with questions affecting the external relations of States parties and not covered by the Convention. There were other bodies of the United Nations competent to deal with problems of that nature.

24. Although his delegation felt satisfaction with the Committee's work in respect of its functions under article 9 of the Convention, it shared the Committee's concern over the problem of how to fulfil its tasks with reference to dependent Territories under article 15. The Committee expressly referred to the problem in decision 2 (VIII), contained in the report (see A/9018, chap. X), stressing the need to obtain specific information, and his delegation supported the appeal made by the Committee in that decision. With regard to decision 5 (VII), concerning the possibility of holding sessions at Geneva (*ibid.*), he drew attention to article 10, paragraph 4, of the Convention, according to which the meetings were normally to be held at United Nations Headquarters, and, while he recognized the advisability of holding sessions at Geneva or perhaps elsewhere from time to time, he considered that the desire expressed by the Committee to hold one of its sessions every year at Geneva raised doubts not only about the financial implications but also as to whether such a practice would be in conformity with the Convention.

*The meeting rose at 4 p.m.*

## 2036th meeting

Thursday, 22 November 1973, at 10.45 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Yahya MAHMASSANI (Lebanon).

A/C.3/SR.2036

### AGENDA ITEM 53

**Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (*continued*)** (A/9003 and Corr.1, chaps. XXIII, sect. A.1 and A.2 and XXX, sect. B; A/9018, A/9094 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2, A/9095 and Add.1, A/9139, A/9177, A/C.3/L.2055):

**(c) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (*continued*)** (A/9018, A/C.3/L.2055)

1. Mr. GAHUNGU (Burundi) expressed appreciation to the Director of the Division of Human Rights for his clear and precise introductory statement at the 2034th meeting and to the representative of Mauritania for his vivid outline of the topic under consideration at the 2035th meeting.

2. The United Nations had rightly paid particular attention to the question of the elimination of racial discrimination on the basis of its Charter, which provided for freedom, equality and the right to self-determination for all peoples. Those principles were being disregarded by the rebels in Southern Rhodesia and by the Portuguese colonialists, and the United Nations could not tolerate a situation where the indigenous population was kept in servitude and slavery. The African States within the Organization of African Unity (OAU) were endeavouring, with the support of the non-aligned States, to free their brethren from a racism and colonialism that was a disgrace to all mankind.

3. His delegation welcomed the work performed by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimina-

tion, established under article 8 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the close co-operation established between that Committee and the United Nations and its specialized agencies. That co-operation and the participation of States parties in the work of the Committee had helped to make the Committee's recommendations to the General Assembly (see A/9018) as thorough and objective as possible. It would be desirable for nationals of countries under oppressive régimes and representatives of the liberation movements also to participate actively in the Committee's meetings. While commending the aims and objectives of general recommendation III adopted by the Committee at its 112th meeting, on 18 August 1972,<sup>1</sup> his delegation called upon all States to sever their economic, commercial and other ties with the racist régimes of Portugal, South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, in order to promote the implementation of international instruments. He also appealed to all States to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. He urged States parties to the Convention to submit to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination reports that were as full as possible, to adopt measures at the national level to implement the Convention and to give moral and material support to the peoples struggling against racial discrimination.

4. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said that his country, which was a State party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, at-

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 18*, chap. IX.

tributed high priority to contributing to the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

5. His Government's initial report to the Committee had been found comprehensive and satisfactory, and its second periodic report contained observations on the comments made by members of the Committee during the discussion of the initial report. As was stated in paragraph 179 of the Committee's report (A/9018), that had been regarded by several members as a constructive "dialogue" between the authors of the report and the Committee, and the wish had been expressed that similar constructive dialogues would be entered into in future reports by other States parties. Such a dialogue should encourage and strengthen the effort to achieve the goals of the Convention. Moreover, the dialogue should not be confined to the States parties to the Convention and the Committee but should also be developed between the Committee and the General Assembly. Such a relationship between the General Assembly and the Committee was a natural one, viewed against the background of the Convention, the provisions thereof and the responsibilities of the General Assembly.

6. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination had not been born in a vacuum but was a natural extension and development of the high ideals and objectives set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. It was stated, in Article 1, paragraph 3, of the Charter that one of the purposes of the United Nations was to promote and encourage respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stated that all human beings were born free and equal in dignity and rights. It was stated further, in the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination that any doctrine of racial differentiation or superiority was scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous, and that there was no justification for racial discrimination either in theory or in practice. Accordingly, it was to be hoped that the United Nations and the States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in particular, would persist in their efforts to eradicate all forms of racial discrimination.

