

demned the practice of racial discrimination, since the Constitution of the country laid down that all citizens were equal before the law without distinction as to sex, race, political ideology or religious belief. The Dominican Republic was peopled by a multiracial society in which no type of racial discrimination had ever existed or existed at present. Since the beginning of the colonial era, it had witnessed a process of amalgamation, not only of races but also of customs and beliefs. The result had been a multicoloured and multiracial society in which blacks constituted 10 per cent, whites 20 per cent and persons of mixed race 70 per cent. That process of racial integration had been so authentic and natural that it was difficult for the Dominican people to imagine or comprehend that a person was discriminated against because of the colour of his skin. They were aware, however, that there was no country in the world in which all forms of discrimination had been completely and definitively eradicated, since although the struggle against racial discrimination had been won in some cases, there were other discriminatory practices that were more subtle and difficult to eradicate, such as economic, educational, social and cultural discrimination. It was therefore necessary for every country to examine its discriminatory practices and to take measures to eliminate all conditions which were detrimental to human dignity and justice.

39. The Dominican Republic was in favour of and supported the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and hoped that the resolutions on the question would be effectively implemented in order to ensure the beginning of a new phase in the struggle for social progress, for human liberty and dignity and for harmony among peoples.

40. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said that the efforts made by the various bodies of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to put an end to racism and racial discrimination were commendable. However, experience showed that the worst enemies of the oppressors were the oppressors themselves. The international community was not seeking to eliminate South Africa; it was the South Africans who made the use

of force necessary and who could ignite the spark that would cause the conflagration.

41. There were various aspects to the problem posed by the situation prevailing in southern Africa. There was a social facet characterized by the contrast between the poverty of the masses and the wealth of a minority. The poor were being systematically subjected to discrimination and poverty was being systematically perpetuated to ensure that the people had no opportunity to escape from their sad plight. There was also the political aspect: it was paradoxical to find that, in the present day and age, there were still millions of human being who were deprived of their fundamental rights and freedoms and were subject to the dictates of a racist minority that was doing nothing to adapt to historical change. Portugal had recognized in time the inevitability of the liberation of its Territories and had acted accordingly. The blindness of South Africa and Rhodesia and the vested interests of other Powers which supported them in their foolhardy adventure could only lead in the long run to a disaster that would benefit no one in the end. In operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council (A/9666, annex) all States were urged to ensure immediate termination of all measures and policies as well as activities—military, political, economic and other—which enabled racist régimes in the southern part of Africa to continue the repression of the African people. Attention should be drawn in that regard to the double game being played by some countries which proclaimed and defended human rights and freedoms in certain forums and secretly entered into financial and economic arrangements with the same régimes whose policy they professed to condemn publicly.

42. Nevertheless, methods of persuasion should not be abandoned. Although the establishment of the United Nations Council for Namibia had not brought peace for the Namibians, that did not mean that there had to be bloodshed. It might still be possible to convince those who were helping South Africa and to awaken the South Africans who were oppressing their people.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

2057th meeting

Friday, 4 October 1974, at 3.10 p.m.

Chairman: Mrs. Aminata MARICO (Mali).

A/C.3/SR.2057

AGENDA ITEM 53

Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (*continued*) (A/9603, chap. I, chap. V, sect. C.1; A/9666 and Add.1-3, A/9719, E/5474, E/5475):

- (a) Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*);
- (c) Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*)

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. Mr. FERGUSON (United States of America) said it was fitting that the General Assembly, by its resolution 3057 (XXVIII), launched the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and equally fitting that, at the current session of the General Assembly, it should be the first item on the agenda of the Third Committee. His delegation had

participated in the discussions in both the Committee and the Economic and Social Council which had resulted in the launching of the Decade. It had endorsed the Programme for the Decade and promised the support of its Government to the goal of the Decade, namely the elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination.

2. United States concerns in that respect were real and immediate. The United States was a multiracial society and had to deal with the problem of racism on a day-to-day basis. Thus its support of the Programme, in particular those aspects involving national action by Member States, was but a part of an on-going domestic effort. In that connexion, he had thought that most delegations were aware of the action taken by the United States to solve its racial problems and of the general progress of that endeavour. He had therefore been taken aback when, a few days earlier, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of a Member State had asserted that blacks in the United States existed in a condition akin to slavery. He himself had taken part in the struggle to eliminate injustice in his country and was in the forefront of those recognizing the persistence of racism. Moreover, he and many of his colleagues were concerned with removing the last vestiges of racism from the United States foreign policy establishment. In that connexion, however, it should be noted that a large part of the problem lay in the attitudes of some in countries other than the United States.

