

**United Nations**  
**GENERAL**  
**ASSEMBLY**

**FORTIETH SESSION**

**Official Records\***



THIRD COMMITTEE  
19th meeting  
held on  
Tuesday, 22 October 1985  
at 7 p.m.  
New York

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 19th MEETING**

Chairman: Mr. ZADOR (Hungary)

**CONTENTS**

AGENDA ITEM 89: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE:  
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 90: WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION (continued)

(a) WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

(b) POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS AS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN  
DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE FULL REALIZATION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS: REPORT OF  
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 91: NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN ACHIEVING FAR-REACHING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC  
CHANGES FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOCIAL PROGRESS: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
(continued)

AGENDA ITEM 95: POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES RELATING TO YOUTH: REPORT OF THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 96: QUESTION OF AGING: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 97: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION CONCERNING  
DISABLED PERSONS AND UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF DISABLED PERSONS: REPORT OF THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 98: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (continued)

(a) REPORT OF THE SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME  
AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS (continued)

/...

\*This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

CONTENTS (continued)

- (b) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (c) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 89: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/40/64, 256, 298, 336, 359, 390, 546, 570, 626, 701, 706, 768; A/C.3/40/4; A/C.3/40/L.3)

AGENDA ITEM 90: WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION (continued) (A/40/3, 342, 458, 489, 513 and Corr.1, 544, A/40/643; E/CN.4/1985/10 and Add.1-2; E/CN.5/1985/2/Rev.1)

(a) WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

(b) POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS AS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE FULL REALIZATION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 91: NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN ACHIEVING FAR-REACHING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOCIAL PROGRESS: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/40/3, 65 and Add.1, 78, 672)

AGENDA ITEM 95: POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES RELATING TO YOUTH: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/40/3, 389, 631)

AGENDA ITEM 96: QUESTION OF AGING: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/40/3, 714)

AGENDA ITEM 97: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION CONCERNING DISABLED PERSONS AND UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF DISABLED PERSONS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/40/3, 728)

AGENDA ITEM 98: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (continued) (A/40/482 and Corr.1-2, 751; A/CONF.121/22)

(a) REPORT OF THE SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS (continued)

(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

1. Mr. DROEGE (Federal Republic of Germany), noted that, at the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Milan in August/September 1985, a number of legal instruments had been put forward which promoted international co-operation in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. The Congress had also considered the problem of the international economic order in the context of crime prevention and, in that

/...

(Mr. Droege, Federal Republic of Germany)

regard, had adopted Guiding Principles which the Federal Republic of Germany could accept only with certain reservations, since they could be interpreted one-sidedly. While there were social reasons for criminality, there was no causal link between criminality and the current world economic order as such.

2. The causes of criminality should be fought rather by promoting structural improvements and raising the standard of living of the population in individual Member States. With that understanding, the Federal Republic of Germany would be watchful in future negotiations in specialized bodies to see that those principles were recognized as being only one way among others of combating crime.

3. The Milan Plan of Action and some of the resolutions adopted were steps in the right direction, particularly with regard to organized crime, terrorism and drug-related offences. The Congress had made an important contribution to the International Youth Year with the adoption of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice. By taking a positive stance towards the general rules on justice and equity for victims of crime and victims of arbitrariness and by condemning summary executions, the international community was championing, in the final analysis, the preservation of human rights while denouncing any arbitrary use of power. To that extent, the Federal Republic of Germany welcomed the outcome of the Congress.

4. Mr. MITREV (Bulgaria), noted that the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, as a basic document, showed that the solution of social problems and the gradual improvement of the well-being of nations required profound socio-economic transformations. Bulgaria's experience confirmed that as well. Only if social justice and political and social equality were achieved could there be talk of genuine humanism, prosperity and progress for all.

5. The 1985 Report on the World Social Situation (E/CN.5/1985/2/Rev.1) contained interesting data on the developed capitalist countries and general information on the developing countries which provided an idea of the general situation and the problems to be solved. Certain positive aspects notwithstanding, the world social situation was, by and large, a cause for concern. In the fortieth anniversary year of the United Nations, 500 million persons were suffering from hunger; every second black child in Africa suffered from chronic malnutrition, half of mankind lived in malaria-infested regions, hundreds of millions of persons were unemployed, especially in the developed capitalist countries, and three fourths of the world's population lacked medical services.