7. The Convention was important not only because it codified goals and principles in an international instrument but also because it established machinery, in article 8, for their practical implementation. Under article 9, States parties were obliged to submit to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination reports concerning the fulfilment of their commitments under the Convention. Article 15 of the Convention authorized the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to receive copies of the petitions from, and submit expressions of opinion and recommendations on those petitions to, the bodies of the United Nations which dealt with matters directly related to the principles and objectives of the Convention in their consideration of petitions from inhabitants of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories and all other territories

to which General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) applied, relating to matters covered by the Convention which were before those bodies. It was extremely important that the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should be studied within that context. The work of a committee of such importance should be followed up, strengthened and encouraged.

8. With regard to the report, he stressed that the International Convention and the activities of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, especially within the context of the programme of action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination, should be given the widest possible publicity. His delegation felt that the recommendation of the Committee on Racial Discrimination that it should meet alternately in both Geneva and New York in 1974 and 1975 should be viewed favourably. That recommendation did not conflict with any provision of the Convention; article 10 did not preclude the possibility of the Committee's meeting away from Headquarters. The question should be viewed in a wider context than that of financial implications. Public opinion and political awareness were more important than financial implications. For example, the meetings of the Security Council at Addis Ababa had been greatly appreciated and very productive.

9. Noting that States parties to the Convention had numbered 74 as of August 1973, he expressed the hope that—perhaps not South Africa—but certainly the rest of the Members of the United Nations would ratify or accede to the Convention as soon as possible.

10. Chapter VII of the Committee's report revealed serious facts and made important recommendations, to which the competent organs of the United Nations should pay great attention, particularly in respect of Southern Rhodesia, Namibia and the Territories under Portuguese administration. He hoped that there would be fuller co-operation between the Trusteeship Council, the United Nations Council for Namibia and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial countries and peoples.

11. His delegation noted with confidence the way in which the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was conducting its business, and he hoped that the Third Committee would express its total support for the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in its vital work for the implementation of the lofty principles of the Convention.

12. As the Third Committee was considering the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination separately, he hoped that any draft resolution adopted would be adopted unanimously, as a token of encouragement and confidence.

13. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned with highly important problems of combating the flagrant manifestations of racial discrimination which still persisted in certain States Members of the United Nations and particularly in the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Committee was an important link in the United Nations system of organs set up to implement the various international instruments directed towards

securing human rights and fundamental freedoms and their protection under international law. It should be borne in mind that the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination contained provisions for a practical implementation machinery which gave the Committee the necessary guidelines for the accomplishment of its tasks. Thus, the report on the Committee's seventh and eighth sessions showed that it had rightly concentrated on the examination of the reports of States parties to the Convention under article 9 of that instrument, and of copies of petitions and reports and other information concerning the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories under article 15.

14. Special attention should be paid to decision 4 (VII) of the Committee (see A/9018, chap. X) concerning information supplied by the Syrian Arab Republic relating to the situation in the Golan heights, in which the Committee noted that that situation continued to deteriorate and expressed the hope that the population of the Golan heights would be able as soon as possible to enjoy fully their human rights and fundamental freedoms as citizens of the Syrian Arab Republic. The report thus drew the attention of the General Assembly to the flagrant violations of human rights which were being perpetrated by the Israeli Zionist aggressors.

15. The Committee had also taken a number of important political decisions in connexion with its examination of petitions, reports and other information under article 15 of the Convention. Thus, it had called upon the Government of Portugal to apply the principles of self-determination and independence to the peoples of the Territories under its domination without further delay and had reiterated its appeal to all States, particularly to members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), to withhold from Portugal any assistance which would enable it to continue its colonial war against the peoples of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau. With regard to Southern Rhodesia, the Committee had expressed its conviction that the support in political, economic and military fields given to the minority régime by certain countries, in particular by the Republic of South Africa and Portugal, perpetuated that racist régime and had called upon all States parties to the Convention to take all the necessary measures to eliminate racial segregation and *apartheid* and to comply fully in their policies and practices with the various General Assembly and Security Council resolutions adopted in that regard. In connexion with Namibia, the Committee had suggested that the General Assembly should recommend to the Security Council to take effective measures to put an end to the policy of racial discrimination and *apartheid*, including the adoption of appropriate sanctions against the Republic of South Africa.