3. Some instructive examples might be drawn from the United States in the fight against racism in the past decade. Just 10 years earlier the President of the Mississippi Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People had been assassinated for having insisted that blacks could exercise the constitutionally protected right to vote. However, in the very region of the country which had resorted to every possible means to deny blacks that basic political right of citizenship, there were currently more than 500 elected black officials. Ten years earlier non-whites in the United States had been denied access to many places of public accommodation and had been excluded, as a result of racist doctrines and regulations, from the enjoyment of almost every basic right. Since then, however, most of those vestiges of racism had been eliminated, and major efforts to remove them entirely were continuing. Such examples showed that a decade of sustained action should change the human condition, while at the same time illustrating the difficulty and complexity of completely eradicating the disease of racism. The sustained struggle of the past decade had benefited the entire society, as evidenced by the resurgent movement for the full equality of women and the participation of United States citizens of Indian or Latin American origin in the fight to eliminate racism from the social fabric. Another lesson of the past decade was that freedom, equality and justice did not flow automatically from high-sounding declarations, but required constant vigilance, concern and action. Accordingly, the United States was now concentrating its efforts on translating words into reality.

4. There could be little doubt that at the international level the evils of racism were most evident in South Africa and Rhodesia. Although his delegation disagreed in some respects on the methods of promoting change, it shared the outrage expressed in the Committee at the continued

existence of *apartheid*. He wished to emphasize that his country's relations with South Africa were designed not to support the current régime, but to promote peaceful evolution toward the goal of full participation by all South Africans in the social, economic and political rights of their country. That was why his Government insisted that United States companies doing business in South Africa should wherever possible give equal pay for equal work. With reference to Rhodesia, he said that the Administration in Washington was attempting to secure the repeal of the Byrd Amendment, which allowed the import of Rhodesian chrome into the United States.

5. The goal of the Decade was the elimination of racism and racial discrimination not only in southern Africa, but wherever they existed throughout the world. With reference to the international activities of his Government in support of the Decade, he drew attention to the establishment by the United States National Commission for UNESCO of a working committee to organize a major conference in 1975 for the purpose of highlighting United States participation in the Decade. In conclusion, he reaffirmed his country's commitment to the Decade, and expressed the hope that the Committee would be able to move swiftly to approve the draft resolution before it, recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1863 (LVI), and begin preparations for the important world conference on combating racial discrimination provided for in the Programme for the Decade (General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), annex).

6. Mr. VARGA (Hungary) said that the launching of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the unanimous adoption of its Programme were a clear indication that the international community considered it necessary to intensify the struggle against racial discrimination and to apply strict and specific measures in order to eradicate all its forms. Racism and racial discrimination constituted not only the most flagrant violation of fundamental human rights but also a serious obstacle to social and economic progress and a threat to peace among peoples. It was imperative to intensify the struggle against those practices, for despite the long and persistent struggle waged against racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, various forms of racial discrimination were still rife in many parts of the world, especially in Africa, and caused immense suffering to millions of people. The imperialist countries and international monopolies which, in open violation of the relevant United Nations resolutions, provided comprehensive assistance to the régimes pursuing the policies of racism and *apartheid* bore a heavy responsibility for the suffering of those people.

7. The Hungarian people, who had created a new socialist society free from any discrimination or social injustice, shared the concern of progressive world opinion over the continuing existence of racism, racial discrimination and their most brutal form, *apartheid*, and strongly condemned those practices. The Hungarian people had always supported and would continue to support to the fullest extent of their capabilities the peoples fighting for independence, freedom and the elimination of racial discrimination.

8. Representatives of the Hungarian Government, in accordance with its anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist for-

eign policy, speaking in various international forums, had always categorically demanded the complete and final elimination of all forms of colonial exploitation, racism and racial discrimination and the immediate end of all types of assistance to the régimes pursuing racial policies. Hungary had been among the first to accede to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex) and had been the first to ratify the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid* (General Assembly resolution 3068 (XXVIII), annex). His delegation had given its wholehearted support to the launching of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and expressed the hope that the Decade would promote the liberation of African and other peoples still under colonial subjugation from the yoke of colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism.

9. To further the success of the Decade in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) the competent Hungarian institutions had prepared a comprehensive draft national programme. With a view to involving the broadest possible mass of the people in the programme the Hungarian Solidarity Committee, which was in charge of the elaboration and co-ordination of the programme, was assisted by a number of public authorities and social organizations. Hungarian radio and television were also taking an active part in the Decade in order to ensure the wide dissemination of information about the Decade and to discuss its objectives, and the results achieved. The draft programme also aimed at increasing the effectiveness of active solidarity, and Hungary continued to extend material aid to the various revolutionary organizations carrying on armed struggle against colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism, to grant scholarships for young people from countries suffering from colonial oppression and racism and to provide medical treatment for the fighters of the organizations struggling against colonial oppression and racism.