6. The grave situation in the developing countries, which was largely the result of colonialism, had been further aggravated by the neo-colonialist policy pursued against them. The wealthy countries were exploiting the poor countries, according to the sociologist Maurice Duverger, just as the bourgeoisie exploited the proletariat in capitalist societies. According to the same author, the sacrifice made by wealthy nations to help underdeveloped nations was less than the benefits which they gained from the low cost of raw materials purchased in those same countries.

/...

(Mr. Mitrev, Bulgaria)

7. Unfortunately, that analysis was still valid today. For every dollar invested in developing countries, transnational corporations were gaining \$2.20 in profits. During the past decade, for example, United States transnational corporations had made 40-per-cent annual profits in the Latin American countries. That explained, to a large degree, the reasons for the disastrous financial situation in many developing countries and their economic, social and political problems.

8. At the same time, it was not possible to ignore another extremely alarming fact. Despite the hunger, poverty, illiteracy and disease in the world, and despite the cutting back of social programmes and the violation of the right to work in a number of developed countries, astronomical financial resources were being invested in the manufacture of armaments, the development of new weapons systems, the militarization of outer space and the stockpiling of ever greater arsenals of nuclear weapons, which in themselves represented a negation of the social development and progress of mankind. If those vast material and financial resources were used for economic and social development, as proposed in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development and in a number of United Nations resolutions, an immediate solution would be found to many social problems, particularly in the developing countries, and such action would make an invaluable contribution to the social progress and development of all countries and peoples.

9. Regrettably, the Report suffered from some substantial weaknesses which could not be overlooked. First of all, the situation in the socialist countries had been inadequately covered, and an excessive amount of space had been devoted to the developed capitalist countries. As a whole, the Report presented an insufficient picture of the achievements of the socialist countries in education, health care, employment and social security. As was well known, the experience of the socialist countries in that respect was considerable. Providing a better idea of what those countries had achieved would assist in solving the existing socio-economic problems of other countries.

10. Mrs. ASTAKHOVA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that there was a series of social problems which required immediate solution and that it was necessary for all nations to harmonize their activities towards that end. Those activities should not only be aimed at solving the particular problems of underdeveloped countries, but must also be oriented towards the elimination of obstacles to the economic and social development of peoples: colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, apartheid, aggression, foreign occupation and domination and all the other forms of exploitation and injustice.

11. The arms race and the worsening world situation helped to aggravate the world social situation. Resources that were currently being wasted on weapons could be used to solve the most acute social problems and for the advancement of developing countries. In order to achieve harmonious social development, it was necessary to co-ordinate the combined efforts of the international and national community.

12. If socio-economic development plans were to succeed, it was necessary that the broad sectors of the population should participate in them. Popular participation

/...

(Mrs. Astakhova, Ukrainian SSR)

in development must begin at the decision-making and planning stages. It was also necessary for Governments to invest in development projects. Only when those principles were put into practice would the basis have been laid for genuine development and the full enjoyment of human rights. Popular participation depended directly on the political situation, since even the most brilliant development plans would be doomed if they did not have the support of a broad sector of the population.

13. Socio-economic development was impossible without legislation guaranteeing workers' and social rights. In a society in which the means of production were owned by the people themselves and in which there were socio-economic guarantees, the bases would exist for broad social participation in development management. Those goals were included in the draft guidelines for the Ukrainian SSR's economic and social development up to the year 2000.

14. The item on national experience in achieving social and economic changes for social progress was important, since the exchange of experience could open new horizons and perspectives for social progress in developing countries, with a view to putting an end to neo-colonialism and the influence of transnational corporations. In some countries substantial progress had been made through such measures as nationalization of important industries, agrarian reform, governmental control of key sectors of the economy and economic planning.

15. The Ukrainian SSR, which had been converted from a backward into a modern country, understood the aspirations of the developing countries which desired self-sufficiency and independence. Social development could be achieved only through far-reaching changes of the economic and social structure. Nationalization of the means of production, industrialization, agrarian reform, promotion of socialist co-operatives in agriculture and broad popular participation created a material basis whereby citizens could enjoy the other social and cultural rights.