16. Despite the adoption of such important decisions, however, the Committee was still paying too much attention to such secondary questions as the interpretation of its provisional rules of procedure and individual articles of the Convention. In his delegation's opinion, special attention should be paid to the Committee's request in its decision 2 (VIII) (see A/9018, chap. X) concerning specific information to be made available to it by the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to

Colonial Countries and Peoples under article 15 of the Convention (*ibid.*), in accordance with decisions 2 (III)<sup>2</sup> and 3 (VI)<sup>3</sup> of the Committee. It was to be hoped that in future the Committee would devote most of its time to flagrant and large-scale manifestations of racism and racial discrimination and to such related violations of human rights as *apartheid*, colonialism and neo-colonialism.

17. In conclusion, referring to the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.3/L.2055) on the administrative and financial implications of decision 5 (VII) of the Committee (see A/9018, chap. X), he asked whether the figure of \$78,000 in paragraph 6, representing the costs of holding a session of the Committee at Geneva, took into account the recent decision to transfer the staff of the Division of Human Rights to Geneva.

18. Mr. SCHREIBER (Director, Division of Human Rights), speaking as the representative of the Secretary-General, said that, as he had already informed the Polish representative at the preceding meeting, the figures in paragraph 6 of the note by the Secretary-General were based on the assumption that the staff of the Division of Human Rights would already be installed in Geneva by the time the Committee met there during the summer of 1974. The figure of \$65,000 covered the cost of temporary conference staff and did not take into account the contribution of the staff of the Division of Human Rights to the work of the Committee. The United Nations Office at Geneva felt that additional temporary staff would be necessary, in view of the workload of the Office and of the other meetings scheduled to be held at the same time as the session of the Committee.

19. Miss ILIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that her delegation and several others were working on a draft resolution<sup>4</sup> on the item which she hoped to be able to introduce at the next meeting.

20. Mrs. RANA (Nepal) expressed her delegation's appreciation of the Committee's report, which indicated that the Committee had not only been properly discharging its responsibilities, but had greatly improved its working procedures.

21. Nepal had always condemned the policies of the racist régimes of Pretoria, Salisbury and Lisbon and actively supported the legitimate struggle of the more than 28 million people who were still suffering under the pernicious system of colonialism and racial discrimination. Moreover, it had participated actively in the deliberations of the Special Committee on *Apartheid* since the establishment of that body. Her country's conviction that discrimination on grounds of race, religion, caste or sex was not only a violation of the principles of the Charter, but a serious crime against humanity, its belief in social and moral values and its ancient tradition and culture had caused it to abide by the many United Nations resolutions calling for continued international action to combat racism and racial discrimination.

22. Nepal, which had been a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination since 1971, considered that the fact that 74 Member States had ratified and acceded to the Convention by 24 August 1973 bore witness to the refusal of

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 18, chap. VII.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 18, chap. IX.

<sup>4</sup> Subsequently circulated as document A/C.3/L.2078.

the modern civilized world to accept any longer the theory and practice of racism and racial discrimination, which were among the main characteristics of primitive barbarism. Nevertheless, a few nations were consistently pursuing outrageous and inhuman racist policies. Moreover, many Member States had still not responded to General Assembly resolution 2911 (XXVII); her delegation appealed to the States which had not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so, if possible, by 10 December 1973, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

23. Her delegation was glad to note that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had been satisfied with the report submitted by the Nepalese Government. Indeed, the concept of racial discrimination was foreign to Nepalese history, tradition and law: various ethnic groups had lived together in peace and harmony since time immemorial, Nepal's long history was unmarked by racial disturbances, communal riots or religious uprisings and it had had no trials based on racial segregation.

24. The Constitution of Nepal of 1962, the Civil Liberties Act of 1954, the Common Law Act of 1963 and other relevant legislation not only prohibited racial discrimination in all its forms and manifestations, but also guaranteed the right of every citizen, irrespective of religion, race, caste or sex, to equality before the law and equal protection by the law. Moreover, under the Civil Liberties Act appointments to any government post were made on grounds of merit only, and discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex was prohibited. Thus, the highest offices in Nepal were open to married and unmarried women; in that connexion, it was regrettable that married women in certain countries, including some developed countries, were not allowed to join certain services. Furthermore, Nepal applied the principle of equal pay for equal work for men and women.

