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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 55th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SOMAVIA (Chile)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 107: OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
(continued) (A/C.3/45/L.60, L.61, L.63, L.64 and L.65)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take action on the draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 107 and said that they had no programme budget implications.

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.60

2. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take action on the draft resolution entitled "International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa", introduced at the 49th meeting by the representative of Tunisia on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations who were members of the Group of African States.

3. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.60 was adopted.

4. Mr. WALLDROP (United States of America) stressed that while his delegation had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution, it none the less had reservations about the text. In its view, the second, fourth and seventh preambular paragraphs and paragraph 5 no longer corresponded to the real situation. The wording of the draft resolution should have been revised to take into account the recent improvement in the situation in southern Africa.

5. Mr. CUTTAFVI (Italy), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, also expressed regret that the second, fourth and seventh preambular paragraphs and paragraph 5 of the draft resolution did not take into account the positive developments in the situation in southern Africa.

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.61

6. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take action on the draft resolution entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees", introduced at the 49th meeting by the Philippines on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Chad, Ethiopia and Yugoslavia.

7. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.61 was adopted.

8. Mr. WALLDROP (United States of America) said that his country recognized the importance of the assistance provided to refugees by the countries of first asylum and transit countries which had sponsored the draft resolution. However, the United States was opposed, on principle, to the enlargement of any committee, including the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and his delegation had not, therefore, supported resolution L.61.

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.63

9. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take action on the draft resolution entitled "Emergency humanitarian assistance to Liberian refugees and displaced persons", introduced at the 49th meeting by the representative of Guinea on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, France, Guatemala and Guyana. The Secretariat had taken note of corrections to the French version.

10. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.63 was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.64

11. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take action on the draft resolution entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees", introduced at the 49th meeting by the representative of Sweden on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Argentina, Djibouti, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Nigeria and the Philippines.

12. Miss KAMAL (Secretary of the Committee) recalled that in introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Sweden had made the following oral revisions: in the eighth preambular paragraph, the words "are commensurate with" had been replaced by the word "meet"; in the ninth preambular paragraph, the words "timely and" had been deleted.

13. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.64, as orally revised, was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.65

14. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take action on the draft resolution entitled "International Conference on Central American Refugees", introduced at the 49th meeting by the representative of Guatemala on behalf of the sponsors.

15. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.65 was adopted.

16. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take up the draft resolutions submitted under the sixth cluster of items and said that they had no programme budget implications.

AGENDA ITEM 89: EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS INSTRUMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF BODIES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SUCH INSTRUMENTS (continued) (A/C.3/45/L.50)

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.50

17. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the draft resolution entitled "Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights". He recalled that in introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Canada had orally revised paragraph 6 to read as follows:

(The Chairman)

"Encourages the Secretary-General to proceed with the circulation to the various States parties to the United Nations human rights instruments, as soon as possible, of the detailed reporting manual to assist States in the fulfilment of their reporting obligation;"

He also pointed out that in paragraph 16, the word "meeting" in the second line should read "meetings", and announced that Germany, Poland and Saint Kitts and Nevis had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

18. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.50 was adopted without a vote.

19. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 89.

AGENDA ITEM 93: HUMAN RIGHTS AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS
(continued) (A/C.3/45/L.47, L.48, L.57/Rev.1, L.66)

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.47

20. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the draft resolution entitled "Human rights and scientific and technological developments" and said that France, Greece and Samoa had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

21. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.47 was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.48

22. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the draft resolution entitled "Human rights and scientific and technological developments", which Togo had joined in sponsoring.

23. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.48 was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.57/Rev.1

24. The CHAIRMAN proposed deferring a decision on the draft resolution entitled "Need to ensure a healthy environment for the well-being of individuals" to allow further consultations to take place.

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.66

25. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the draft resolution entitled "Guidelines for the regulation of computerized personal data files".

26. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.66 was adopted without a vote.

27. Mr. FULDA (Germany) said that his Government had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution, although it had reservations with regard to principles (3), (5), (6) and (8). Those reservations were set out in document A/44/606.

28. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 93.