10. His delegation was pleased to note in the report of the Secretary-General (see E/5474 and A/9666/Add.1) that many United Nations organs were taking an active part in the execution of the Programme for the Decade. It was also very encouraging that several specialized agencies had expressed their readiness to participate in the execution of the Programme.

11. His delegation supported the draft resolution annexed to the note by the Secretary-General (A/9666), particularly operative paragraph 6 (a) and (b).

12. Mr. AL-HINAI (Oman) said that it was very distressing that racism and racial discrimination continued to be practised in spite of the many resolutions of the United Nations calling for an end to those evils. The racist régimes in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia in particular continued to violate all the basic rights of the indigenous peoples of those two countries. The time had come to translate words into action; much had been said and written about the evil practices of those two minority Governments, but very little had been done to stop them from persecuting the peoples of the two countries.

13. The Government of Oman, on the basis of its firm recognition of the inalienable rights of all peoples to

self-determination and independence, had always supported the General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*. It had time and again expressed deep sympathy with the peoples of southern Africa struggling for independence from colonial rule. It did not have diplomatic, consular or any official relations with South Africa or Southern Rhodesia.

14. The Government of Oman would continue to give wide publicity to the African cause; arrangements had been made for special radio broadcasts on the evils of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, and articles would continue to be published in the local press. Oman would do everything in its power to develop moral and material support for the victims of racism and racial discrimination among all sections of the public in the country.

15. His delegation fully supported the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council (A/9666, annex).

16. Mr. JACHEK (Czechoslovakia) said that his delegation considered that the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination included a number of constructive recommendations and proposals and that the consistent implementation of the provisions of the Programme by Member States, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and other international organizations would effectively promote the implementation of the aims set forth in General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII). His delegation welcomed the fact that the Programme for the Decade concentrated mainly on those areas where racism continued to exist despite the many measures taken by the United Nations, where the illegal régimes pursuing a policy of racism derived constant support from certain States Members of the United Nations, and where the criminal policy of *apartheid*, the most terrible and dangerous form of racism, was pursued. His delegation also considered that the draft resolution rightly did not view racism as an isolated phenomenon but stressed the need to study the social, economic and colonialist roots of racism, *apartheid* and racial discrimination.

17. In Czechoslovakia the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination were strictly implemented, and the requirements of other international agreements concerning the problem of racism and *apartheid*, adopted by the United Nations or the specialized agencies, were also respected.

18. The Czechoslovak people, who had no experience of racial discrimination themselves, expressed their solidarity with the just struggle of the peoples for liberation and against colonialism and exploitation, racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*. It had shown and would continue to show its solidarity in action by providing comprehensive assistance to the national liberation struggle and the struggle against racism.

19. Czechoslovakia had no diplomatic or other relations with the racist régimes of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. It was prepared to support the adoption of all measures which would hasten the process of decolonization and the complete elimination of racism and *apartheid*. His delegation would vote for the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council.

20. Mrs. DE JARAMILLO (Colombia) congratulated Portugal on its decision to renounce colonialism and on its appeal to those still practising discrimination to follow its example. By taking such action it had won the sympathies of many Member States. Noting that many of the delegates in the Committee were women, she expressed satisfaction that the first Women's International Conference would be held in 1975 at Bogotá, the capital of Colombia, a country in which women enjoyed the same rights as men. She stressed the importance of that Conference, which would discuss such problems as the elimination of all forms of discrimination on grounds of sex or colour, equality of remuneration and opportunity, the right to freedom of choice in family planning and the legal protection of women. It offered a unique occasion for a reassessment and defence of human rights and a search for solutions to human rights problems. Another item to be dealt with at the Conference, and one which was closely linked to the subject under discussion, was the commitment of women throughout the world to co-operation in strengthening peace and eliminating racial discrimination.

21. The Colombian Constitution guaranteed equality before the law, the right to life, dignity and property, and freedom of thought, opinion, assembly and association. Those freedoms were not only embodied in the Constitution but also applied in practice. Her delegation therefore found it anachronistic that the United Nations still had to deal with problems which should by now have been completely overcome.

22. The efforts and achievements of the United Nations in the field of human rights and the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination had covered the entire range of human experience. Nevertheless, racial discrimination still existed, and the time had come for the Security Council to take the measures required by the gravity of the situation. If the United Nations failed to act, its prestige would suffer and the oppressed peoples would feel abandoned and lose hope for the future. Moreover, peace might be endangered if international justice was disregarded. The United Nations should therefore take appropriate steps to ensure that all mankind enjoyed the fundamental rights and freedoms enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Attention should also be given to the plight of countries victims of economic discrimination. Such countries would never emerge from their age-old backwardness unless the great Powers modified their policies with regard to the developing countries. By selling them products at high prices in order to make bigger profits and purchasing their raw materials at imposed prices or subjecting them to unfair terms of trade, the developed countries were creating conditions of disequilibrium which prevented the developing countries from implementing economic and social reform plans designed to benefit millions of human beings.