25. *Apartheid*, the worst form of racial discrimination, continued to plague the indigenous peoples of southern Africa, and the racist minority in South Africa had arrogantly rejected all proposals for the elimination of that abhorrent system. If the world community was really determined to eradicate that evil, all States Members of the United Nations, and especially South Africa's main trading partners, must abide strictly by the relevant decisions of the Organization, whose contribution, especially that of its Office of Public Information, had proved very effective in combating *apartheid* and racism.

26. Mr. VAN WALSUM (Netherlands) said that his delegation agreed with the view of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination that the usefulness of its work ultimately depended on its ability to develop a real dialogue with individual States parties to the Convention. Intensification of the exchange of questions and answers could lead to frank and realistic communication with Governments; accordingly, the Committee should be entitled to ask States parties specific questions on the manner in which they combated racial discrimination, and decision 3 (VII) of the Committee (see A/9018, chap. X) on obligations under article 4 of the Convention should be viewed in that light.

27. In his delegation's opinion, the Committee was constantly improving its capacity for dealing with the complex subject-matter of country reports by introducing a higher degree of sophistication into its examination methods; it was to be hoped that that trend would continue. The thoroughness and expertise with which its report had been discussed provided an incentive for his country to amplify its future reports and communications and to provide further clarifications concerning matters raised by members of the Committee. A new element, which would undoubtedly be discussed in the second Netherlands report, would be the conviction on 13 November 1973 of the first offenders under the new legislation on racial discrimination.

28. His delegation also attached great importance to the examination of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in the General Assembly, and noted from chapter II of the report that the Committee also considered it useful to carry on an indirect dialogue with the Third Committee. In that connexion, his delegation endorsed the view expressed in paragraph 15 that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should not merely echo the pronouncements of other organs. It also considered it essential that article 14 of the Convention should become operative before long; the Netherlands had made the declaration referred to in that article, thus recognizing the Committee's competence to receive and consider communications from individuals and groups of individuals within its jurisdiction, but noted that that competence would become effective only after 10 States parties had made such a declaration. Until that time, the functions of the Committee and the state of implementation of the Convention must be regarded as incomplete. In view of the Committee's hesitation, reflected in paragraph 16 of its report, to urge States parties to make the declaration provided for in article 14 of the Convention, the General Assembly should help the Committee by launching the appeal it had refrained from making itself for purely constitutional reasons.

29. With regard to the discussion summarized in paragraph 17 of the report, his delegation failed to see why the country reports submitted to the Committee and its summary records should not be as public as the report, particularly since the Committee's meetings were public and since they were, quite rightly, substantively reported in press releases of the Office of Public Information. Paragraph 349 set out the majority view that holding some sessions at Geneva would make world public opinion more aware of the Committee's work: his delegation considered that public opinion would be better served if the Committee's main documents were made more widely available, and also that decision 5 (VII) seemed to conflict with article 10 of the Convention, which provided that the Committee's meetings should normally be held at Headquarters.

30. Mr. SAARIO (Finland) said that the Committee's report showed that it had found working methods which could effectively serve its purposes. Indeed, the reports of States parties to the Convention provided valuable comparative material for the ultimate eradication of racism and racial discrimination in all their forms. Nevertheless, his delegation was somewhat concerned about the relationship between the Committee's functions and those of other United Nations bodies con-



cerned with human rights problems. It should be borne in mind, for instance, that a similar committee was to be established when the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights entered into force. Moreover, the fact that the Committee was a technical body, set up under the International Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to secure the implementation of that instrument by the States parties, would seem to limit its authority in political matters, especially in relation to problems normally dealt with by other specialized United Nations organs. Care should therefore be taken to avoid overlapping, particularly since the Committee would still have ample scope for the performance of useful work in pointing out short-comings in the laws and practices of States parties in the matter and drawing attention to cases of the introduction of new legislation on the subject disclosed by the Committee's reporting system.

### AGENDA ITEM 63

#### **Human rights and scientific and technological developments: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*)\* (A/9075, A/9227, A/C.3/L.2050/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.2060 and Corr.1, A/C.3/L.2074)**

31. Mr. PETHERBRIDGE (Australia) welcomed the stimulating report of the Director-General of UNESCO (see A/9227). As his delegation saw it, the message of that text was that culture reflected each country's heritage and life. The artist could not enjoy his inspiration if he did not live in liberty, with freedom of expression, or if culture was over-institutionalized. If society failed to ensure a clean environment for the production of ideas, man was on the road to becoming a machine himself, a machine for wearing out his life, as the text so rightly put it.