16. In the Ukrainian SSR, social changes had been achieved in a relatively brief period. The country was now an important industrial Power with a highly-developed agricultural sector. In addition, the economic potential of the country was constantly growing. For example, the volume of industrial production for 1983 had increased by 15.8 per cent in comparison with that of 1940. In the past five years, income levels had increased by 21 per cent. It should be pointed out that the country had had to overcome the consequences of the Fascist invasion, which had caused enormous losses. It had succeeded not only in restoring the economy but also in ensuring the material and cultural development of the people.

17. It had succeeded in raising the standard of living of the population. An indication of that was the increase in workers' incomes and pensions. Social services, too, had been increased in the areas of medical aid, education, vacations, pensions and pre-school education. In recent years, assistance had been given to large families and to young families. Housing construction had increased and rents were never higher than 3 per cent of the family budget.

(Mrs. Astakhova, Ukrainian SSR)

18. The experience of the socialist countries demonstrated the basic role of the State in such matters. The State must effect the necessary economic changes in order to achieve social progress. It was only on that basis that an overall improvement of society could be achieved and the material and cultural level of the population raised.

19. Mrs. UMAÑA (Colombia) said that the purpose of the debates on the social items before the Third Committee was the full restoration of human dignity. That dignity went hand-in-hand with development, which was still out of reach of the third world, because of the persistence of unfair economic relations and power imbalances. There was a lack of the necessary international solidarity which, by recognizing the growing world interdependence, could begin to remove inequalities.

20. With respect to item 95, in Colombia various governmental and non-governmental bodies had prepared 140 programmes in various areas for observance of the International Youth Year. There was now more awareness that youth between 15 and 24 years of age numbered some 6.4 million, or 23.1 per cent of the population. In the past 20 years, the growth rate of that group had increased by approximately 100 per cent; 70.8 per cent of them currently resided in urban areas, a phenomenon which led to unemployment, drug addiction, prostitution and juvenile delinquency. It was essential for the development of the country that youth should participate in the search for speedy solutions.

21. With respect to item 96, in order to ensure that the older members of the population had the possibility of a dignified life, it was necessary to implement fully the recommendations of the World Assembly on Aging, held at Vienna in 1982. The problems of old people, including abandonment, the lack of attention that their frail physical condition required, and the growing waste of their experience, which could be used to enhance knowledge of the social ills that beset societies, had not received proper attention. Her delegation supported the idea that a committee of experts, assisted by the Secretariat, might study the possibility of establishing an independent body, dedicated exclusively to the problems of aging, which could arouse world solidarity, gain the trust of the financial sectors concerned and serve as a co-ordinator for the programmes on aging which existed in other areas of the United Nations, without strengthening or weakening any specific bureaucratic structure.

22. In the first week of October 1985, the second international competition for the disabled had been held in Colombia, a competition of occupational skills which helped to demonstrate the capacity for social integration of the physically incapacitated, who, through the great effort required to overcome their handicaps, gained self-achievement and transmitted to society the greatest achievement within mankind's reach, inner peace.

23. Colombia attached great importance to the achievements of the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, especially the elaboration of rules to ensure full respect for the human rights of offenders and the fight against drug-trafficking.

/...

24. Mr. POMPL (Austria) said that youth did not understand or accept the explanations given to them about the many serious unsolved problems of today, such as the fact that two thirds of mankind suffered from hunger while never before in history had so much been spent for military purposes, that throughout the world human rights were being violated, or that young people were not permitted to participate in decisions and determine their own future. The result of that lack of participation was that young people distanced themselves from politics and society, joined sects or resorted to riots, drugs or juvenile delinquency. Another of the problems confronting them was growing youth unemployment. In that connection, Austria had submitted a draft resolution.

25. Another cause for concern was a reduction in intellectual activities observed among an ever-growing number of people who isolated themselves from cultural, artistic, and social activities, and did not know how to enjoy leisure time or to communicate with others.

26. Working youth faced the problems of adaptation from school life to working life, their new relationship of dependence and their new position in society. Within the United Nations system, the International Labour Organisation was especially qualified to solve that type of problem.

27. Youth wished to speak, debate and learn, and needed love in the home, in school, at work and in society. Adults who learned to understand them would find their lives greatly enriched. To that end, it was important that the International Youth Year should not be allowed to pass without the opportunity being provided for youth to have a voice in the General Assembly of the United Nations not only today but also in the future.

The meeting rose at 7.50 p.m.