23. Vigorous efforts should be made to ensure that by the end of the Decade the crimes of racism and racial discrimination which were an anachronism in an age of progress and international integration would be completely eliminated.

24. In conclusion, she said that her delegation wholeheartedly supported the draft resolution under consideration.

25. Mr. POZNYAKOV (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that racial discrimination and its most extreme form—*apartheid*—constituted the weapon of reaction in preserving colonialism and protecting the racist régimes in the struggle against national liberation movements. Over the years which had passed since the Second World War the racists and the racist ideology had been considerably weakened, and the United Nations, which had condemned racism and colonialism in many resolutions and decisions, had made a considerable contribution to the struggle against those evils. However, unremitting effort was necessary to provide maximum support for the peoples who were engaged in that struggle and to achieve the complete isolation and elimination of the racist régimes. Only a constant struggle against all forms of racial discrimination would lead to their full eradication.

26. The Republic of South Africa was one of the remaining strongholds of racism and practised it in its most cruel form, *apartheid*, which divided the population on the basis of colour into citizens with full rights and slaves with no rights at all. The South African régime was exerting all the power of its military and police machine and was intensifying repression against the African fighters for freedom and the abolition of *apartheid*. *Apartheid* also existed in Namibia, which was illegally occupied by South Africa, and in Southern Rhodesia, which was ruled by the white settlers headed by Ian Smith. The recent events in Portugal, which were one of the results of the growth of the national liberation movement in Africa and the collapse of the long-term strategy of the colonialists, had dealt a serious blow to the racists. However, racism continued to constitute a threat and no racial harmony or liberalization could be achieved by the racist régimes, which had not made any changes in their policy, despite their attempt to give the impression that they had done so. They were supported by financial and monopolistic circles in the capitalist States and above all by the transnational corporations, which derived considerable profits from the racist preserves, as could be seen from the data of the Special Committee on *Apartheid*, and which obtained cheap labour and raw materials and mercilessly exploited the local population. The monopolies of the Western countries were helping the racists to remain in power by generous financial, military and political support.

27. The struggle against the racist régimes and racial discrimination was continuing and intensifying, and the United Nations, through the efforts of the African and Asian countries in particular and with the active support of the socialist countries, was continuing to seek effective means of waging that struggle. One such means was constituted by the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*. It was the duty of the international community to achieve the speediest possible implementation of that very important international instrument and the punishment of all persons who were guilty of the crimes of *apartheid* and racial discrimination. His delegation hoped that those States which had not yet signed the Convention would sign and ratify it.

28. His delegation supported the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and considered that the implementation of its

provisions was unquestionably contributing and would continue to contribute to the intensification of the actions of States and of the entire world community against racial discrimination and colonialism. The Programme rightly stressed in paragraph 6 (a) that full adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter was essential.

29. In the Ukrainian SSR the principle of the equality of its citizens irrespective of their national or racial origin was not only enshrined in the Constitution but also implemented in practice in the life of its socialist society. The Ukrainian people, who were educated in the principles of internationalism, understood the aspirations of the peoples of Africa and their desire to free their continent from the evils of racism and colonialism. As in previous years, a number of events had been organized in 1974 on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Africa Liberation Day and the Week of Solidarity with the Colonial Peoples of Southern Africa, and public meetings had been held in the towns of the Ukraine and in higher educational establishments. The problems of the struggle of the African peoples were systematically examined in periodicals and scientific studies and were discussed in the press and on radio and television. Lectures and meetings concerned with the Decade were organized in factories, collective farms and educational establishments. The Ukrainian people's work in support of the peoples of Africa was part of its general international activity.

30. The discussions in the Third Committee had shown that there were many different forms of struggle in support of the national liberation movements, but his delegation felt that the decisive factor in the complete eradication of racism and colonialism from Africa was the national liberation struggle of the African peoples. The Organization of African Unity also played an important role.

31. His delegation noted with satisfaction that an increasing number of countries were ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and hoped that those States which had not yet ratified it would soon do so.

32. His delegation would support the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council.

33. Mrs. NTIRO (Uganda) observed that there was nothing new to be said about the elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination and her delegation could only reiterate what it had said in the Committee in the past and in the General Assembly, especially at the current session (2245th plenary meeting). The peoples of the African continent had for centuries suffered more than those of any other continent from the scourge of racism and racial discrimination. They had been oppressed, exploited, tortured and humiliated by foreigners in their own land. The Government of Uganda had consistently condemned, both at the United Nations and in many other international forums, racism and racial discrimination in all its forms and manifestations, wherever it existed. In that connexion, it had condemned those countries which stubbornly continued to defy the Charter of the United Nations, world opinion and international law. Moreover, her delegation had recently introduced a draft resolution in the General

Assembly (2248th plenary meeting) aimed at taking effective action against the racist régime in South Africa; the Assembly had adopted the draft as resolution 3207 (XXIX). It had appealed to all countries having any influence over that régime to desist from giving it, either directly or indirectly, any form of support or encouragement in its activities.