32. An attempt had been made in draft resolution A/C.3/L.2050/Rev.1 to translate the report into action. While the draft resolution captured many of the points in the report, he felt that it did not do the report full justice. In particular, the report's emphasis on the individual was not reflected in the draft resolution which, in contrast, laid undue emphasis on the creation of formalized cultural institutions. His delegation generally favoured the Moroccan amendments (A/C.3/L.2060 and Corr.1), which better reflected the value of the individual. Nevertheless, his delegation would welcome amendments which went even further in that direction.

33. Mr. FØNS BUHL (Denmark) expressed appreciation for the inspiring report by the Director-General of UNESCO (see A/9227) and his penetrating analysis in introducing the report to the Committee (2024th meeting). The observations made in the report on the growing uniformity of ways of life and on cultural pluralism were interesting and far-reaching. His delegation shared the view that the restoration of national languages, arts and folklore to a position of honour in recently independent countries should be seen as a propitious factor in the further development of cultural pluralism. Therein lay a cultural vitality which might generate spiritual pluralism and thus curb tendencies towards growing uniformity of behaviour patterns as a result of the irresistible expansion of technological civilization. Depersonalization in employment and the standardiza-

tion of living conditions could only be successfully countered by cultural amenities designed to promote the recovery of personal identity and the capacity of the individual for expression and creativity. It was obvious that ensuring access to cultural life and participation in it was an important function of the modern State. With regard to the role of Governments, he stressed his delegation's agreement with the observations made in the section on cultural policy in the observations.

34. His delegation welcomed the initiative of the Polish delegation in submitting draft resolution A/C.3/L.2050/Rev.1. However, it would prefer to see more of the ideas and specific recommendations in the Director-General's report reflected in the text. He had in mind the considerations—set out in part II of the memorandum appended to the report—regarding assistance to creative activity and the free movement of ideas and cultural property. His delegation welcomed the amendments contained in documents A/C.3/L.2060 and Corr.1 and A/C.3/L.2074, although it would prefer more precise language based on UNESCO's specific recommendations.

35. Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica) thanked the Director-General of UNESCO for his excellent introduction to UNESCO's report, which was a most sensitive and thought-provoking document. It showed deep understanding of a subject which, in essence, concerned the direction and quality of modern civilization. Her delegation fully endorsed the guidelines set out in the report for governmental participation in cultural development. She quite agreed with the remarks of the representative of Iran (2024th meeting) on the subject, and especially that delegation's comment that the document was of real value for national planners.

36. The observations acknowledged the necessity and value of movements seeking a "return to the fountainhead" of indigenous cultures as integral parts of the process of natural self-definition, but also expressed certain reservations about such movements. Recalling the references in the observation to "anachronistic exoticism" and to "a conservatism tenaciously devoted to preserving the achievements of the past", she stressed that, in many societies of the New World, various cultural traditions had competed with each other, and that the cultural disequilibrium which had often emerged had been in many respects a reflection of an over-all social and economic disequilibrium in those countries. In the search for national equilibrium, the reincarnation of the past had a crucial role to play. Restoring the artefacts of the past could validate the present and the future. Such activities were not, as was claimed, the very reverse of true culture, but could lead to a cultural vitality which had never existed previously.

37. As the Director-General had rightly pointed out, cultural pluralism had its dangers as well as its strengths, and the so-called excesses of reactionary archaism also contained the potential for redressing some of the cultural imbalances which were frequently inherent in cultural pluralism. The report might, perhaps, have acknowledged more fully the implications of the world-wide conflict being waged by the forces of cultural imperialism. The most sophisticated, the most widespread and most pervasive means of modern mass communication carried throughout the world images containing clear value judgements on the

\* Resumed from the 2024th meeting.

culture of the third world—judgements which were negative, hostile and at times offensive. The commercial film industry for example, based as it was in metropolitan countries, perpetuated the relics of a more openly ethnocentric period. Modern productions were more subtle, but often no less ethnocentric. UNESCO was carrying out an important and greatly valued task in countering such forces. The challenge to the countries of the third world was an important one: she wondered whether the rest of the world conceded to those countries the right to determine their own national and cultural identity. The answer to that problem lay in the exercise of a corporate international will: valuable guidelines in that regard were provided in the report.