AGENDA ITEM 97: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
(continued) (A/C.3/45/L.51)

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.51

29. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Rights of the Child" and he said that the following countries had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution: Botswana, Cameroon, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Lesotho, Niger, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

30. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.51 was adopted without a vote.

31. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 97.

AGENDA ITEM 105: INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS (continued)
(A/C.3/45/L.53)

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.53

32. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the draft resolution entitled "International Covenants on Human Rights".

33. Mr. DUHS (Sweden) said that Cyprus had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

34. Mr. AL-SAUD (Saudi Arabia) said that his country had joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.53. He nevertheless wished to indicate his reservations with regard to the reference, in the fourth and seventh preambular paragraphs and in paragraphs 8, 10 and 19, to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Saudi Arabia was not a party.

35. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.53 was adopted without a vote.

36. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 105.

**AGENDA ITEM 106: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE (continued)
(A/C.3/45/L.55)**

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.55

37. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the draft resolution entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance" and said that Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji and Senegal had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

38. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.55 was adopted without a vote.

39. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 106.

AGENDA ITEM 109: TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT (continued) (A/C.3/45/L.49, L.52, L.54)

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.49

40. The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee that Seychelles had been listed erroneously as a sponsor of the draft resolution. It should be replaced by Senegal. In addition, Romania had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

41. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.49 was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.52

42. The CHAIRMAN announced that the United States of America had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

43. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.52 was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.54

44. The CHAIRMAN announced that Burundi, Costa Rica, Guinea, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Niger and Nigeria had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

45. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.54 was adopted without a vote.

46. Mr. CUTTAFVI (Italy), speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community, said that the Twelve had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution under consideration because they condemned the torture and inhuman treatment of children in detention in South Africa and everywhere else in the world. However, the Twelve regretted that the resolution did not appropriately reflect the evolution of the situation in South Africa since the adoption of resolution 44/143 on the issue.

47. Mr. WALLDROP (United States of America) said that his delegation had not opposed the adoption without a vote of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.54 but had reservations about paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, which did not take sufficient account of the considerable progress made in recent years towards a settlement in South Africa.

48. Mr. DUHS (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that the five Nordic countries adhered to the principles set forth in the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and in the Declaration on the Rights of the Child. Those principles should be universally respected, and the violations they suffered in South Africa were deplorable. However, the text of the newly adopted resolution would have been preferable if it had taken more fully into account the changes which had occurred in South Africa.

AGENDA ITEM 110: ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PRINCIPLE OF PERIODIC AND GENUINE ELECTIONS (continued) (A/C.3/45/L.56, L.58, L.59, L.96)

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.56

49. The CHAIRMAN recalled that, in document A/C.3/45/L.96, Cuba had introduced amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.56.

50. Mr. MORA (Cuba), introducing the amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.56, said that the United Republic of Tanzania was also sponsoring the amendments. The Cuban delegation felt that draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.56 did not take into account the resolution adopted by consensus the preceding year (A/RES/44/146), which had been the result of long and difficult negotiations and which had contained components that were important to many of the countries represented in the Third Committee, particularly the reference to apartheid, the reaffirmation of national sovereignty and the recognition that no single system could serve as a model for all societies. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.56 not only included components that did not correspond to any General Assembly directive, but even contravened Article 2, paragraph 7, of the United Nations Charter.

51. While it was true that the United Nations had provided electoral assistance in very special cases that should be considered in the context of decolonization, nothing seemed to indicate that countries tended to request that type of assistance from the United Nations. The draft resolution should be amended to reflect considerations on which a consensus had been reached previously.

52. Moreover, paragraph 8 had been omitted. Cuba had introduced paragraph 8, which was among the most important. In that paragraph, the General Assembly, echoing paragraph 8 of resolution 44/146, called upon the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of appropriate ways and means of enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections, in the context of full respect for the sovereignty of Member States, and to report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. That paragraph was especially important inasmuch as the Commission had not pursued its consideration as requested, so that the General Assembly did not have the benefit of that body's views. The Commission on Human Rights must therefore be called upon again to fulfil its mandate. After reading out paragraph 8 of resolution 44/146, he pointed out that the only changes his delegation had made to the paragraph in question concerned the number of the session of the Commission on Human Rights and of that of the General Assembly.