34. Uganda had consistently given material and moral support to the just struggle of all peoples fighting against racism and racial discrimination. It would continue to channel assistance through the Liberation Committee of the OAU to those who were still struggling against racial discrimination, and would maintain its support of the various liberation movements.

35. In conclusion, she paid a tribute to all Governments, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations which had over the years sought, and were continuing to seek, solutions to the problems faced by the victims of racism and racial discrimination.

36. Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) said that his delegation's active participation in the work leading to the launching of the Decade had sprung from its conviction that racism and racial discrimination were a serious danger to the international community and, even more important, an intolerable denial of the dignity of human beings throughout the world. Now, a year later, the Committee had before it documentation prepared by the Secretary-General on activities undertaken or contemplated in connexion with the Decade and a draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council for adoption by the General Assembly concerning the co-ordination of such activities (A/9666, annex). That text, with certain reservations, had his delegation's support.

37. The documentation submitted suggested that the beginning of the Decade had been marked by a period of introspection, in which all parties concerned had given thought to the way in which they could best contribute to the achievement of the goals of the Decade. In that connexion, he noted with satisfaction that the responses received had been positive, and he commended the non-governmental organizations for the manner in which they had followed up the invitation of the General Assembly to participate in the Decade. His delegation considered their full and active participation indispensable for its success. As a first initiative, the International NGO Conference against *Apartheid* and Colonialism in Africa had been held from 2 to 5 September 1974 in Geneva, with the participation of over 100 international, regional and national organizations, including representatives from the Special Committee on *Apartheid* 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, the United Nations Council for Namibia and the secretariats of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. His delegation understood that the non-governmental organizations were actively considering the possibility of other initiatives to be taken in connexion with the Decade.

38. In commending the non-governmental organizations for holding that Conference, he did not wish to imply that

the struggle against the abhorrent system of *apartheid* in South Africa should be the only goal of the Decade, although it warranted major attention. Racial discrimination existed in many parts of the globe, and, in that connexion, his delegation wished to draw attention to the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) which it considered to be a positive contribution to the attainment of the proposed goals. While the work of CERD was well known within the United Nations, its influence and effectiveness might be greatly enhanced if information about its deliberations was more widely publicized. Consideration might be given to that question, and also to the possibility of making an analysis and an evaluation of the impact on national legislation and practice of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Furthermore, many of the national reports submitted to CERD contained information which might assist other States in dealing with their particular problems. Some of those ideas were reflected in resolution 2 (X) adopted at the most recent session of CERD (see A/9666/Add.1, para. 16). While his delegation could not support all of the suggestions made by CERD, it wished to comment most of them to the General Assembly. Special attention should be given to paragraph 1 (d) of that resolution, drawing attention to article 14 of the Convention, on the basis of paragraph 1 of which a State party could at any time declare that it recognized the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications from individuals or groups of individuals within its jurisdiction claiming to be victims of a violation by that State party of any of the rights set forth in the Convention. Article 14, paragraph 9, provided however that such competence could be exercised only when at least 10 out of the more than 80 States parties to the Convention had made that declaration. The Netherlands, as one of the four States which to date had made such a declaration, felt that the General Assembly should appeal to the other States parties to do so.

39. The documentation before the Committee gave considerable attention to activities designed to increase public awareness of the Decade. Attention should not be focused exclusively on the eradication of *apartheid* while other problems of racial discrimination were neglected. His delegation therefore felt that the Office of Public Information could be invited to intensify its activities by exposing, in addition to *apartheid*, all forms of racial discrimination, possibly through a wider dissemination of information about the work of CERD.

40. Referring to the activities currently under consideration by the Netherlands in connexion with the Decade, he said that General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) and its annex, the Programme for the Decade, had been translated into Dutch in order to give them wider dissemination. Moreover, several ministries were considering ways of stimulating awareness of, and participation in, the Programme for the Decade. In that connexion, he noted that the 1975 budget of the Netherlands allocated funds to support the activities undertaken.

41. Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines) said that the statement made at the previous meeting by the representative of UNESCO and the report of the Secretary-General (see E/5474) convinced her that UNESCO and the Office of

Public Information should make a special effort to prepare suitable material for use during the Decade, especially for countries like the Philippines, where the evils of racial discrimination were virtually non-existent but which nevertheless felt deeply concerned about the problem. For such countries, the main difficulty was finding materials with which to educate the public, and especially the young, about the indignities of racial discrimination. She had been struck by the fact that the UNESCO programme dealt with in the Secretary-General's report focused primarily on scholarly and specialized documentation. While her delegation did not wish to minimize the usefulness of such documentation, it felt that the problem should not be dealt with in such abstract terms. In order for the Programme for the Decade to make an impact where it counted most, namely, among children and at the grassroots level, it was essential to provide material which could be easily duplicated and was simple and inexpensive. She therefore appealed to UNESCO and the Office of Public Information to take those criteria and the specific needs of countries like the Philippines into account when planning their activities in connexion with the Decade.

42. Mr. AZIZ (International Labour Organisation) said that the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had been brought to the notice of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office at its one hundred and ninety-first session in November 1973 and would be borne in mind in carrying out ILO activities in that field during the Decade. The measures taken or contemplated by the ILO in connexion with paragraphs 13 to 17 of the Programme were set forth in document E/5474.

43. He wished to lay stress on the problem of migrant workers, which often raised questions of discrimination and seemed to be growing in size and becoming more acute. A number of international instruments aimed at alleviating the difficulties of migrant workers and ensuring equality of treatment had been adopted by the ILO over the years. One of them was the Recommendation concerning the Protection of Migrant Workers in Underdeveloped Countries and Territories, of 1955,¹ which applied to both internal and international migration; it set forth the principle that any discrimination against migrant workers should be eliminated and contained provisions advocating equality of opportunity and treatment for migrant workers. Moreover, the Convention and Recommendation concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation, of 1958,² dealt expressly with discrimination based on race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion or social or national origin.

44. The ILO had welcomed the visit in June of Mrs. Warzazi, whom the Committee undoubtedly knew was the Special Rapporteur on the question of exploitation of labour through illicit and clandestine trafficking for the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights. The ILO considered such visits to reflect the close co-operation existing between the United Nations and the

¹ International Labour Organisation, *Conventions and Recommendations, 1919-1966* (Geneva, 1966) Recommendation No. 100.

² *Ibid.*, *Convention and Recommendation No. 111*.

ILO and was certain that that co-operation would also continue in the arrangements for the supervision of the new instruments once they were adopted. The ILO was very pleased that the Director of the Division of Human Rights had been able to address the Conference Committee on Migrant Workers.

45. At its fifty-ninth session, the International Labour Conference had considered the texts of a proposed Convention and a proposed Recommendation dealing with migration under abusive conditions and equality of opportunity and treatment. The two instruments were expected to be adopted by the Conference in 1975. He wished to stress that the preamble to the proposed Convention would refer to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The ILO hoped that the United Nations would be fully associated with the implementation of the Convention once it was adopted. It would call on States parties systematically to determine whether there were any movements of migrants departing from, passing through or arriving in their territories for employment in which the migrants were subject to conditions contravening relevant international, multi-lateral or bilateral instruments or agreements. It would call for several penal sanctions against any individual or group organizing movements of migrants for employment involving the above-mentioned abuses.

46. A parallel Recommendation would specify the policy by which equality of opportunity and treatment should be assured and would call on Member States to foster public understanding of the principle of equal opportunity. It would urge countries to adopt social policies in favour of migrant workers, including, in particular, aid in reuniting migrants with their families and in warning migrant workers about safety and health hazards. The proposed Recommendation would provide that migrant workers lawfully resident in the territory of a member country and the members of their families should enjoy effective equality of opportunity and treatment with nationals of the member country concerned in respect, *inter alia*, of access to vocational guidance and placement services, security of tenure of employment, remuneration for work of equal value, membership in trade unions, conditions of work and living conditions.

47. The ILO looked forward to continuing the close co-operation it had enjoyed with the United Nations in the years to come.

48. Mrs. DE BARISH (Costa Rica) said that her delegation attached great importance to the question under consideration and applauded the Committee's decision to place it first on the agenda. There was no doubt that, as a result of the inauguration of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, there had been a marked upsurge in the activities of all the organs of the United Nations system, the specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and the Member States themselves. Her delegation hoped that that trend would continue and be intensified as the various stages in the Programme for the Decade were put into effect. The Decade should be marked by an ever firmer will to overcome the obstacles to the genuine implementation of the principle that all men were equal, leading to the eradication of the myth of racial superiority, which all knew to have no foundation in fact.

Racial discrimination was one of the most shameful blots on the history of mankind and had caused unspeakable suffering and the sacrifice of many human lives. When it was condoned by the State, as was the case with *apartheid* in South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia, it became an evil policy which had been vigorously repudiated and condemned by the international community as a crime against humanity.