38. Mr. SOLOMON (Ethiopia) agreed that the report of the Director-General of UNESCO was an invaluable document which merited close attention. His country, which was an ancient one with a very rich cultural heritage and literary tradition, was now engaged in a process of rapid modernization. In the state of transition between old and new, many cultural treasures were disappearing or being lost, and action was needed at all levels to preserve the country's culture. The Institute of Ethiopian Studies was doing its utmost, together with other institutions, to collect and preserve historical and cultural materials, which had been assembled in the Institute's museum and library, where tape recordings of Ethiopian music were also available. Since the country had received a UNESCO mission in 1968, laws had been adopted which strengthened cultural preservation services. While his country was ensuring that cultural values were preserved, it did not oppose scientific and technological developments: indeed, it felt that the two were not necessarily inconsistent.

39. Recalling the Director-General's remarks to the Economic and Social Council, reproduced in paragraph 35 of part A, he said that his delegation whole-heartedly endorsed that approach, which demonstrated the value of culture in the modern age.

40. His delegation supported draft resolution A/C.3/L.2050/Rev.1, and hoped that it would win unanimous approval.

41. Mr. KUNIYASU (Japan) noted that the United Nations had consistently paid great attention to the item under consideration since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2450 (XXIII) in 1968. The scope and implications of the item were enormous and warranted a broad over-all study. At the current stage, however, his delegation believed that that would be premature, since special studies of individual subjects should first provide the groundwork. A comprehensive study at the current stage would not produce fruitful results. In that connexion, he recalled that the General Assembly, in resolution 2450 (XXIII), in inviting the Secretary-General to undertake a study of the question, had wisely listed concrete subjects, in paragraph 1. Moreover, in resolution 3026 A (XXVII), the General Assembly had requested the Director-General of UNESCO to communicate his views to the General Assembly but had limited the request to the cultural aspects of the subject.

42. His delegation believed that while recent scientific discoveries and technological advances opened up vast prospects for economic, social and cultural progress, they might nevertheless endanger the rights and freedoms of individuals and peoples. His delegation

therefore hoped that the Secretary-General would complete as soon as possible the preparation of relevant reports on the current item, in collaboration with other United Nations bodies, as requested by the General Assembly on many occasions.

43. He expressed his delegation's sincere appreciation for the valuable observations by the Director-General of UNESCO contained in document A/9227. His delegation felt strongly that the General Assembly should support the continuing studies by the Secretary-General, the Director-General of UNESCO and other officials of the United Nations family regarding that question, and hoped also that their reports would give Governments useful suggestions for the determination of their economic and social policies.

44. His delegation would support draft resolution A/C.3/L.2050/Rev.1.

45. Miss CAO PINNA (Italy) recalled that her delegation had voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 3026 A (XXVII), because, in its conception of society and of man in society, progress in culture in its broadest sense and the full enjoyment of human rights went hand in hand. Her delegation had been somewhat perplexed, however, about the emphasis in the preamble of that resolution on the negative effects of scientific and technological developments on the preservation of cultural values, because that emphasis seemed to be inspired by a static rather than a dynamic vision of culture. It was therefore with deep interest that her delegation had received the observations by the Director-General of UNESCO, since it had found the same perplexity mirrored in the opening paragraphs of that report. In part A, paragraph 4 of the report it was emphasized that, when considering the question of the future of the diversity of cultures, care should be taken not to confuse the problem of ensuring their survival with that of preserving a stasis which in fact constituted the greatest handicap to that survival. In paragraph 2, the Director-General stressed that the danger of the growing uniformity of ways of life should not be overestimated.

46. Her delegation commended the high quality of the report of the Director-General. His contribution to the clarification of the relationship between scientific and technological developments and the preservation of culture was certainly to be welcomed by the Third Committee, whose main concern was the enjoyment of human rights by each individual.