53. Miss ZINDOGA (Zimbabwe) said that her country had become a sponsor of the amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.56.

54. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should defer a decision on the draft proposals submitted under agenda item 110, i.e. draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.56 and its amendments contained in document A.C.3/45/L.96, as well as draft resolutions A/C.3/45/L.58 and L.59, until consultations on the item had been completed.

55. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
(A/C.3/45/L.62, L.69 to L.90)

56. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the draft resolutions which had been submitted under agenda item 12.

Draft decision A/C.3/45/L.62

57. Mr. HELLER (Mexico) introduced, on behalf of the sponsors, draft decision A/C.3/45/L.62 on the adoption of an international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families. The Working Group on the drafting of that convention had arrived at a consensus text (A/C.3/45/1), which had been submitted to the Third Committee. That text left only one question unanswered, namely, how the operating expenses of the Committee responsible for the application of the convention would be financed. Article 72, paragraph 8, of the draft convention suggested two alternatives. The draft decision under consideration proposed eliminating the brackets around the first half of paragraph 8 of that article and deleting all of the second half of the paragraph, which was also in brackets.

58. The universal nature of the rights set forth in the convention meant that all States were responsible for ensuring their respect. Consequently, the Committee should not be kept from fulfilling its mandate for financial reasons.

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.69

59. Mr. YEGOROV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) introduced, on behalf of the sponsors, draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.69 on the status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The draft resolution reaffirmed that genocide was a crime which violated the norms of international law and that it was necessary for all States to comply strictly with the Convention on that subject. The body of the resolution once again condemned the crime of genocide and reaffirmed the necessity of international co-operation in order to liberate mankind from it.

60. More than 100 States had ratified the Convention or had acceded to it. The delegations of the Republic of Poland and the Byelorussian SSR called on those States which had not yet become parties to the Convention to ratify it or accede thereto without further delay.

(Mr. Yegorov, Byelorussian SSR)

61. In the light of the rationalization of the work of the Third Committee, the sponsors of the draft resolution proposed in paragraph 5 that the next report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention should be considered at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly. They hoped that draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.69 would be adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.70

62. Mr. TROTTIER (Canada) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.70 regarding human rights and mass exoduses on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Samoa and the United States of America. In the draft resolution under consideration, the General Assembly invited all Governments and intergovernmental and humanitarian organizations concerned to intensify their co-operation in world-wide efforts to address the serious problems resulting from mass exoduses of refugees and displaced persons, and also the causes of such exoduses. It invited the Commission on Human Rights to keep the question of human rights and mass exoduses under review with a view to supporting the early-warning arrangement instituted by the Secretary-General to avert new massive flows of refugees and displaced persons. It welcomed the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "The co-ordination of activities related to early warning of possible refugee flows". It also requested the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to develop the role of the Office for Research and the Collection of Information of the Secretariat as a focal point for the operation of an effective early-warning system and the strengthening of co-ordination of information-gathering and analysis among United Nations agencies with a view to preventing new massive flows of refugees and displaced persons. Lastly, it invited agencies of the United Nations system to consider the most expedient ways and means of following up the recommendations on co-ordination of the Joint Inspection Unit. His delegation hoped that draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.70 would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.72

63. Ms. VASSILIOU (Greece), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, introduced draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.72 on developments relating to the activities of the Centre for Human Rights. She wished to begin by pointing out a technical omission. In the first line of paragraph 2, after the phrase "in conformity with his commitment", it was necessary to insert a footnote indicator for footnote 4, which was also indicated in paragraph 1 and referred to document E/1990/50, paragraph 59.

