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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 56th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SOMAVIA (Chile)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.55 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/45/3)

Draft resolution on International Year for the World's Indigenous People
(A/C.3/45/L.84)

1. Mr. MARANTZ (Canada), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, who were joined by New Zealand and Vanuatu, said that its aim was to promote international co-operation for the solution of the many problems facing indigenous communities. It called upon Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in addition to the organizations of the United Nations system, to consider the contributions they could make to the success of the International Year and authorized the Secretary-General to administer voluntary contributions from the former. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution on enforced or involuntary disappearances (A/C.3/45/L.85)

2. Mr. GOMPERTZ (France), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, who were joined by the United States, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, said that the text differed little from General Assembly resolution 44/160, which had been adopted at the last session by consensus.

3. The preamble contained a new paragraph 4 concerning the harassment of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of disappeared persons because they were so often the targets of harassment. A new operative paragraph 4 had also been added, which noted with satisfaction that the Working Group on Detention of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities had completed work on the draft declaration on the protection of all persons from enforced or involuntary disappearances. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution on human rights in the administration of justice (A/C.3/45/L.86)

4. Mr. SCHERK (Austria), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors as well as New Zealand and the Netherlands, said that the draft recognized the significant work accomplished in human rights in the administration of justice under the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme especially by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and in particular with respect to the formulation and application of United Nations norms and standards.

5. In the interest of achieving a consensus, he proposed a few minor amendments. In preambular paragraph 6, the words "with a view to making final recommendations" should be deleted. In the last preambular paragraph, the date should be changed to read "15 December 1989". In operative paragraph 7, after the words "requests the Commission on Human Rights" he proposed to insert the clause "bearing in mind the work of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control". In the third line of

(Mr. Scherk, Austria)

operative paragraph 8 (b), and in the second line of operative paragraph 9, the word "sample" should be deleted. At the end of operative paragraph 12, he proposed the addition of the following words: "on the basis of a report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution".

Draft resolution on regional arrangements for the promotion of human rights
(A/C.3/45/L.87)

6. Mr. RIETJENS (Belgium), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that Belgium was firmly convinced that the regional approach was the most appropriate for making international law more applicable to the individual, taking into account his/her particular characteristics and circumstances. The Belgian delegation believed that regional arrangements were the best channels for applying the principles of human rights through the appropriate promotion and monitoring mechanisms. Those arrangements enabled regions to learn from each other and international and regional activities should be mutually reinforcing. The actual implementation of regional arrangements remained the primary responsibility of the States concerned. The draft resolution under consideration should be seen against that background and regarded as the logical extension of General Assembly resolution 43/152, which had been adopted without a vote in 1988.

7. The draft resolution sought inter alia to encourage consideration of further means of improving co-operation between regional and international human rights bodies without dictating how that should be accomplished. Emphasis was placed on encouraging useful contacts, the exchange of information and experience and practical training. The programme of advisory services in human rights was proposed as a useful framework for information and/or training courses for national personnel on the application of international human rights standards.

8. The draft also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session and to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the state of regional arrangements. He hoped that, as in previous years, the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution on regional human rights arrangements in the Asian and Pacific region (A/C.3/45/L.88)

9. Mr. CABOCHAN (Philippines) introducing draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.88 on behalf of the original sponsors and Indonesia, Samoa and Vanuatu, drew particular attention to the fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs which noted with appreciation the reports of the seminars and human rights training courses held in the Asian and Pacific region under the United Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights and the designation of the Social Development Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) as a human rights focal point.

10. Reviewing the text of the operative part of the draft resolution, he expressed gratification concerning the designation of the ESCAP library as the depository

(Mr. Cabochan, Philippines)

centre for United Nations human rights materials in the Asian and Pacific region and drew attention to the invitation to States members of ESCAP to communicate their comments on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Seminar on National, Local and Regional Arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian region to the Secretary-General. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution on international co-operation in solving international problems and promoting human rights (A/C.3/45/L.89)

11. Mr. OLINYNK (Ukrainian SSR), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors as well as Austria, Canada, Hungary, Madagascar, Mongolia and Poland, said that he welcomed the fact that the principle of a non-political approach to the question was being increasingly asserted in international humanitarian efforts. The draft resolution had been intended to reflect that positive spirit. He reviewed the provisions and expressed the hope that the draft resolution would, as at the last General Assembly session, be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution on the human rights situation in Kuwait (A/C.3/45/L.19)

12. Mr. RAZOQI (Kuwait), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors as well as El Salvador, Netherlands, Somalia and Vanuatu, said that it described some of the flagrant violations of human rights perpetrated by the Iraqi occupiers. Kuwait had become a large prison and a torture chamber. The international community should press Iraq to allow humanitarian organizations, in particular the International Committee of the Red Cross, to help alleviate the suffering of the Kuwaiti people. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.