49. Among the measures to implement the Programme for the Decade, her delegation had been particularly interested in those taken or contemplated by specialized agencies such as the ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO and UPU (see E/5474 and A/9666 and Add.1 and 2). A salient point touched upon in the Programme concerned the question of elimination of discrimination against migrant workers in respect of employment. In that connexion, she had listened with interest to the remarks made by the representative of the ILO. The Freedom from Hunger Campaign of FAO was a positive contribution to the Decade, as were the activities of UNESCO, including the preparation of a draft declaration based on the 1967 Statement on Race and Racial Prejudice, referred to by the representative of UNESCO at the previous meeting. The latter had also referred to a concerted programme of research and had announced that UNESCO would continue activities aimed at promoting a better understanding of the systems of racial discrimination prevailing in southern Africa. That whole range of activities would be of great value in assisting Governments in the task of providing information and education and in adopting remedial measures within their own systems. It was essential that future generations should be imbued with a genuine appreciation of the concept of equality of human beings in respect of race, colour, sex or national origin and that the old myths and prejudices of racial superiority should be eliminated.

50. The Programme for the Decade emphasized the importance of accession by States to international instruments aimed at eliminating racial discrimination, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which had already entered into force and which Costa Rica had ratified as early as 1967. Her Government had participated in the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination since its inception, and had already supplied two reports and two additional reports requested of it by the body, which had been judged satisfactory.

51. One month after the inauguration of the Decade on 10 December 1973, her Government had declared that Costa Rica recognized the competence of CERD, under article 14 of the Convention, to receive and consider communications from individuals or groups of individuals within its jurisdiction claiming to be victims of a violation by Costa Rica of any of the rights set forth in the Convention. Her Government had thereby wished to demonstrate its intention of co-operating in a sustained effort to ensure the success of the Decade.

52. Her Government was currently preparing plans to co-ordinate activities among various ministries and the University of Costa Rica with a view to carrying out activities recommended in the Programme.

53. In conclusion, she said that Costa Rica was making every effort to intensify the work of education and information on the subject of racial discrimination and *apartheid*, as a preventive rather than a remedial measure, with a view to promoting respect for the dignity of human beings, one of the loftiest purposes embodied in the Charter of the United Nations.

54. Miss DUBRA (Uruguay) expressed concern that the problem of racial discrimination, an affront to human dignity which flagrantly violated the purposes and principles of the Charter, continued to exist at the present day.

55. Uruguay had not only ratified, as far back as 1968, the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, but it had been one of the first four countries to make the declaration provided for in article 14 of the Convention and it enthusiastically supported the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. It would do everything in its power to assist in the co-ordination of efforts between the United Nations, its specialized agencies and Member States to implement the basic strategy for the final eradication of an evil which posed a challenge to the moral conscience of mankind.

56. Uruguay repudiated all forms of racial discrimination. Its traditions and its positive law were incompatible with any discriminatory practice on grounds of race, sex, religion or ethnic origin. Article 8 of the Uruguayan Constitution stated that all persons were equal before the law. Racial discrimination did not exist in Uruguay, nor was it tolerated by the laws of the country. In conformity with its consistent stand on the issue under consideration, Uruguay was studying the possibility of elaborating additional educational programmes at the national level to promote respect for human rights and to give the widest possible publicity to the principle of non-discrimination.

57. In conclusion, she expressed the hope that the current Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would be the first and last such decade. The international community, now more than ever, was called upon to unite in order to eliminate evils like racism, racial discrimination, *apartheid* and colonialism, so that in the future it could direct its efforts to the elimination of other great scourges of mankind, such as underdevelopment, hunger, disease and war.

58. Mr. RAZA (Pakistan) recalled that at the 2053rd meeting he had made clear the position of his Government with regard to the question under consideration. His Government faithfully adhered to the tenets of Islam, which had from the outset excluded all distinctions based on race or colour and promised the brotherhood of man throughout the world.

59. At the previous meeting, the representative of Saudi Arabia had made a moving statement warning the present Governments of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia to see the writing on the wall, as Portugal had already done, and to bow to the dictates of international opinion. However, the representative of South Africa had not attended that meeting or any other meetings of the Committee. As a practical suggestion, therefore, he appealed to the Chairman

to call on the South African delegation to send a representative to attend the meetings of the Committee, so that the latter's views might eventually be heard by the Pretoria régime.

60. Mr. HUSSAMY (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the great achievements of the Committee in the past formed a solid foundation on which it could build its work at the current and future sessions. In his comprehensive introductory statement at the 2053rd meeting, the Director of the Division of Human Rights had thrown light on the questions that would constitute the essence of the Committee's future work, and his delegation agreed with the Director's remarks on the need for all Member States to accede to and implement the various international instruments on human rights, to adhere to the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to participate in the work of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. His delegation also shared the Director's view that priority should be given to the question of guaranteeing the right of colonial peoples to self-determination.