64. The report of the Secretary-General entitled "Situation and developments regarding the logistical and human rights resources support for the activities of the Centre for Human Rights in the field of human rights" showed that the Centre's work-load had increased in recent years while its resources had failed to keep pace with the increase in its responsibilities. The activities of the Centre were indeed numerous. They included the servicing of human rights treaty bodies, the protection of minorities, research, technical assistance, standard-setting and advisory services. Acting on that report, the Economic and Social Council had adopted resolution 1990/47, which requested the Secretary-General to submit a brief report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on actions taken in 1990

(Ms. Vassiliou, Greece)

and those planned for 1991, as interim solutions of those problems. Unfortunately, the Secretariat had not submitted that report to the Third Committee in time for it to be considered under agenda item 12. As a result, the Committee had not been able to express its views on the matter. It had been forced to prepare a resolution without having received the Secretary-General's proposals as to how the Centre's urgent needs, clearly described in document E/1990/50, could be met for the current biennium.

65. Paragraph 1 of the draft resolution under consideration requested the Secretary-General, in conformity with his commitment in paragraph 59 of his report (E/1990/50), to include in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 programme and resource proposals for long-term solutions to the problems posed by the situation of the Centre.

66. Paragraph 2 requested the Secretary-General, in conformity with his commitment and in the context of the revised estimates for the current biennium, to submit to the General Assembly at its present session programme budget proposals, including proposals concerning human resources, that would provide interim solutions to the problems posed by the resource situation of the Centre.

67. Paragraph 3 requested that the report that had not been submitted to the Third Committee as requested in resolution 1990/47 of the Economic and Social Council should be submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its next session.

68. The last paragraph requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the resolution under consideration.

69. With respect to operative paragraph 2, which requested the Secretary-General to submit programme budget proposals - including proposals on human resources for 1991 - that would provide interim solutions to the Centre's urgent needs, the sponsors of the draft resolution under consideration had also requested a statement of the financial implications of that request. However, no such document had been provided. The absence of any of the requested information placed the Third Committee in a difficult position, and she suggested that a representative of the Secretariat should explain to the Committee how the Secretariat intended to approach the issues raised in paragraph 2. The Third Committee, which dealt with human rights questions, should have its say on the financing of the Centre, whose efforts to carry out its activities were all the more commendable since it had not received any additional support to date. The States Members of the United Nations had pledged to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and should do their utmost to help to improve the Centre's financial situation.

70. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) pointed out that expenditures relating to human rights amounted to less than 1 per cent of the United Nations budget. Her delegation had several times drawn attention to the Centre's financial difficulties without receiving a reply to its requests for information on the matter. It was essential to provide the Centre with additional human resources. In that connection, her delegation wondered whether, as a temporary solution, the staff of the United

(Mrs. Warzazi, Morocco)

Nations Council for Namibia, which had been dissolved, might not be reassigned to the Centre for Human Rights. In any case, her delegation associated itself with the concerns expressed by the representative of Greece and joined the sponsors of the draft resolution that delegation had submitted.

71. Mr. THORNBERRY (Director, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) said that the report requested by the representative of Greece had been approved the day before and was about to appear. The delay in issuing it had been caused by the many consultations that had been required not only with the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights but with Governments and many non-governmental organizations. Steps had been taken at the highest level to consider the question and, in particular, to make a quantitative analysis of the needs. A study of the Centre's management was in progress and it was already apparent from it that, apart from the unquestionable devotion of the Centre's staff, it suffered from an acute staff shortage. The problem was how to redeploy human resources to the Centre quickly, in view of the fact that financial resources were subject to strict control and that Member States had already established the priorities to be assigned in the programme budget for the 1990-1991 biennium. He did not see how those priorities could be changed in the middle of the biennium, especially as Member States insisted on the principle of a zero-growth budget.

72. Responding to the Moroccan representative's suggestion, he said it was not possible to reassign the staff of the former United Nations Council for Namibia to the Centre for Human Rights because the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had insisted that the savings resulting from the Council's dissolution should go to Member States. Moreover, the Contingency Fund for 1991, which amounted to \$15 million, had already been completely allocated. In those circumstances, the Secretariat's capacity to allocate additional resources to the Centre for Human Rights within the programme budget for the current biennium was extremely limited. It must be understood that the redeployment of resources to the Centre necessarily involved the curtailment of other programmes mandated by the deliberative bodies, and the Secretariat, whose attachment to the cause of human rights was beyond question, did not have a free hand. The question of the financing of human rights activities was even more difficult than the Moroccan representative had suggested in so far as expenditures in that field amounted in fact to only 0.7 per cent of the entire United Nations budget. Consequently, unless countries were appealed to for additional extrabudgetary contributions, he did not see how the additional resources the Centre needed could be obtained.