47. Her delegation agreed with the statement, in paragraph 11 of the report, that culture existed only where the individual personality was able to live, and that that personality could not live without a minimum of liberty. It also endorsed the statement, in paragraph 13, that the general decline in the importance attached to the spiritual aspects of life was a factor militating against the preservation of cultural values. It agreed with the statement in paragraph 21 that the tendency towards the multiplication of cultural centres and models which might be observed throughout the world was very much to be welcomed and that cultural pluralism, far from leading to the division of the world through the withdrawal of the various cultures into themselves, was, on the contrary, accompanied by a deep desire for contacts and exchanges. Her delegation also agreed with the statement that the development of all types of communications might facilitate those con-

tacts and exchanges and that a cultural policy worthy of the name consisted in promoting the full development of the cultural values and aspirations of the community, in all their fruitful diversity, as a basis for State action in all spheres.

48. Her delegation would like to see the points she had mentioned fully reflected in any draft resolution adopted by the Committee on the item under consideration. It attached special importance to freedom of expression and of movement. She hoped that, after the illuminating introductory statement by the Director-General of UNESCO, the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2050/Rev.1 might find it possible to improve the text. Her delegation noted with great interest, from part B of the report, that particular importance was attached to the free flow of knowledge and ideas and freedom of movement for individuals. The latter question had recently been considered by the Commission on Human Rights and by the Economic and Social Council, and the Committee would have an opportunity to discuss it when it considered the report of the Council.

49. Her delegation had been very favourably impressed by the considerations contained in para-

graphs 29 and 32 of part A of the report, concerning the new humanistic conception of development due to the introduction of culture. That conception largely—if not entirely—corresponded to what the Commission on Social Development called “the unified approach to development”, and she expressed gratification at the growing acceptance of that conception by the specialized agencies, which inevitably tended to consider development by sectors instead of viewing it as a global process affecting society as a whole. She therefore welcomed that propitious development in interagency co-operation.

50. With regard to the Brazilian amendments (A/C.3/L.2074) to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2050/Rev.1, her initial reaction was that, rather than improving the text, they would further emphasize the national approach which was typical of the draft resolution. Her delegation had no difficulty with the Moroccan amendments (A/C.3/L.2060 and Corr.1). She reserved her delegation's right to comment on the second draft resolution after it had been circulated.

*The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.*

## 2037th meeting

Friday, 23 November 1973, at 10.45 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Yahya MAHMASSANI (Lebanon).

A/C.3/SR.2037

### AGENDA ITEM 53

**Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (*continued*)** (A/9003 and Corr.1, chaps. XXIII, sect. A.1 and A.2 and XXX, sect. B; A/9018, A/9094 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2, A/9095 and Add.1, A/9139, A/9177, A/C.3/L.2055, A/C.3/L.2078):

(c) **Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (*concluded*)** (A/9018, A/C.3/L.2055, A/C.3/L.2078)

1. Miss ILIĆ (Yugoslavia), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/L.2078, said that the sponsors had intended to reflect the views of the delegations which had spoken during the discussion of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/9018), as well as the conclusions contained in that report. Operative paragraph 2 reflected the opinion that the establishment of the practice of inviting countries to send representatives to the Committee when it considered their reports had led to a very useful dialogue, which should be encouraged. In connexion with operative paragraph 3, which referred to decision 2 (VIII) of the Committee (*ibid.*, chap. X), she drew attention to paragraph 4 on page 83 of the Committee's report, relating to its recommendations to the General Assembly concerning Namibia, and to the last paragraph 2 on page 85 of the report, relating to the petition concerning the inhuman treatment of prisoners in South African prisons. In addition, she pointed out that endorsement by the General Assembly of decision 5 (VII) of the

Committee (*ibid.*) concerning its meeting in Geneva in 1974, would not be contradictory to article 10 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The Committee's meetings in 1975 would be considered at a later date. Since draft resolution A/C.3/L.2078 was the outcome of extensive consultations among delegations, she felt that the Committee could adopt it without difficulty.

2. Mr. CARPENTER (Nigeria), speaking as a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2078, said that, in view of the excellent quality and the depth of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, his delegation was particularly concerned that the Committee should be equally painstaking in its consideration of that report. In that connexion, he drew attention to paragraph 13 of the report, which stated that the members of the Committee regretted that, in 1972, the Third Committee had not been in a position to pay as much attention to the Committee's report as would have been desirable. The Third Committee should now therefore ensure that the efforts made by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and reflected in its report were not only justified and encouraged, but also that its recommendations were fully reflected in any draft resolution adopted by the Third Committee.

3. His delegation deplored the continued violation of the fundamental human rights of African peoples by minority and racist régimes in southern Africa. In defiance of world opinion, those régimes had made crimes against humanity part of their declared national