61. The concept of race had never been recognized as a constituent element of Arab nationalism. The social structure of the Syrian Arab Republic, based as it was on the integration of the population regardless of origin or colour and on the co-existence of the various religions, left no loop-hole for the appearance of any form of discrimination in any area. At the national level, its Permanent Constitution provided for full equality among all citizens in the political, economic and cultural spheres as well as in the field of public and individual rights. The Syrian Penal Code provided for the punishment of any individuals who or groups which advocated discrimination or sought to provoke communal strife.

62. At the international level, the Syrian Republic had consistently supported the struggle of all peoples to realize their right to self-determination and rid themselves of colonialism and racial discrimination. It had been the first country to sign the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*. It had acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and to the two International Covenants on Human Rights. It had also expressed its willingness to participate fully in the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

63. The Zionist entity, based essentially on racism and colonization, continued to engage—with regard to the population of the occupied Syrian territory—in practices motivated by the racist objective of negating the national and individual existence of the Arabs. The successive reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories attested to the fact that Israel, which persisted in its refusal to accede to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, had violated the internationally recognized principles on which that Convention was based. Moreover, the Zionist entity had prevented the Syrian Arab Republic from fulfilling its obligations under the Convention in the occupied territory of Syria even though, according to the

principles of international law, occupation did not abolish sovereignty. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had confirmed that fact as well as the obligation to apply the provisions of that Convention in the occupied territory of Syria when, during its tenth session, it had considered the third report of the Syrian Arab Republic on the application of the Convention. Following the Syrian representative's statement containing supplementary information, the Committee by its decision 1 (X) had unanimously expressed concern over the deteriorating condition of the population in the occupied Syrian territory as a result of the inability of the Syrian Arab Republic, owing to Israeli occupation, to fulfil its obligations under the Convention in part of its territory. It had also asked the General Assembly to take the necessary steps in order to enable the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to take over full responsibility for the implementation of its obligations under the Convention on its whole national soil. His delegation hoped that the report of CERD on its ninth and tenth sessions³ would soon be distributed to the Third Committee.

64. In conclusion, while thanking the Secretary-General for the reports he had submitted to the Committee in connexion with the item under consideration, his delegation wished to point out that in the documents containing the replies of Member States to two notes by the Secretary-General requesting them to provide information on the measures they had taken to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination and on their willingness to participate in the observance of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, no reference was made to the reports on those two issues communicated to the Secretary-General by the Syrian Arab Republic in two memoranda of 20 May and 5 June 1974. His delegation

³ Subsequently issued as document A/9618.

hoped that mention would be made of those reports in future documentation.⁴

65. Miss HARELI (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, expressed surprise that a representative of the Syrian Government, which barely a year earlier had launched a vicious military attack on Israel, had seen fit to bring up completely unwarranted allegations in the Committee.

66. The areas which as a result of war were administered by the Israeli Government were accessible to the Red Cross, the press and all persons who had a legitimate interest in visiting them. Anyone visiting those areas would discover for himself that the allegations made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic were unfounded. Such allegations were justified, however, in respect of the persecuted Jewish minority that lived in that country and suffered in silence. It had been rightly pointed out in the Committee that racism and racial discrimination should be eliminated wherever they occurred. In the Syrian Arab Republic, those evils were suffered by a truly helpless minority of Jews.

67. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the time-limit for the submission of draft resolutions on the item under consideration and amendments to the draft resolution already before the Committee should be 3 p.m. on Tuesday, 8 October.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.

⁴ A summary of the information provided in those reports appears in A/9666/Add.4, dated 7 October 1974.

2058th meeting

Monday, 7 October 1974, at 10.45 a.m.

Chairman: Mrs. Aminata MARICO (Mali).

A/C.3/SR.2058

AGENDA ITEM 53

Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (*continued*) (A/9603, chap. I, chap. V, sect. C.1; A/9666 and Add.1-3, A/9719, E/5474, E/5475):

- (a) Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*);
- (c) Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*)

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. Ms. NURU (United Republic of Tanzania) said the fact that the item under consideration was perennially on the agenda of the General Assembly was a clear manifestation

of the grave concern felt by the world community in respect of racism and racial discrimination. The Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had the full support of the Tanzanian Government and people. It had been the task of the Tanzanian Government to fight against racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* since independence and the people of Tanzania would not rest until those evils were eradicated.

2. The fight against racism, racial discrimination, *apartheid* and colonialism was waged through the external service of Radio Tanzania, whose broadcasts were specifically beamed to southern Africa. The racist régime in South Africa was working hard to frustrate those efforts. Measures had been taken in South Africa and Namibia to end the importation of short-wave wireless receivers so as to prevent the local