73. Ms. VASSILIOU (Greece) asked whether, in view of the fact that the Secretary-General recognized the urgency of the problem, the report to be issued contained specific proposals. Delegations could certainly not tell the Secretariat what it must do, but if the Secretariat considered human rights a dominant concern, it should make the necessary efforts to put forward proposals for temporary and long-term solutions to the problem.

74. Mr. BARKER (Australia) supported the Greek delegation and said that in his view the explanations put forward by the Director of the Office of the

(Mr. Barker, Australia)

Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management contained nothing new. His delegation regretted that the promised report had not yet been submitted to the Committee and did not understand the reasons for the delay.

75. Mr. DUHS (Sweden) said that his delegation agreed with the Greek and Australian delegations.

76. Mr. COTTAFVI (Italy), speaking on behalf of the Twelve Member States of the European Economic Community, supported the opinions just put forward and expressed the wish that, after delegations had seen the report, Mr. Thornberry might meet with the members of the Third Committee again before they finished their work. Although it was for Member States to decide what action to take, it would nevertheless be useful for them to have the views of a representative of the Secretariat.

77. Mr. MORA (Cuba) agreed with the Greek representative; it was important that the Centre's needs should be stated clearly in the report to be submitted. Cuba would also like to know if the report would contain information on the programmes to which any increase in the resources allocated to the Centre would be devoted and, if there was no increase, on what other solutions the Secretariat saw for the problem.

78. Mr. KHODAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the views of Greece, Sweden, Australia and Italy, and hoped that the Secretariat would put forward specific proposals quickly. To the degree that Member States entrusted new tasks to the Centre for Human Rights it was very important that the Centre be given adequate resources.

79. Mr. THORNBERRY (Director, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) said that the Secretariat's survey dealt more with the 1992-1993 biennium than with 1990-1991. The Secretary-General would consult the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights and re-examine the Centre's budget from a methodological point of view as well. As things now stood, he saw no other possibility than that of resorting to extrabudgetary funds, unless Member States decided to revise the priorities they had established for 1991.

80. He noted the comments of delegations concerning the delay in issuing the report. He would point out, however, that the confusion with respect to the exact nature of the report had not made the Secretariat's task easier. The representative of the USSR had put his finger on the problem: Governments assigned new tasks to the Centre but it was not given additional resources.

81. The CHAIRMAN thanked Mr. Thornberry for his participation in the discussion. He regretted, however, that the discussion had not taken place earlier rather than three days before the conclusion of the Third Committee's work. In terms of substance, the problem of inadequate resources was a familiar one to members of the Committee. What was important was to take a decision. The Italian delegation's proposal that the question should be reviewed with Mr. Thornberry after the members of the Third Committee had seen the forthcoming report was therefore useful.

82. Mr. KHODAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that if he had understood Mr. Thornberry correctly, the report did not contain specific proposals. Certainly, Member States entrusted new tasks to United Nations bodies, but they were entitled to expect the Secretariat to provide them with information on the needs entailed. When they had the relevant information, Member States could take an informed decision.

83. Mr. RAVEN (United Kingdom) said he agreed with the views just expressed. Pointing out that the report in question was in principle intended for the Fifth Committee, he asked if it could also be submitted to the Third Committee.

84. Mr. THORNBERRY (Director, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) said he would take note of the request made by the United Kingdom representative. The Secretariat would see if it was possible to respond positively to it.

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73

85. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco), introducing the draft resolution, thanked the sponsors for their fruitful co-operation and announced that Japan, Nepal, Turkey and Zaire had joined the list of sponsors. In the light of the events which had occurred in the world last year, the idea of holding a world conference on human rights seemed particularly appropriate. It appeared that, after years of confrontation, a consensus on the indivisibility of human rights had finally been reached. In the draft resolution, the General Assembly decided to convene, in 1993, a World Conference on Human Rights which would review the progress which had been made in that field since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and would examine ways and means to improve implementation of existing human rights standards and instruments. The draft resolution was essentially procedural in nature. It entrusted a Preparatory Committee, which was open to all Member States, with the task of making proposals regarding the agenda, date, duration and venue of the Conference, and of ensuring that preparations for the Conference took place at the international, regional and national levels. In order to avoid the problems which had been encountered by the preparatory committees for the recent conferences on the environment and on drugs, the Preparatory Committee would elect a five-member bureau. The sponsors would give careful consideration to the proposed amendments to the draft, provided that the amendments did not weaken the consensus which had already been reached on that text.

Draft decision A/C.3/45/L.74

86. Mr. FURE (Norway) said that Denmark had joined the list of sponsors of the draft decision. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations had been established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/131 for the purpose of providing financial assistance to representatives of indigenous communities and organizations which wished to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, which was a subsidiary organ of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. In 1989 and 1990, 58 representatives from 25 countries had benefited from the Fund, which had received,

(Mr. Fure, Norway)

during the same period, contributions amounting to \$US 209,383. Those contributions had been received from the Member States sponsoring the draft decision and from Switzerland, the Baha'i International Community and the Shimin Gaikou Centre in Japan. The sponsors hoped that there would be a consensus in the Third Committee to call on Governments, non-governmental organizations and representatives of indigenous groups to consider contributing to the Fund, and to disseminate information about its activities.

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.77

87. Mr. HELLER (Mexico) said that the Working Group on the Drafting of an International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families had completed its work at its last session, held from 29 May to 8 June 1990. The drafting of that text, which dealt with diverse questions relating to the rights of migrant workers, had required 11 years of work. The draft Convention, contained in document A/C.3/45/1, was the fruit of the continuous dialogue which had been established with representatives from the migrant workers' countries of origin and host countries. In the operative part of the draft, the General Assembly adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, called upon all Member States to consider acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, requested the Secretary-General and United Nations agencies and organizations to ensure the dissemination of information on the Convention, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a report on the status of the Convention.

88. Since the draft resolution had been prepared in a constructive spirit, with the wish to accommodate the points of view of all parties, and since it responded to the need to protect the rights of millions of migrant workers, he hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote. Finally, he announced that India, Lebanon and Nigeria had joined the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.81

89. Mr. METSO (Finland) said that Poland had joined the list of sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.81. In the draft resolution, after having recalled Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/65, which contained the Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions, and Council resolution 1989/64 on the implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, the General Assembly strongly condemned the large number of summary or arbitrary executions which continued to take place in various parts of the world. Further, the Assembly welcomed the Council's approval of the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur to consider the questions related to summary or arbitrary executions. Finally, the Assembly welcomed the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur with a view to eliminating such executions. His delegation hoped that, as in previous years, the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.82

90. Mr. MORA (Cuba) said that he was concerned at certain negative tendencies which had come to light during the debate on human rights in the Third Committee. It seemed that certain countries sought to use the debate for tendentious purposes, in particular to intervene in the internal affairs of other countries in order to impose models or standards which were not necessarily suited to their socio-economic systems. That was why draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.82, submitted by Cuba, made express reference to General Assembly resolution 36/103, which contained the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention and Interference in the Internal Affairs of States. The purpose of the draft resolution was to strengthen the work of the United Nations in the human rights field through the strict observance of the principles contained in the aforementioned Declaration as well as in Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter of the United Nations. To that end, in paragraph 6, the Assembly requested the Commission on Human Rights to establish at its forty-seventh session an open-ended working group to examine the possibility of elaborating a declaration regarding the strengthening of United Nations action in the human rights field through the promotion of international co-operation and the strict observance of the principle of non-intervention. In the light of the widening gap between prosperous and poor countries, such co-operation was becoming increasingly necessary.

Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.83

91. Mr. OLIYNYK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.83, entitled "Non-discrimination and protection of minorities", said that the title of the draft had been inspired by the name of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which was itself sufficiently eloquent. He outlined the content of the draft and drew attention to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the only instrument - or almost the only one - which protected the rights of minorities, in particular in its article 27, as well as to the work of the Organization in that area. His delegation had taken great pains to ensure that the text could be adopted by consensus. The resolution would facilitate and accelerate work on the draft declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.